



10.09

trunkline



630.293.5444

Are Your Trees in Need of Pruning?

- Are there broken branches, stubs, splits, or cracks?
- Is there existing deadwood creating wounds and decay?
- Is your tree infringing on yours or your neighbor's home or landscape?
- Does your tree have an unkempt appearance?

Reasons to Prune a Tree

- To maintain or improve vitality of a tree
- To eliminate hazardous limbs
- To generate new growth
- To improve the appearance of the tree
- To remove dead, dying, or broken branches
- To remove diseased branches

If you answered yes to any of these questions, your tree's health and the safety of persons or property may be at risk.

Autumn Essentials

A few quick pointers to make the next growing season a little easier...

- Autumn clean up** – Inhibit or manage disease by removing infected tissue. Many plant pathogens over-winter in dead infected branches, fruit, and leaves. By removing them, you remove potential problems for the next growing season.
- To provide an aesthetically pleasing winter landscape, don't cut back grasses or other fruit bearing woody plants.**
- Autumn is a great time to mulch trees and planting beds.** By applying 3-4 inches of wood mulch now, you will reduce your need to water next season. Mulch reduces weeds and protects the root systems of perennials and trees from winter freezes and thaws. Mulch wide, not deep, and do not pile mulch near tree trunks. Just say no to volcano mulching and muffin tops!

- Be sure to water.** Your conifers have shallow root systems and continue to transpire, or breathe, during the winter. Water is evaporated from aerial plant parts. Give trees a long, slow watering before the ground freezes to help prevent unsightly scald symptoms in the spring. Use a soaker hose and allow it to run for several hours until the soil is moist 12-16 inches below the surface.
- Prune where appropriate.** The *only* time to prune oak and elm trees is in the dormant season – after the first frost. Avoid open wounds on these trees during the growing season, as the wounds attract beetles that spread oak wilt and Dutch elm disease.

Call Now to Place Your Mulch Order & Receive a 10% Discount
YOUR TREES AND GARDENS WILL THANK YOU NOW & IN THE SPRING!

For cost effectiveness and the health of your trees, CALL NOW TO RECEIVE A DORMANT SEASON DISCOUNT PROPOSAL FOR PRUNING, REMOVALS, AND CABLE BRACING SERVICES.

by Stephanie M. Adams, M.S.

2009 Plant Health Care Year in Review

At the Morton Arboretum, insect and disease scouts get excited about the new growing season.

It's interesting to see any new problems and the old reliable problems that return like clockwork in the landscape. The Arboretum's Plant Health Care Report chronicles any initial sightings whether they're a problem or not. This tends to create some worry with people because they become concerned about what's consuming or infecting their landscapes and how to manage it all. All of this worry takes away from the enjoyment that should be had outdoors. Realistically there are a handful of diseases and pests that really warrant concern, while many of the lesser problems can easily be managed by cultural means.

This year had some fairly interesting weather with the extended cool periods and more than ample rain until mid June. This weather influenced the occurrence of several plant diseases. The increase in fungal diseases is not a surprise due to the cool wet spring. Many fungal pathogens infect their

hosts early in the spring when the weather is wet and cool, but the unsightly symptoms don't arise until mid-summer. This is why certified arborists are anxious to get all of the preventative applications for your crabapple, ash, oak, maple, sycamore, and hawthorn done just as leaf buds are breaking so you don't have to look at apple scab, cedar rusts, and anthracnose, which were reported several times this year. The best cultural management practice for these foliar-fungal diseases is to remove all of the infected leaves once they fall from the tree.

Beneficial and harmful (pest) insect populations naturally fluctuate from year to year as a natural cycle. As the pest populations increase, their predator populations also increase until there are no more pests for the predators to feed on, then both populations crash. How

long these cycles take is dependent on the pest and predator, but this cyclic pattern may explain some of the insect populations that the Arboretum reported. This year there was a reduction in euonymus scale, ash flower gall, bagworms,

gypsy moths, and European elm flea weevil reports and an increase in magnolia scale, four-lined plant bug, and the honey locust plant bug.

