



TCIA
VOICE OF TREE CARE™

TREE CARE INDUSTRY
Association established 1938

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For immediate release

Fall Is the Time to Prune

You may think that the approach of the end of the growing season means you can stop worrying about the trees in your landscape. Think again!

Fall is one of the best times to examine the safety and health of your trees say experts in tree care. Why?

1. With the leaves off, cracks, defects and deadwood are easier to see.
2. With winter storms approaching, hazards should be removed now— before they damage property.

“Most trees can be pruned year-round,” says Peter Gerstenberger, senior advisor for safety, standards & compliance for the Tree Care Industry Association, “and certain operations are easier to do in the fall, when dead branches are easily seen and removed.”

Some homeowners worry that arborists will not be able to determine deadwood on a tree when the leaves are off. “On the contrary,” says Gerstenberger, “this is the best time for an arborist to locate deadwood by looking for changes in color, fungus growth, cracks, and other symptoms, which can help them make this determination. Since the leaves are off, the view of the entire tree’s architecture is clear and a thorough check can be performed.”

Pruning is much more than the simple act of sawing off limbs. Proper pruning is an art based on scientific principles of plant physiology. At its most basic level, pruning trees involves removing damaged, dead or structurally weak limbs, which will improve a tree’s health and reduce the chances of personal or property damage caused by falling limbs.

Professional arborists have the capability to make the tree safer and more attractive by pruning live growth as well. Proper pruning encourages growth, increases flower and fruit production, improves plant health, repairs damage and helps add aesthetic appeal to a tree. Pruning at the right time and in the right way is critical, since it is possible to kill a tree through neglect or over-pruning.

Homeowners who would like a professional arborist to assess their trees should contact the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), a 68-year-old public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture. It has more than 2,000 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards, and are required to carry liability insurance. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the “Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies” program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a ZIP code search on the TCIA Web site, www.treecareindustry.org. *If you would like additional information or digital photos, please contact Garvin@treecareindustry.org*