



NORTH VALLEY TREE SERVICE

Certified Arborists and Tree Workers

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Tending to Trees Year-Round

Summer can be a season of weather extremes. Preparing trees to withstand storms is much less expensive and easier to handle than dealing with the aftermath of downed trees.

Homeowners can prevent damage due to falling limbs by following a routine pruning. Regular pruning removes dead, decaying and broken branches. This can reduce wind resistance. Pruning out dead branches discourages secondary damage from pests and disease.

Cabling and Bracing: Cabling protects trees by transferring the weight of a weak branch to a stronger one. Installation of flexible steel strands between branches prevents limbs from breaking during rough weather. Bracing helps prevent the splitting of large limbs from the main trunk. Screw rods, washers and nuts secure limbs and allow bark to grow and reinforce the area.

Drought: Signs of drought stress include yellowing, wilting of foliage, undersized leaves, leaf scorch and premature fall coloration. Trees should be watered within the perimeters of any local water restrictions during drought periods.

Young trees should be mulched with organic products such as wood chips, shredded bark or pine needles under the canopy of the tree to prevent water loss. Water under the drip line of the tree. This is where most of the feeder roots occur, until the soil is moist 10-12 inches from the soil surface. Lay a hose under the canopy and let hose run slowly until soil moisture is achieved in that area. Move hose until all areas are well watered.

Avoid fertilizing during periods of drought as root burn can occur. In early fall or spring, fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer to encourage growth of the roots that were lost during the drought.

Flood/Excessive Rain: Flooding, particularly over long periods of time, can severely damage a tree. In general, healthy trees are better able to withstand excessive water. Routine care including fertilization and pruning promote health.

After waters recede, recovery can be encouraged by removing dead and dying branches as well as leftover sediment greater than three inches deep to help oxygen return quickly to the roots.

Effective Watering Trees: Many times throughout the year, Mother Nature doesn't provide all the water that trees need, so homeowners must supplement rainfall in all seasons.

The right amount of water for trees is the difference between a healthy plant and one susceptible to decline, insect and pathogen infestation. Homeowners frequently over-water newly transplanted trees and shrubs by watering for the same amount of time as a new lawn. Excessive water replaces oxygen in the soil which damages root systems.

Signs of excessive water damage include wilted, yellow leaves, branch dieback and root-rot diseases. Lack of water causes photosynthesis to shut down inhibiting the tree's ability to manufacture food.

Some of the symptoms of drought stress are leaf tip browning, interveinal necrosis, premature defoliation, branch dieback, and early fall coloration. By the time leaves turn yellow or brown, the root system has already been damaged.

Proper Watering: Proper watering, particularly during the dry season, will prevent much of the damage. During this season, homeowners should check soil moisture level at least once a week with a soil probe, or by digging down into the soil with a shovel or a trowel in the root area. When soils are dry, trees will need watering.