

A R B O R C A R E

The topic of Arbor care is being discussed in this newsletter to allow sufficient time for evaluation of your tree maintenance requirements and to prepare for the fall and winter months. This is the time when most tree work is performed.

There are three (3) basic categories for evaluating tree maintenance requirements. These are tree structure, tree health and tree hazard. It is important that these be addressed in the proper order of attention as listed below:

- 1) Tree Structure: Crisscrossing branches, excessive sprouts, branches touching structures, competing leaders, heavy branch tip weight, thick canopies, poor branch spacing and weak root systems.
- 2) Tree Health: Dead wood, defoliation, disease & pest problems, stunted growth, stressed conditions, trunk injury, and rot or decay.
- 3) Tree Hazard: At this point the tree is a liability because it or a portion of it could fail under any given condition. The result could be costly by causing damage to a nearby structure, an automobile, the landscape or even a person.

If the tree pruning is handled in the tree structure phase, the need to resort to tree health work or even tree hazard work is greatly reduced. This can result in a cost savings by preventing situations that could result in expensive correction or possible removal and replacement.

In some cases, the trees on the property may have outgrown their planted area or are creating a situation such as a microenvironment for the surrounding landscape as discussed in our Spring 2001 Newsletter.

Other important facts:

- Grass is 30% cooler than asphalt on hot summer days.
- The front lawns of (8) homes provide the cooling effect of a 70-ton A/C unit.
- 2,500 sq. ft. of turf absorbs carbon dioxide and releases enough oxygen for a family of four.



Summer Landscaping Punch List

Organic Fertilizer
Apply on shrubs and ground cover for yellowing plant material.

Weed Control
Treat for Bermuda Grasses

Fungus Control
Spray for Powdery Mildew. Highly susceptible are Nandina and Cape Myrtle.

Ornamental Pest Control
This time of year treat Scale on Plum trees, Aphids on Tulip trees, and Shot hole on Cherries

Wood Structures
Now is the time to paint and seal Monument signs and decks, and replace retaining walls while the soil is dry.

Streets
Replace gutters, paint fire lane markings, and perform needed asphalt work.

Irrigation
Install water conserving sprinklers and nozzles. Water usage peaks in July and August.

What is a Backflow Prevention Device?

Backflow prevention devices keep our drinking water safe. Most irrigation systems share water lines with potable water systems. Backflow devices are specially designed valves that prevent irrigation water from entering the domestic water lines.

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 established a national program to protect the quality of America's drinking water. It was Federally mandated that water districts provide safe drinking water. State and local codes were developed that identified requirements for all water distribution systems. Backflow prevention devices play a big part in these requirements.

There are many types and designs of backflow devices. Along with local code requirements, backflow devices are chosen based on system design, application, and possible hazards. Because they play such an important role in our water systems, all backflows must be re-certified every year.

If you have any questions, or would like to get more information about certifying your backflow devices, please call or email us at: info@JPALandscape.com.



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