

Sperry Tree Care

NEWSLETTER

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Fall
2024

WELCOME TO OUR FALL NEWSLETTER!

Cool, crisp mornings are the first sign that Fall is headed our way. Leaves falling from the trees, hot cocoa and warm blankets won't be far behind. Here in the PNW fall is particularly beautiful, making the transition from summer a bit less difficult. Just as we slow down after a busy summer, so do our trees. They will store up energy in the months ahead for next year's growth. In the meantime, feel free to snuggle up with this issue where you can learn some fall tree care basics and more about preventative pruning, why you should just leave the leaves in your yard and details about Alby Thoumsin's upcoming presentation at the Eugene Home Show.



Fall Tree Care



FALL TREE CARE BASICS

In the Pacific Northwest, fall tree care involves several key steps to ensure the health and vitality of your trees through winter. Here's a quick summary:

1. **Watering:** Continue to water trees until the ground freezes, especially young or newly planted trees, to help them establish strong roots.
2. **Mulching:** Apply a layer of mulch around the base of the tree to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds. Be sure that the mulch is not touching the trunk as this may cause rot.
3. **Pruning:** Remove any dead, damaged, or diseased branches to promote healthy growth in the spring. Preventative fall pruning can help to mitigate potential damage from winter storms.
4. **Fertilizing:** A balanced organic fertilizer with slow release qualities can be applied in early fall to support root growth, but avoid late fertilization that encourages new growth before winter.
5. **Planting:** Fall is a good time for planting new trees, as the cooler weather helps reduce stress on the roots. Getting new trees well established in the fall and winter will help them thrive in the spring.

Preventative Pruning

PRUNING TO PROTECT AGAINST STORM DAMAGE

Storm damage can severely impact trees, leading to costly repairs and potential hazards. Proper pruning is a vital preventive measure that helps trees withstand severe weather conditions.

1. Understanding Tree Structure

Healthy trees have strong structural integrity, which is crucial during storms. Understanding the tree's natural growth patterns helps in identifying weak points. Key factors include:

- **Branch Structure:** V-shaped branch unions are weaker than U-shaped ones and are more prone to failure.
- **Weight Distribution:** Overly dense canopies can cause branches to snap under heavy winds.

2. Pruning Techniques

To promote a healthy structure and reduce storm damage risk, consider these pruning techniques:

- **Thinning:** Selectively removing branches helps reduce canopy density, promoting air healthy airflow and light penetration. This can have benefits for the interior canopy and trunk by minimizing environments that might foster the growth of mold and mildew. Very helpful for many Japanese Maple varieties.
- **Crown Raising:** Remove lower branches to increase clearance for nearby objects, structures and vehicles or to establish the lowest permanent branches on young trees.
- **Deadwood Removal:** Regularly remove dead or diseased branches, as they are more likely to break during storms and can create hazards.
- **Load Reduction:** For trees with long, heavy branches, consider pruning for load reduction, which may include shortening branches.

3. Additional Considerations

- **Species-Specific Needs:** Different tree species may have unique pruning requirements. Familiarize yourself with the specific needs of your trees.

Pruning trees strategically can significantly reduce the risk of storm damage. By understanding tree structure, employing effective pruning techniques, and seeking professional guidance, you can help ensure that your trees remain healthy and resilient, providing beauty and safety in your landscape. An ISA Certified Arborist can help you to identify risks and create a plan for both immediate and long-term tree care needs.

