

Tree Removal Options

As arborists and tree care workers, the benefits of trees seem obvious. Residential landscapes, acreages, shopping malls, industrial tracts, sports fields, apartment complexes—anywhere people reside, work, or recreate are good locations for trees. In fact, shade, increased property values, erosion control, lowered energy costs, noise reduction, mitigation for wind and dust, aesthetic appeal in all seasons and fuel for heating homes are often thought of community resources; for some, the source of bragging rights over the town down the road.

For these reasons and more, we want trees in the landscape, the customers want trees in the landscape, and neither of us wants to cut them down if we don't have to. So, when the notion of tree removal presents itself, it's wise to consider various options to avoid taking specimens out of the landscape.

What's the problem?

In some scenarios, trees are cut down when it's simply not necessary. In order to prevent the loss of benefits to the property and clients/landscape users, the first consideration is to identify the actual concern before the chainsaw starts revving.

Targets are usually part of the problem. Targets are humans or objects of value that could be damaged by falling trees or branches. When tree removal issues are raised, it most likely has something to do with a target. If the target can be moved, it should be considered in order to retain the value of the tree.

Just like other procedures involving acting on a client's request, tree removals require effective communication to determine the exact nature of the problem. Many legitimate reasons exist for the removal of a once-valuable specimen, such as:

- concern over the degree of lean, especially if a target is present
- the raising of a sidewalk or driveway due to root expansion
- damage done to a house foundation from tree roots
- extensive dropping of leaves, acorns, etc on a deck or pool
- several existing defects such as decay, cracks and co-dominant leaders
- unacceptable levels of shade and reduced air movement on a golf course green
- blockage of highly desirable views, i.e., oceanfront property, park, forest
- limbs that have grown into overhead power lines
- original spacing that was way too close together that now threatens the survival of the remaining trees. This is common in windbreak and screening plantings.
- extensive, difficult-to-control pest problems such as with thornless hawthorn with aphids, leaf miners and cedar hawthorn rust

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Recipe Corner: Crockpot Chopped Barbecue



3 c celery, chopped	2 Tbsp brown sugar
1 c onion, chopped	1 tsp chili powder
1 c barbecue sauce	1 tsp salt
1 c ketchup	1/2 tsp pepper
2 Tbsp vinegar	1/2 tsp garlic powder
2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce	3-4 # chuck roast, boneless, trimmed

Mix all ingredients except roast in a crockpot. Mix in 1 cup of water. Add the roast; cover it in sauce. Cook on high 4-6 hours until tender. Remove roast, shred, add back to sauce. Serve on buns.

Summer

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What are your OPTIONS?

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Problems

Problems involving a desire for removal are commonly multidimensional. Common factors that affect the decision to remove a tree include:

- Surrounding trees—if nearby trees are plentiful, the removal of one problematic specimen is a small concern. If the tree is the only one in a large front yard, then all sorts of ramifications exist, from leaving the landscape wide open to creating a sudden need to change out all of the existing understory plants—a condition or development known as “the suddenly sun syndrome.”
- Client’s budget—Taking down a large tree is expensive. If the client is Warren Buffet or Bill Gates, the cost of removal is much less of a factor than if they are living paycheck to paycheck. It’s still important to consider all of the options, but cost can be a greater or lesser factor depending on the client’s resources.
- Site usage—City parks have a high degree of liability in that they are used from sunup to sundown by a variety of people that are usually unaware of what is going on overhead. Cemeteries and rights-of-way are used to a lesser degree and present a different set of conditions.
- Tree conditions—Are there defects such as cracks, decay and girdling roots present? Generally, the greater the number of flaws, the greater the need to remove a tree. On the other hand, three defects that are extensive in nature and have been degrading the stability of a tree for several years pose a much greater concern than the same number of flaws that are just beginning to develop.
- Perceived value—Defects aside, some species are considered to hold higher value than others. Oak, pecan and cedar elm trees are generally in greater demand than willows, cottonwood and hackberry. A second component of this factor is unrelated to tree species; instead, it involves human action. Trees that were donated by community leaders lend a historic value to a specimen. Likewise, trees that add symbolic value to a property by their presence are valuable.

Options

One of the take-home messages of this article is that sometimes in life things are not cut and dried. Tree removal jobs often fall into a clear black and white category. However, sometimes it’s not so clear; sometimes there are options that will keep the tree in the landscape, allowing the customer to continue reaping the benefits, while greatly reducing the objectionable issue that was initially raised. Some of these options are:

- Move the target—In some situations, a storage shed, bench, garden, swing, patio or similar item can be relocated to lessen the need to remove a tree.
- Modify the target—This may be only a temporary solution. In the case of a fence being broken or disfigured by an expanding tree trunk, it could be modified to accommodate the growth. In most cases, this change is only a delay of the inevitable, but if it’s a high-value tree growing on the property of a client that will move to another house in a year or so, it’s a possibility.
- Re-route an object affected by the tree—If a tree is causing disruption by raising the asphalt or concrete of a golf course cart path or sidewalk, a change in the path might be in order. This would be especially important if the tree in question is a memorial or historic tree.
- Remove dead wood—If the problem is falling branches, removing any dead wood is an option. In some situations, trees that have been neglected for several years can simply be pruned to eliminate the dead branches that have become a nuisance instead of removing the entire tree. Many clients, especially ones that have never owned a home and have just moved from an apartment, don’t understand how a tree grows and how to care for it.
- Remove one or two problematic trees in a grouping—This is a good option if a target isn’t present on the site. If three trees were planted in a group and the middle one has become problematic, consider removing the center tree to retain the value of the outer two.
- Heavily prune—This can also help to get a new tree started nearby. If only a portion of a tree has developed extensive defects, it’s possible to remove half of the tree, especially if it’s a decay-resistant species.

