

How To Grow

Tree Care Tips from Certified Arborist Aaron Wurts

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Property Benefits: 5 Reasons to Maintenance Prune

The decision to call in an arborist for tree advice often gets left until faced with a problem of some kind. Perhaps your trees are in decline, have outgrown their location or have a troubling pest or disease. At this point, the only solution is often a costly removal. Check out these five great reasons to maintain the trees on your property at any stage:

1. Minimize Building Damage

Pruning trees and shrubs away from existing buildings or structures is called *Clearance Pruning*. Clearance Pruning improves air circulation reducing decay in wood exteriors and stops rubbing that can cause friction damage.

2. Security

Clearance pruning around light standards increases visibility and safety at night. Overgrown trees and shrubs interfere with the intended purpose of security lights.

Canopy Raising (removing lower branches) of trees, hedges and shrubs that grow close to the ground increases visibility and reduces the likelihood of someone hiding or sleeping behind the foliage.

3. Liability

Clearance pruning around walkways is important to allow adequate clearance for residents and the public to pass by.

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How To Budget Tree Maintenance

Does this sound familiar? You like the idea of hiring a tree specialist but you already have landscapers and you just can't imagine another expense item in the budget? Understanding the ways landscapers and arborists work can help.

Landscapers often work with contracts that don't usually include regular tree maintenance. As a result, they may be reluctant to prune trees as it cuts into the budget for lawn and garden maintenance. Liability insurance and WCB constraints also limit the scope of tree work a landscaper can perform.

Arborists do not work with annual contracts the same way a landscape company does. As a rule, tree and shrub maintenance is not an annual expense. Depending on the type of pruning required, pruning can be done every 2-4 years.

Whether you have an idea what you want done or need some advice, an arborist can consult you on the practicalities of your objective. Quotes can be broken down into priorities so you can budget year to year.

By working with priorities and rotating through the necessary work, you can spread the costs out over several years. The arborist can return each year to perform only the work that fits that year's budget and those unexpected tree expenses will be a thing of the past.

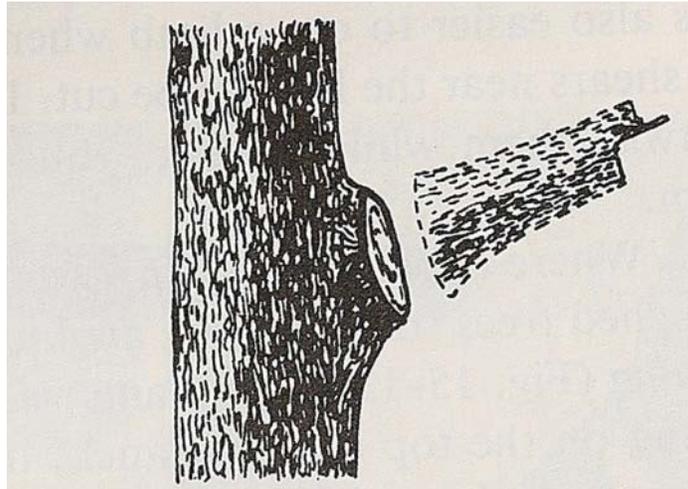
Q. What is ISA Standard Pruning?

A. Proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning measures while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature.

Here are a few simple principles to know about tree pruning:

Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Proper technique is essential. Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree.

Trees do not heal the way people do. When a tree is wounded, it must grow over and compartmentalize the wound. As a result, the wound is contained within the tree forever.



Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar.

Small cuts do less damage to the tree than large cuts. For that reason, proper pruning (training) of young trees is critical. Waiting to prune a

tree until it is mature can create the need for large cuts that the tree cannot easily close.

Making The Cut

The location of the pruning cut is critical to a tree's response in growth and wound closure. Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar. Because the branch collar contains trunk or parent branch tissues, the tree will be damaged unnecessarily if it is removed or damaged. In fact, if the cut is large, the tree may suffer permanent internal decay from an improper pruning cut.

If a permanent branch is to be shortened, it should be cut back to a lateral branch or bud. Cuts made between buds or branches may lead to stem decay, sprout production, and misdirected growth.

Source: www.treesaregood.com

Your objectives are achievable.

Seek professional advice from an ISA certified arborist.

Comox Valley Certified Arborist

With four years of training in horticulture and eight years of experience in arboriculture, Aaron Wurts brings a fresh perspective to arboriculture in the Comox Valley.

Because he believes that trees are vital to our community, Aaron's approach to tree care involves a sincere desire to retain as many trees as possible. His ample experience allows him to diagnose

pests and disease, to prune and maintain trees regardless of their size or location and to offer a variety of maintenance options to suit any budget.

Aaron is an ISA certified arborist, tree worker/climber specialist and hazard tree assessor.

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5 Reasons to Maintenance Prune

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Removing dead, dying and diseased branches (*crown cleaning*) will minimize failure that may injure people or damage property. Special attention should be paid to trees near parking lots, patios and playgrounds.

4. Tree Health & Integrity

Young tree training smaller trees will encourage a strong framework and remove defects early. This keeps trees strong and healthy as they mature and minimizes the need for future pruning.

5. Containment & Aesthetics

Reducing the perimeter of the canopy by a pre-determined amount (depending on the tree or shrub) will minimize growth while maintaining the form and beauty. Called *perimeter reduction*, this prolongs the life of plant material to serve its function before outgrowing the location. Trees or shrubs near buildings or other structures should also be clearance pruned during the process.

With all of these pruning objectives, the sooner you begin, the better the outcome.