



Our business is people and their love for trees®

Dormant Pruning

People tend to forget about their trees during the winter months. We assume that because the trees are dormant, little or no care is necessary or even possible. Actually, the winter months can, and should, be utilized by those of us who are concerned with the health of our trees. While dormant pruning provides the same benefits as does pruning during other times of the year, it may have definite advantages in certain situations.

Increased Growth Response

When a portion of a tree's canopy is removed during the dormant season, we often notice an increase in new growth from the remaining branches. This occurs because the energy stored in the roots and branches is channeled to fewer growth points. Because the same amount of energy is spread among fewer growth points, each new shoot grows a little more than it would have if the tree had not been pruned.

Visible Branching Patterns

The absence of leaves allows the branching patterns of trees to be easily seen. One of the major benefits of pruning is improved tree structure. Crossing branches and weak crotches are more visible during the winter months. This enables the arborist to correct faults and help the tree to grow into a safer tree with a better form.



Improved Equipment Access

The cost of dragging brush or cutting up and carrying large logs out of a yard can often amount to a substantial percentage of the total job cost. During the winter months, equipment can often be moved closer to the trees being pruned. This is possible because the frozen ground is not as vulnerable to injury caused by heavy equipment. Frozen ground can mean the difference in allowing a chipper or log loader immediate access to debris, thereby reducing costs.

Less Injury to Flower Beds

During the summer, it is common for the area underneath trees to be planted with annual or perennial flowers. It is difficult to efficiently prune trees without causing damage to fragile plants beneath the tree canopy.



Left: The branching pattern of this tree is clearly visible, making it easier to spot problem areas; Right: The frozen ground during the winter months helps crews get closer to the trees and helps to reduce job costs.

Even a small branch dropped by a climber can break or crush fragile blossoms or foliage. It is also difficult to clean up fallen debris from flower beds without causing further injury. Protecting flower beds can be a time-consuming process and will result in increased costs.

During the winter months, flower beds do not pose as much of a risk. Branches can be dropped from trees without fear of harming flowers planted beneath them. As a result, we can perform the pruning operations with improved efficiency.

Less Impact on Recreation

People tend to use their yards more extensively during the summer months. A large scale pruning operation can require a great deal of noisy equipment. Chain saws, chippers, and blowers can create large amounts of noise that many people find irritating. During the winter months, people are inside and the noise associated with pruning operations is not as bothersome.

Pest Management Benefits

Pruning during the dormant season can minimize the risk of disease spread via pruning cuts. For example, in areas where oak wilt is common, pruning oaks during the winter can minimize the spread of the disease. Insects that may carry the disease from infected trees to fresh pruning cuts during the spring and summer are not present during the winter. Thus, the trees can be pruned without worrying that the oak wilt pathogen will be introduced into the fresh cuts.

Winter pruning may not always be the best solution to a pruning problem. However, in some situations, pruning during the dormant months can save money or reduce the chances of injuring the landscape when compared with pruning during other times of the year. Our arborists are trained to recognize your needs and to design a program to meet them most efficiently.

Our Services Include:

- Tree & Shrub Pruning
- Insect and Disease Management
- SoilCareSM - our organic soil and root management program
- Fertilization and Nutrient Management Programs
- Cabling and Bracing
- Planting and Tree Replacement
- Lightning Protection
- Tree Preservation & Land Restoration
- Tree and Stump Removal
- Tree Risk Assessment
- Tree Protection during Construction
- Mulching
- Speakers for Garden Clubs or Group Meetings
- 24-Hour Emergency Service

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local office for further details.



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