



TREEmendous News

TreeMasters, Inc.

Winter, 2007

Winter Pruning

TreeMasters' Certified Arborist, Tom Myers, recently sat down to answer some questions about Winter pruning:

When is the best time to prune trees and shrubs?

Most pruning can be done any time of the year, but winter is the ideal time to prune your trees and shrubs.

Why is that?

With the absence of leaves, the structure of the tree can more easily be seen, allowing us to quickly tell where to make the pruning cuts. An arborist can also readily identify tree defects such as dead and broken limbs, cracks, crossing/rubbing branches, etc. Also, pathogens or insects are rarely an issue with pruning cuts. If there is any concern of infection however, pruning during winter can assure that an infection does not occur.

How can you accurately prune a tree when you can't see any leaves?

We can tell the difference between live and dead limbs when there are no leaves. An arborist can tell this by the presence or absence of buds on the limbs as well as coloration. Most of the dead wood is very obvious due to the difference in color and texture of the bark.

Will your equipment destroy my grass or other plants?

In sensitive locations that may require access with equipment, we can often gain access more easily when the ground is frozen. There is also reduced concern for damage to annual and perennial plantings. Most often, however, our crews consist of one or more professional climbers that are able to perform all aerial work without the need for trucks or other heavy equipment that might otherwise damage the lawn.

What should I do if I have trees that need to be removed?

Winter removals should be scheduled early to make sure the site is prepped for early spring replanting. TreeMasters is a managing partner in the Oaks at 300 S. The "Oaks" is our source for large trees including red oaks, white oaks, tulip trees, and others. Many of the oaks are as large as 8" diameter and up to forty feet tall, and at a very reasonable cost.



The Oaks @ 300 S

"The Oaks @ 300s" is a rare, **limited resource in quality nursery trees**. Hundreds of 25'-35' oaks are available for transplanting. More importantly, the **price is comparable with trees half the size**. Golf clubs, municipalities, horticulture professionals, builders and homeowners can all purchase trees.

Turn-key planting services are also available.



NEW: Air Knife

Aside from pruning, another winter activity to include is root collar excavation to remove girdling roots, wire baskets, and rope that were left on during planting. It is also very important to remove excessive amounts of mulch and soil placed against the trunk and to remove this material before decline becomes apparent.

Many experts cite the "rule of 80", which states that 80% of all tree problems originate in the soil. Because of the 80% rule, you should focus much of your attention to the soil conditions (soil compaction, competition with turf, lack of drainage or organic matter, etc.)

This is why the air knife has become such an important tool. We are now able to quickly aerate large areas of soil and incorporate organic matter without damaging roots. Organic matter is the key to helping soils come alive with biological activity. Once this is accomplished, your trees will reward you with less maintenance, improved health and a better appearance! Check out our website or contact us directly to find out how the Air Knife can help your trees now!

~ Tom Meyers

Investment in winter tree care will insure decades of value for landscape trees!



TreeMasters, Inc.

making a better future for your trees... and the environment

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**FALL AND WINTER
ARE THE BEST TIMES
TO PRUNE YOUR TREES!**

Trees Don't Sleep...

With winter approaching, many people assume that a tree's dormant period is equivalent to a static state. This is not so. Trees from the temperate zone change in physiology as the weather cools, but they do not go into suspended states.

First, the loss of leaves brings the end of photosynthesis and the manufacturing of sugar. However, the reallocation of this "food", with its stored form, starch, plus other hormones and chemicals is ongoing—regardless of the temperature.

Trees wounded in the dormant season do begin repair and foster cell division. They also add new tissues, even though twigs don't grow longer. Some tree roots "freeze" when the ground is frozen, but those below frost level will continue extension, branch out and absorb water and nutrients, though they do this more slowly than in warm weather.

The absence of pathogens in winter makes pruning trees especially attractive. Also, trees can be fertilized and other chemical actions, such as the application of tree growth regulators, can be taken, so that they begin to produce benefit as well, so long as the ground is not frozen solid.

If you have more questions, call us! Our on-staff Arborists, Jeff and Tom, would be happy to serve you! Use these winter months to make a difference in... and for... your trees!

...Neither Do We!

The TreeMasters, Inc. employees are in the office every day to help you with all your tree-care questions and concerns.

You can contact us by:

Phone- (260) 447-0171 or Fax- (260) 441-7827

Or directly by email:

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When the office is closed, you can still take advantage of our expertise online, at:

www.TREEmendousDay.com

We look forward to speaking with you and to helping you solve your tree-care issues soon!