

GARDENING BY THE MOON

TREE CARE! Best Practices!

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May, 2022



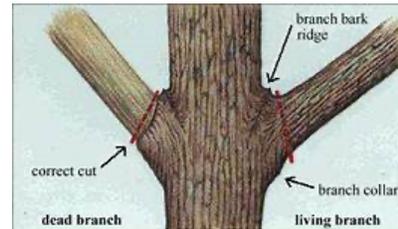
The trees in your yard are the most valuable asset in your landscape. If you like trees as much as I do, and you want to protect this asset, the following information will help you care for your front and back yard trees. Freeze damage due to Winter Storm Uri 2021, has caused a lot of dead wood in trees.

Remove all dead wood, broken branches root sprouts or suckers out of your trees. You can do this pruning now. Make all cuts back to a branch bark ridge. The cuts should not leave stubs but the cut should leave a branch collar. Do not apply pruning paint to wound. It slows healing.

All major pruning on oak trees can be done starting in August through the end of February to help prevent oak wilt disease. Major pruning on all other trees needs to be done in the dormant season from November through February.



**CORRECT
PRUNING
CUTS!**



Remove staking and guy wires from trees when your tree is well rooted. Check by shaking the trunk and if the root ball does not move, then all staking materials can be removed. Never let guy wires cut into the trunk, permanently damaging your tree.



If your tree has insects, then treat the tree with BioAdvanced Tree and Shrub. This will systemically treat your tree and it also feeds your tree. If you prefer an organic control, use Neem Oil. Apply as per label instructions.

If you have leaf spot or powdery mildew, control with Neem Oil or any fungicide for trees.



TREE MULCHING: Remove the grass from around the tree trunk out to 2 feet around the tree and apply mulch to a depth of 2 inches. Use dyed-brown mulch and once installed, pull the mulch back 6 inches from around trunks. This helps conserve moisture for your tree, protects the trunk from line trimmer or mower damage and prevents competition from other plants taking away fertilizer meant for young trees. Install only 2 inches of mulch. Do not build a mulch volcano around the tree!

TREE FERTILIZATION: Fertilize all trees older than 4 years one or two times per year. Young or weak trees need extra fertilizer. Trees planted less than 3 years need to be fertilized in February, May, September/October. If they do not get enough fertilizer, tree health and vigor will suffer. Apply $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of a complete turf fertilizer per inch trunk diameter spread evenly from trunk out past the drip line of tree to encourage root growth out of the root ball.