Although insect populations naturally fluctuate, if you have a stressed or young tree the continuous feeding may stress it to the point where it may die. If your tree is young, especially newly

transplanted, or stressed, having chemical applications done to manage the pests will allow it to overcome its stress and then be able to flourish. Low to moderate feeding on a healthy tree often does not warrant chemical control. Be sure to ask your certified arborist for their professional advice.

The best management practice for any pest or disease problem is prevention. Prevention can be accomplished either by planting healthy plants or by ensuring the plants remain stress-free. To reduce stress the best things to do are to water and mulch your trees. Trees need at least one inch of water a week, which can be accomplished by giving it a long, slow soak (use a soaker hose and keep it on for an hour or so, pending on the soil type). Mulching has many benefits including root-insulation from the heat and cold, retaining moisture, minimizing water and nutrient competition from other plants, and encouraging mycorrhizal growth. When laying mulch be sure not to volcano mulch your tree – which is when mulch is piled up around the trunk. This can cause many other problems in time.

Something New...

We've added a new feature to our newsletter! Please welcome guest columnist **Stephanie Adams**. Stephanie is a Research Assistant at Morton Arboretum and is providing us with a retrospective and summary of this past growing season. Stephanie obtained her undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University, with a B.S. in Botany and a minor in Urban Forestry. In addition, Stephanie holds a M.S. in Plant Pathology from the University of Georgia. Welcome Stephanie and thank you for your input.

It's Not Too Early to Think About Brightening Up Your Holiday Season

Kramer Trees Specialists, Inc. has become a Certified Member of Holiday Bright Lights. This assures our clients the professionalism and excellent service you are accustomed to as we help you to create the magic of the holidays.

We provide installation, take down, maintenance, and storage of your holiday light displays. What could be easier than flipping a switch to bring a smile to you and your neighborhood! CALL NOW TO RECEIVE A FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION.

Visit www.kramertree.com to view our creative displays.

Why Choose an Accredited Tree Care Company?

We are proud to announce that Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc. has completed the Accreditation Compliance Program administered through The Tree Care Industry Association.

What is TCIA Accreditation?

The Accreditation Program is a voluntary program that credentials companies who meet stringent criteria for professionalism, employee training, state and federal safety regulations, business ethics and client satisfaction. Under the process, businesses undergo an extensive review and a comprehensive audit of professional and business practices aimed at safeguarding consumers.

When you hire an Accredited tree care company, you can rest assured that TCIA has checked for proper insurance, applicable business and pesticide licenses, and customer service that is reliable and ethical.

For further information regarding the Tree Care Industry Association and the Accreditation Program visit www.tcia.org.

Accreditation Audit Areas Include:

- » Consumer Satisfaction
- » Best Business Practices
- » Business Ethics
- » Employee Training
- » Safety
- » Quality
- » Adherence to Industry Standards
- » Arborist Certification
- » Insurance Coverage
- » Proposals & Specifications



Sassafras

THE ROOT BEER TREE



The sassafras, a native tree, (*sassafras albidum*) is one of the easier trees to identify by its leaves. Sassafras leaves can have a mitten shape, with either a left or right thumb, or leaves may be three-lobed. Usually all three shapes will be found on the same tree. As a native plant, the sassafras tree is agreeable to the Midwest plains as well as other areas of the U.S. The spicebush swallowtail butterfly develops on the sassafras tree. The magnificent cercropia moth and the promethean moth are also fans of the sassafras tree during their lifespan.

The sassafras tree is a member of the laurel family, so it has aromatic foliage. Rub a leaf between your fingers and it emits a pleasant root beer fragrance. Sassafras tea was

widely used in the past for its various medicinal effects. Sassafras root and bark were an important export in colonial times. Natural sassafras tea has been banned from commercial sale in the U.S. since the 1970s due to concerns over the safety of safrole. In earlier times, homemade root beer was made by fermenting molasses, honey and sassafras root.

