

# Sperry Tree Care

NEWSLETTER

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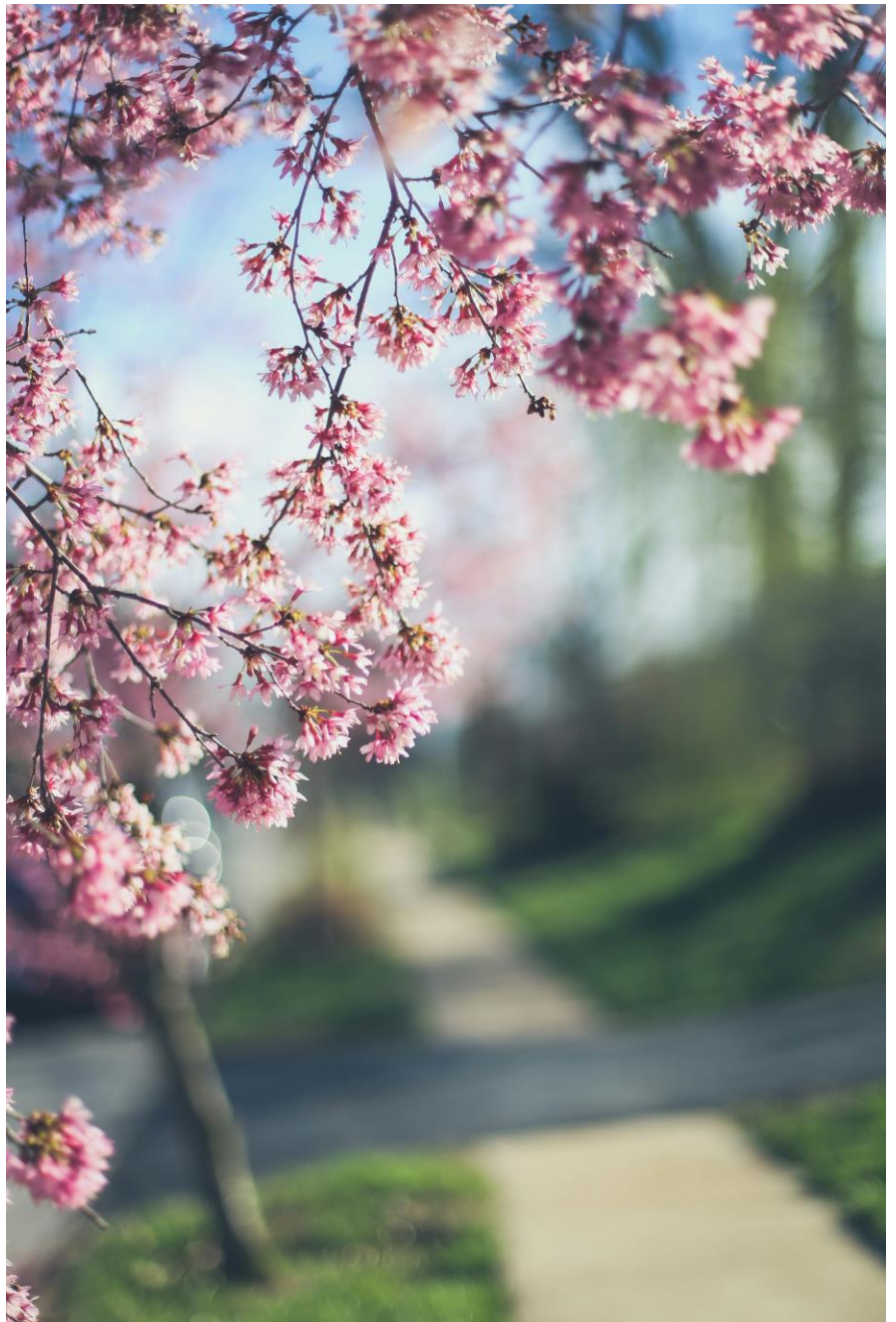
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Annual Care Plan for Fruit Trees



Spring  
2025

### WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER!

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Spring is here! As the days grow longer and we shift from relaxing indoors to enjoying the great outdoors, we naturally want our outdoor spaces to look their best. In this edition you can learn more about woody plants and how to care for them, the benefits of mulching your trees in spring and how you can let us help you with your to-do list next winter by enrolling in our Annual Care Plan for Fruit Trees. Our ISA Certified Arborists are here to help you with all your tree care needs. Estimate appointments are free. Call today to schedule yours!

# Spring Pruning



## WOODY PLANTS: SHRUBS, HEDGES, RHODEDENDRONS

### What Are Woody Plants?

Woody plants are perennials that develop hard, structural stems or trunks, which provide long-term support and allow them to survive multiple growing seasons. These plants include trees, shrubs, and some vines, all of which have a woody framework that persists through the winter. Unlike herbaceous plants, which die back to the ground each year, woody plants maintain their structure and continue to grow from their existing framework, making proper pruning essential for their health and appearance.

Examples of woody plants that are commonly seen in Lane County are Rhododendron, Camellia, Hydrangea, English Laurel, Arborvitae, and Portuguese Laurel.

### Why Prune in Spring?

Spring pruning is recommended to remove winter-damaged branches, shape plants for the growing season, and encourage vibrant blooms and foliage.