Life’s Little Truths

Junk is something you’ve kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you have never tried before.

My idea of housework: Sweep the room with a glance.

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

Age is a high price to pay for maturity.

Thou shall not weigh more than thy refrigerator.

By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

Experience is wonderful. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it.

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.



“Mom, when you need parenting help, do you call grandma for tech support?”

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Is your
tree
thirsty?



Quenching Your Trees' Thirst

With its heat, drying winds, and weeks without rain, summer can be a stressful season for trees, even the mature ones in your landscape. To encourage vigorous healthy tree growth this summer, proper watering practices are essential.

You can't rely solely on nature to water your trees. During our long, hot summers, landscape trees need supplemental irrigation, especially during July, August, and September. Without adequate moisture, a tree will begin shutting down its biological processes, resulting in leaf loss and root death.

Too much water can cause equally serious problems in both newly planted and mature trees. Overwatering forces oxygen out of the soil, creating a dysfunctional root system that cannot adequately replace water lost through leaves and stems. Gradually yellowing foliage, developing first on the tree's interior leaves and then progressing outward, is a key indicator of water-logged soil.

A deep soaking at least once a week is needed to quench your trees' thirst during hot summer months. Water should be applied slowly – to minimize runoff and evaporation – around the perimeter of the drip line. Frequent light watering with sprinklers encourages the development of a small, shallow root system. Trees with roots near the soil surface are less likely to survive during periods of drought.

To increase watering efficiency, replace turf around your trees with a bed of organic mulch. Grass and weeds compete with trees for moisture and nutrients. Some experts estimate that grass competition can reduce tree growth by 50 percent or more. When competition for nutrients is eliminated, a tree's roots become more evenly distributed and root volume increases. A tree with a large root system can more efficiently absorb available water.

This chart can help you determine how much water the trees in your landscape need each week during the season's driest months. The amount of water you give your trees may have to be adjusted to reflect the size of the tree, soil type, weather conditions, and the presence of grass and other plantings around the tree.

Tree Age	Water Amount
1 year	28 gal.
2 years	56 gal.
3 years	112 gal.

Word Search

Red, White & Blue

Y O Z W S T A H G T R Y D
B A N G E L S O X O O E Y
O C J O G W R T B R E H B
O A M I A H P I D R M C A
K R E P P A N S X I O S B
G P A T D L L P S D U T C
N E U J L E L E C G N N R
I T R U E A S H R E T M O
N M B E I A E I C T A L S
T M O N P E N U O G I G S
H L S O S P A S I N N K O
G B X E N S E C R I S G T
I L I G H T B P W O J A N
L S W A L L I N E I E L I
E I L G N I R R E H Y F O
D O O L B Y D M H C M F P

All of the words in the puzzle can be preceded by the word red, white or blue.

ALERT	HAT	NOISE
ANGELS	HEAT	PACES
BABY	HERRING	PEPPER
BIRD	HOT	PLAINS
BLOOD	JAY	POINT
BOOK	JEANS	RIDGE
BULL	LAWS	ROBIN
CARPET	LIE	SAUCE
CENT	LIGHT	SNAPPER
CHEESE	LIGHTNING	SOX
CHIO	LINE	WHALE
CROSS	MAGIC	WINGS
DEER	MOON	
FLAG	MOUNTAINS	

Thank you!



Thanks to YOU the word is spreading!

Thanks to all of our wonderful clients and friends who graciously referred us to their friends and neighbors last month! Our business runs on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you! We couldn't do it without you!

Here is just a small sample of the many compliments we've received in recent weeks...

Very professional and courteous. Arrived on time, confirmed the trees to be trimmed and worked diligently. Made sure all work was completed to my satisfaction before leaving. Excellent work and we are completely satisfied.

~ Bert & Shelli Lacativo, Southlake

The guys did a great job. I'd recommend you to anyone.

~ Diana Paelson, Arlington

The crew was courteous and efficient. The job was completed, cleaned up and hauled away. I was completely satisfied with their performance.

~ Larry Daniel, Bedford

Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions.

– Albert Einstein

More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy denying them.

– Harold J. Smith



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Its multi-purpose functionality makes it the single most valuable addition to any garden.

When faced with a challenge, look for a way, not a way out.
– David L. Weatherford

MEGA TRIVIA!

Who Wants to Win a \$40 Restaurant Certificate?

Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win, too!

This is one of our favorite parts of the newsletter! Each issue we'll give you a new trivia question. We will draw from the people who submit the correct answer. Three names will win a \$40 restaurant certificate. Enjoy a night out on us with someone special in your life! Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

This issue's MegaTrivia Question is...

What team lost three consecutive World Series from 1907 to 1909?

Email answers to cindyvoorhees12@gmail.com
or call us at 817-831-TREE (8733)

Last Newsletter's Trivia Answer was: Betty Boop.

Last Issue's Trivia Winners enjoyed a night out on us! You could be next!

Lorinda Bourn, Hurst
Barbara Lamb, Arlington
Joan King, Richland Hills

Progress involves taking risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first.
– Frederick Wilcox