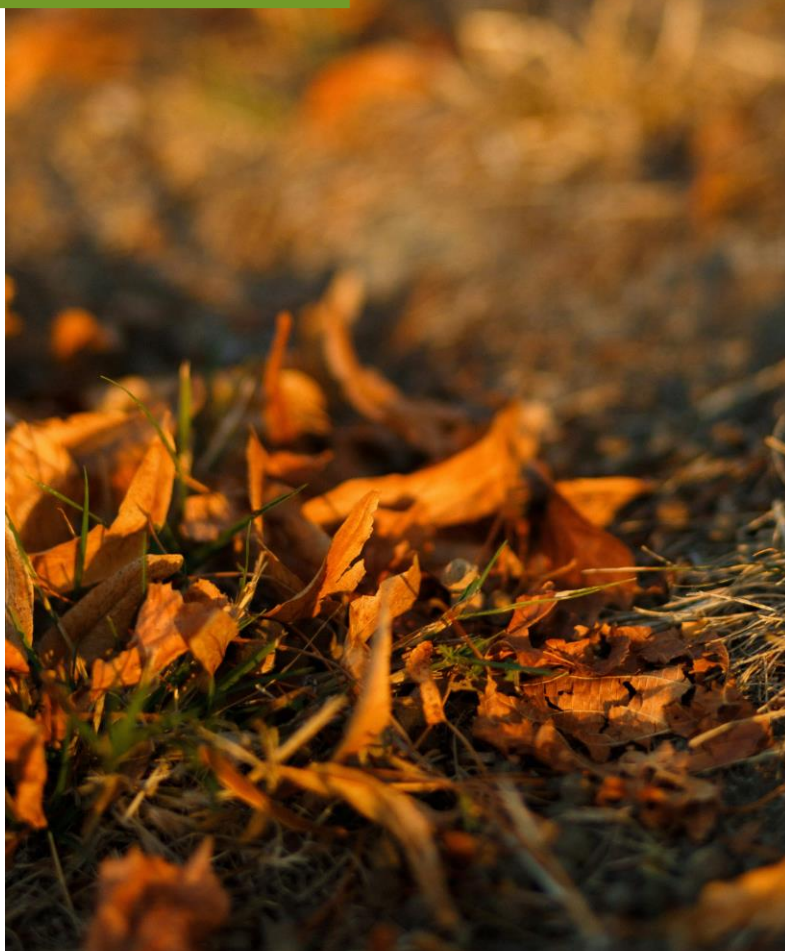
Fall Leaves

JUST LEAVE THEM

Leaving fallen leaves in your yard can provide several environmental and aesthetic benefits:

1. **Natural Mulch:** Leaves act as a natural mulch, helping to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.
2. **Nutrient Recycling:** As leaves decompose, they enrich the soil with nutrients, improving its health and supporting plant growth.
3. **Wildlife Habitat:** Leaf litter provides habitat for beneficial insects, butterflies, and other wildlife, promoting biodiversity in your garden.
4. **Erosion Control:** A layer of leaves can help prevent soil erosion by protecting the surface from wind and rain.
5. **Cost and Time Savings:** Leaving leaves reduces the need for raking and disposal, saving time and effort.

By allowing leaves to remain on your lawn, you create a healthier ecosystem and enhance the overall beauty of your yard. The withered husks that remain in the spring are much easier to dispose of. You can take your rake to them or watch them all but disappear with the first mow of spring.



Newsletter
Subscriber
Savings

SPERRY TREE CARE CO.

5% OFF

5% off pruning accepted by Dec. 31, 2024.
May not be combined with other offers. Code: FALL24

Tree in the Spotlight

HORNBEAM: EUROPEAN OR AMERICAN (*Carpinus betulus* and *Carpinus caroliniana*)

The **Hornbeam** is a deciduous, broadleaf tree known for its hardwood. American Hornbeams have a wide-spreading, flat-topped crown, while their European counterparts are known for their twisted trunks with profuse branching. It is often used for furniture, flooring and wood turning. Early Americans made it into bowls and tool handles.

Pros

- Easily available at most nurseries
- Resilient; well adapted to drought and different soil types
- Beautiful fall colors; bright yellow for the European variety and coppery red for the American
- Awesome for hedges; tolerates regular shearing
- American Hornbeam works well under most power lines

Cons

- European variety comes only in fastigiates (columnar) cultivar; wild varieties are wider
- Because it is deciduous, a hedge of hornbeams will lose its leaves in late fall, reducing the privacy an evergreen hedge provides



Leaf It to Us

TREE PLANTING SEASON: FROM OUR NURSERY TO YOUR YARD

Did you know that Sperry Tree Care has their own nursery? We are committed to providing our clients with high quality stock so our Arborists hand select and inspect trees against disease, girdling root, poor structure and other potential issues. If our nursery doesn't have the specific variety that you are looking for, we will source trees from other nurseries. Each tree receives the same discerning inspection before planting.

The process starts by meeting with an arborist for a planting consultation. They will learn more about what you are looking for in a tree, inspect the area you have selected and recommend trees that are the best match.

Once a selection has been made and the tree(s) are on hand, we will do the planting for you!

Our professionals are well versed in proper planting techniques, including correct depth and spacing which help trees to establish strong roots. Once your planting is complete you will receive guidance on proper post-planting care such as watering, mulching and pruning. In addition, we offer a 1-year guarantee against death caused by disease.

We recommend setting up planting consultations soon to ensure planting can be done before the end of the dormant season.



Presenting on Stage

PLANTING SEASON DO'S AND DON'TS: HOW TO AVOID THE USUAL TRAPS IN TREE SELECTION AND INSTALLATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Alby will be presenting at the Eugene Home Show on Friday, October 18th @ 5:30pm.

Just in time for planting season, our resident expert Alby Thoumsin will be live on stage to discuss planting season do's and don'ts.

The doors open at 5pm and parking is free. Learn more at EugeneHomeShow.com.



We offer **FREE** estimate appointments.
Call our office or request an appointment online at sperrytreecare.com.



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