

## Tree Care Report

Trees can be a great asset, adding beauty as well as value to a property. However, care and effort must be taken to ensure that the trees enhance the property without interfering with walkways, structures, sight clearance, light clearance, and other aspects of the landscape.

The area of greatest concern would be root damage. As trees grow, the roots can become very intrusive lifting sidewalks, walkways and damaging underground utility lines. When this occurs a decision must be made to prune the roots or remove the tree altogether.

Tree branches can also pose problems. Keeping trees clear of buildings and houses will reduce the leaf debris that can accumulate on rooftops clogging gutters and can also help prevent any structural damage from occurring. Branches should be pruned to a minimum of 18" away from all structures. Along with structure clearance, branches should also be maintained to provide a clear line of sight for motor vehicles to all driveways, roads, and road signs.

Another important factor of tree maintenance is the condition of the tree canopy. Full canopies can diminish natural light and hinder the growth of turf, shrubs, and groundcover in these shaded areas. Full canopies can also act as sails in the wind causing broken branches and/or leaning trees. Pruning or thinning can alleviate these conditions and is best done in winter when wounds close quickly and infestations from insects or disease are less likely.

It does take a great deal of maintenance to keep our trees healthy and safe, but with the proper care they can provide us with many years of beauty and enjoyment.



# Fall Landscaping Punch List

**Organic Fertilizer**  
Apply on shrubs and ground cover to increase plant vigor.

**Weed Control**  
Apply pre-emergent to turf and groundcover.

**Color Beds**  
Place your Winter color order now. It is also the time to have bulbs planted. For small special areas in the community, bulbs are a cost effective way of providing color during the Winter months year after year.

**Outdoor Lighting**  
Check all outside lighting, especially in parking areas and dark corners. Clocks get turned back on October 29<sup>th</sup> and it may be dark for people returning home from work.

**Concrete Replacement**  
This is a good time of year to remove trip hazards. The rain season hasn't started yet and children (aka concrete artists) are in school.

**Irrigation**  
Install water conserving rain sensors. This is an effective way of controlling water usage when precipitation and automated irrigations systems overlap.

## What is Thatch?

As the horizontal stems of turf above ground (stolons) die, they, along with un-decomposed leaves and blades of grass, form thatch. This interlaced layer of organic matter accumulates on the soil's surface and is resistant to decay.

A certain amount of thatch—½" deep is beneficial since it reduces evaporation, protects the lawn from wear, and can keep soil temperatures cool. In excess, however, thatch build-up can prevent water, air, and fertilizers from reaching soil, can become saturated interfering with drainage, and can raise the turf height in relationship to the fixed elevation of the sprinklers resulting in poor coverage.

To solve the problem of thatch build-up, the thatch must be removed and the area then over seeded. This is done with vertical blades that slice through the dense mass and drag it in clumps to the surface. The best time to do this is, now, in the cooler climate of fall. Along with resolving the adverse conditions listed above, the removal of thatch will also encourage new grass growth and promote healthy, vigorous turf.

If you have any questions, or would like to get more information about getting your turf de-thatched, please call or email us at: [info@JPALandscape.com](mailto:info@JPALandscape.com).



is an official publication of JPA Landscape & Construction, Inc.

The information contained in the newsletter may not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

(925) 960-9602

©2009

[jpalandscape.com](http://jpalandscape.com)



Lic. #725572

JPA Landscape &  
Construction, Inc.