



TREEmendous News

TreeMasters, Inc.

Spring, 2011

Thinking of Trees: Investments

There are probably as many different opinions ABOUT trees as there ARE trees, and at TreeMasters, we have heard them all! Everything from "Save every tree at all costs," to "Cut them all down, I am tired of raking leaves." One position we have taken as professional arborists is this: We are hired to recommend and apply the best science possible, but the value of a tree is personal, and so the final decision regarding the tree is yours.



"Recently, I met with a client, and as we considered a tree in her landscape that had issues, this question came up: 'If this was your tree, what would you do?' I replied (and smiled) as usual, 'That's not a fair question; it is not mine—and if it were I would service it for free.' To this comment she replied back, 'Want to adopt a tree?'" -TreeMasters Arborist, Jeff Ling

The focus of this exchange (and to much of the service decisions made with our clients) is value vs. expense, or: "Is the tree's value to me worth the service cost?" Let's consider that. Many of us assume trees when we buy our homes, offices, or lake properties. The value of the landscape and the trees is "rolled into" the purchase price. Would you have paid the

same price had there been no landscaping?" If you say no, than the landscape and trees hold some value to you, whether for aesthetics, energy savings, ecology or enjoyment. Realtors and appraisers would agree with you:

"A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000."
—Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers

"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20%."
—Management Information Services/ICMA

Another way to think about the value of your trees is replacement cost. If your landscape was destroyed, by fire, flood, wind or vandals, how much would it cost to replace your trees? Most often when there is a landscape appraisal, the loss is calculated by replacement cost. A large landscape tree is often appraised in the thousands of dollars! For example, in 2009, we calculated the replacement cost of a large Silver Maple (42 inches in diameter) to be around \$6,200! A 37" White Oak in Huntertown, although in bad condition, still appraised at \$13,000. Jeff did an appraisal in 2007 on 55 Norway Spruces and White Pine trees in Kokomo, and the replacement value of those trees was nearly \$40,000! When we start talking replacement cost, we are certainly discussing a lot of money. Many times, a very large tree is, in reality, irreplaceable, which makes good tree care much more important.

As you start thinking about the care of your tree, be sure to consider all of the ways that it benefits you and your landscape: Beauty, storm-water redirection, energy savings and replacement value. When it comes down to it, trees are investments, and we need to think about them and treat them that way. If you have questions about your trees, you can always contact us to discuss them... we are here to help you make a better future for them!



creating better futures

Value Your Trees

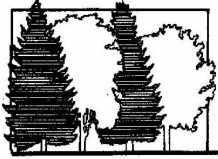
Trees and turf are actively engaged in an battle for supremacy in your yard. Grass will quickly take over and utilize the space that your trees need for roots. You can, however, provide your trees with reinforcements in the war for root space, and that advantage is called MULCH.

Mulch helps trees as they struggle by providing a safety zone so that the tree has ample space to grow. Mulch also helps to hold water so that the roots of your trees don't have to work so hard when they're thirsty. We recommend a fifteen inch diameter mulch buffer around each tree, minimum.

Protect Your Trees

Unfortunately, many homeowners apply too much mulch and the trees suffer. These "mulch volcanoes" hold 6-9 + inches of wood chips and create a negative root environment for young trees. Overloading your mulch encourages mold to form in the bark of your trees, and even promotes hair roots to sprout from the trunk of the tree within the mulch. Tree trunks need dry conditions, not moist ones. The rule of thumb for mulch is a 1"-2" layer over the root zone with the mulch tapered away from the trunk.

He who plants a tree plants a hope. ~Lucy Larcom



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

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***** Check out our website for the latest EAB update! *****

Magnolia in the Landscape

Magnolia trees are making a reappearance into the landscape because a number of beautiful new cultivars are now being sold in local nurseries. Many offer superior flowering habit and cold hardiness, a common complaint with older varieties planted in Fort Wayne.

With the replanting of the Magnolia has come a new pest with a funny name: Cottony Adelgid. This sap sucker can be found on many trees, but the newer varieties of Magnolia seem to be more susceptible to it. Two notable problems being observed on the new Magnolias; both are caused by the bugs' excrement.

- **Sooty Mold:** This black coating on the branches and leaves creates an unsightly residue in the mid- to late-summer. The smooth grey bark, a desired feature of the Magnolia, can be stained black for years.
- **Yellow Jackets:** The sugar content of the adelgid's waste draws yellow jackets to the tree. This creates a potentially risky engagement between stingers and people!

TreeMasters has been treating scores of Magnolias for these adelgids and gets full control within two years. We even sometimes spray Magnolias to clean off the sooty mold. If your plants turn black in the summer, call us right away... we have solutions that will help you make a better future for your Magnolias!

TREE CASUALTIES

We are finding that many trees are dead this year because of the difficult weather we had last year. The cool, wet spring combined with a hot, dry summer made many trees susceptible to pests and infection. If you have trees in your yard that don't look healthy, you should call us right away! We can enact procedures to save your trees and help make them beautiful again. If a tree can't be saved, we can also help you replace them with others that will increase the livability and value of your home.