Sassafras trees are typically 35 to 50 feet in height at maturity. They do well in a sunny well drained site, but will not tolerate shady, soggy conditions. In spring, the sassafras will have yellow flowers and in the autumn it produces gorgeous flaming hues of yellow, red, orange or purple. Not all nurseries may stock this tree, but it is worth the search!



10.09

trunkline



630.293.5444

Call Now & Place Your Order
Receive an additional **10% Discount**

YOUR TREES AND GARDENS WILL
THANK YOU NOW & IN THE SPRING!

SPECIAL BLEND MULCH

\$23⁰⁰ Per Yard

+TAX & DELIVERY

DOUBLE GROUND MULCH

\$19⁰⁰ Per Yard

+TAX & DELIVERY

MULCH FINES

\$17⁰⁰ Per Yard

+TAX & DELIVERY

**AN EXCELLENT MEDIUM FOR PLANTING
BEDS, SEEDLINGS AND PLANTERS.**

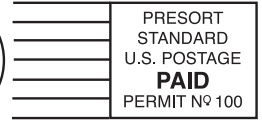
OFFER EXPIRES 11.27.2009

MULCH - A Tree's Best Friend We hope you have not stored away those wheelbarrows! Due to the wettest, coldest and longest spring on record, we are offering our 10% discount again this fall on our mulch products. **FALL is an excellent time to apply mulch. The root systems of your woody plants and trees will be insulated from extreme temperature changes and will retain the moisture in the soil well into the spring.** Visit our Website at www.kramertree.com (Mulch Tab) to view our mulch products and to use our mulch calculator for the accurate yardage needed to enhance your homes curb appeal.

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE PRODUCES RESULTS

Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc.

300 Charles Court, West Chicago, IL 60185



Woody Says...

As you may remember in our fall newsletter, we announced the adoption of our dog Sparkle in October of 2008 and she is now 9 years old and going strong! She is a wonderful "meet & greet hostess" at the office. Jigs and Gus, our cats, who we adopted at the same time at Anderson Animal Shelter, are such good friends and each with their own distinct personalities. It is hard to believe we have had our "new" family for a whole year now! Time seems to fly when your pets bring you so much joy.

Just to keep things interesting and knowing Sparkle's great personality, I returned to the shelter in February to adopt another cat Addy, who I cared for on my day of volunteering. Addy is 5 years old, mostly black and over weight - not exactly the pick of the litter under shelter conditions. She is not enamored with the

Dogs teach you how to love. Cats teach you how to live.
- M. Malloy

"boys" but is fine with Sparkle. Addy is not as social

as we had hoped with Jigs & Gus, but they continue to try and make friends with her even though she constantly hisses at them as if to say GET AWAY FROM ME!

Addy unfortunately needs to lose about 6-7 lbs. So far she has only lost 1 pound. She loves to run and talk at feeding time and of course run away from the "boys". When I play with her she will only try to catch/bat the feather if she doesn't have to move - she makes up her own rules! Addy does love her brushing, petting and girl talk!

This year has gone by so quickly. Could it

be due to such a cold, wet "spring" that lasted for what seemed to be 4 months? Could it be I was still transplanting & planting perennials through September due to all the rain? (Which, always seemed to be on a weekend!) Could it be because I am still mulching my trees and perennial beds! Or could it just be I am getting older and moving slower! (But grateful to be able to accomplish the above.)

We can only hope that our winter season weather is not as unpredictable as our spring, summer and fall. Only time will tell.

Please remember when thinking about getting some exercise, spend some time at a local animal shelter and walk the dogs or brush/play with the cats - you can make a difference in their life and yours.

Jan Kramer



10.09

trunkline