

Benefits of Training Pruning Young Trees

Training pruning young trees in your landscape will have the greatest impact on your trees' future. The goal of training pruning is to make the trees as healthy and structurally sound as possible. Proper training pruning at a young age promotes better growth, reduces maintenance costs and allows your trees the potential to grow to maturity. Having your trees pruned by a certified arborist will help establish good branch formation, allow adequate spacing between branches and the identification/removal of dead, dying or diseased branches that could potentially become hazardous in the future. Trees can be pruned to enhance natural form or increase flower/fruit production.

A newly planted tree should wait to be pruned until it establishes a good root system; approximately 2-3 years after planting. At that time the structural pruning can begin. Training pruning is done in the dormant season to minimize the impact on the tree's health with having lower physiological activity during this time and without the threat of insect and/or disease problems. The pruning is orientated toward establishing good form and setting up the tree for future growth. Many problems can be eliminated or reduced with minimal damage to the tree. The pruning of smaller trees makes for smaller pruning cuts which minimizes the threat of decay to enter the tree. Smaller trees take less time to prune and can be directly reflected into the price of the work. Training pruning should be done in cycles every 2-3 years, this will allow the tree time to respond to the pruning and help insure that no more than 25% of the canopy is removed at any one time. The percentages and timing may vary depending on the tree's species and age.

The pruning cycles become less frequent as the trees grow older and then eventually your mature trees will require minimal maintenance because of their good form and structure. A properly pruned tree will require less maintenance and allow arborists easier access to work on your trees. If a tree is not pruned at a young age to correct structural defects, these defects will increase in size and risk as the tree grows. It is important to have your trees evaluated by a certified arborist to determine your pruning needs.