

Sperry Tree Care

NEWSLETTER

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Winter
2021

WELCOME TO OUR WINTER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to Sperry Tree Care's first winter newsletter! Our team of arborists have always been passionate about tree and shrub care and they are excited about being able to share their knowledge, conveniently delivered right to your inbox. You'll also find these on our website, in case you want to refer to something in the future. In every edition you'll find information that's important to know as the seasons change, a spotlight on a tree you may not be familiar with and we'll keep you informed about potential threats such as pests and disease.

Winter Pruning



DORMANT PRUNING

The cold days of winter, when the leaves are off the trees and you can easily see all the branches, is an excellent time for pruning. This applies to shrubs and hedges as well. It's important to keep in mind that pruning before the weather warms and new buds appear will prevent stressing the plant, but will also encourage vigorous growth during the spring growing season. If you are not looking to promote a lot of growth, hold off pruning until late summer.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE / FIRE PROTECTION

Defensible space is a buffer you create around any structure with the intention of slowing or stopping the spread of wildfire. This includes pruning tree branches to a height of 6-10' and keeping shrubs low and away from the drip line of trees. Winter is an ideal time to address vegetation that could potentially fuel a fire, before a threat is present. Regular maintenance of defensible space is essential as plants grow back over time. Our team of I.S.A. Certified Arborists can assist you in identifying threats and creating a plan for fuel reduction.



Tree in the Spotlight

Prince
Maximillian
of Austria
called it
“the most
beautiful of
trees.”



RIVER BIRCH (BETULA NIGRA)

- Common tree in Pacific Northwest landscapes
- Large deciduous tree that typically grows 40-70 feet tall
- Riparian tree species often found along the banks of streams and lakes; unknown resilience to climate change
- Features ornamental bark which peels off in papery strips
- Prefers moist soil; will tolerate dry soil once established so long as summer irrigation is infrequently provided
- Requires full sun to partial shade
- Leaves turn yellow in the fall
- Some reported resistance to the bronze birch borer
- Con: Easily damaged by snow and ice; borer resistance may not last

Leaf It to Us

STUMP GRINDING

You can reclaim space in your yard by removing unsightly stumps left behind when a tree is removed. Stumps that are left to decay can house pests or insects and homeowners may wait 8+ years for them to fully resolve without intervention.

A mechanical stump grinder will pulverize the stump away up to 10" below grade, returning the spot to usefulness and potentially making it possible to replant the location. The woodchips that are created by the process will be used to backfill the newly created hole, leaving a mound that will disappear over time as it naturally settles into the space.



Stump grinding is cost effective and has minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. The effectiveness of the stump grinder decreases the chance that you will have to deal with a stump that re-sprouts. At Sperry Tree Care Co., our stump grinding services include handling the *Call Before You Dig* requirements to protect underground utilities.

We offer FREE estimate appointments for stump grinding services. Request an appointment at sperrytreecare.com.



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