## 1. Know Your Plant's Bloom Time:

- **Spring-blooming plants** (e.g., rhododendrons, lilacs, camellias) should be pruned after they flower to avoid cutting off next year's buds.
- **Summer-blooming plants** (e.g., hydrangeas, butterfly bushes, roses) can be pruned in early spring before new growth emerges.

## 2. Remove Dead, Damaged, or Diseased Wood:

- Inspect trees and shrubs for broken or diseased branches and remove them to prevent further spread.
- Cut back to healthy wood using clean, sharp pruning tools.

## 3. Thin Out Overcrowded Growth:

- Pruning improves airflow and light penetration.

# Benefits of Mulching

## WHY SHOULD I MULCH?

As spring arrives, it's the perfect time to give trees a boost with a fresh layer of mulch. Mulching is a simple yet highly effective practice that enhances tree health, improves soil conditions, and helps trees thrive throughout the growing season. Here's why an arborist might recommend it:

### 1. Moisture Retention

Mulch acts as a natural barrier, reducing evaporation and helping the soil retain moisture. This is especially important in the spring as temperatures rise, ensuring trees have consistent water availability before summer heat sets in.

### 2. Weed Suppression

A layer of mulch prevents weeds from taking root and competing with trees for nutrients and water. By blocking sunlight, mulch naturally inhibits weed growth, reducing the need for manual weeding or herbicides.

### 3. Soil Temperature Regulation

Spring mulching helps maintain stable soil temperatures by insulating the ground. It keeps roots warmer during cool spring nights and protects them from extreme heat as summer approaches. This stability is crucial for young or newly planted trees.

### 4. Soil Health Improvement

Organic mulch, such as wood chips or bark, decomposes over time, enriching the soil with nutrients and improving its structure. This enhances root growth and overall tree vitality. Mulch also promotes beneficial soil organisms, such as earthworms and microbes, which contribute to a healthy ecosystem.

### 5. Erosion Prevention

Spring rains can wash away topsoil, exposing tree roots and depleting nutrients. Mulch acts as a protective cover, reducing soil erosion and keeping valuable nutrients in place.

### 6. Root Protection from Lawn Equipment

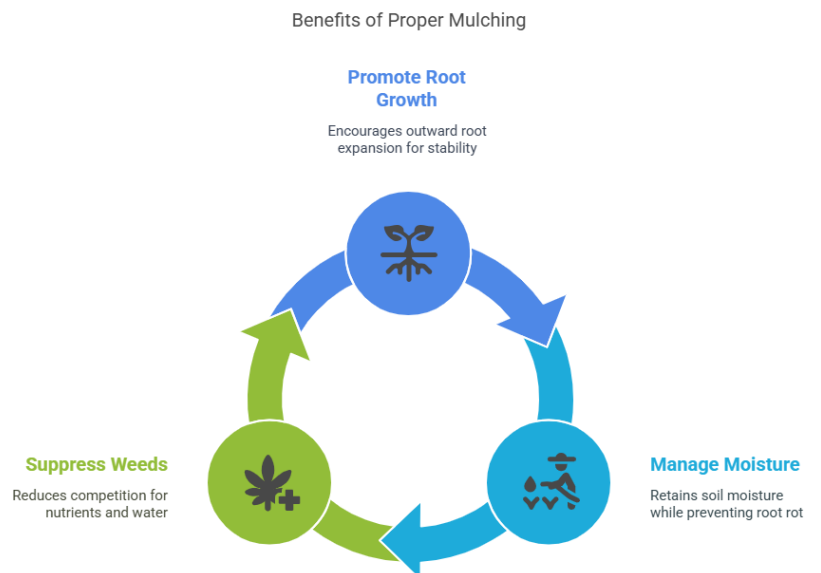
Mulch creates a buffer zone around trees, reducing damage from lawnmowers and weed trimmers. This prevents injuries to the tree trunk, which can weaken the tree and make it vulnerable to pests and diseases.

### 7. Enhanced Aesthetic Appeal

A well-mulched tree not only benefits from improved health but also looks well-maintained and attractive in a landscape. A neatly mulched area provides a clean, finished appearance in gardens and yards.

### Best Practices for Spring Mulching

- **Apply the Right Amount:** A 2-4 inch layer of mulch is ideal. Too much mulch can suffocate roots and retain excessive moisture.
- **Keep Mulch Away from the Trunk:** Avoid piling mulch against the base of the tree (known as “volcano mulching”), which can lead to rot and pest infestations. Instead, create a mulch ring that extends out to the dripline of the tree.
- **Use Organic Mulch:** Natural options like wood chips, shredded bark, or composted leaves provide the best benefits as they break down over time.



# Watering



## TIME TO RESUME WATERING

As temperatures climb, your trees need consistent hydration to stay healthy and resilient. While mature trees can often withstand short dry spells, prolonged heat and dry conditions can lead to stress, making them more vulnerable to pests and disease. Here's how to ensure your trees receive the right amount of water as the weather warms up.

### Best Practices for Watering Trees

#### 1. Water Deeply, Not Frequently

- Provide a slow, deep soak to encourage strong root growth. A drip hose or soaker hose works best.
- Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.

#### 2. Focus on the Root Zone

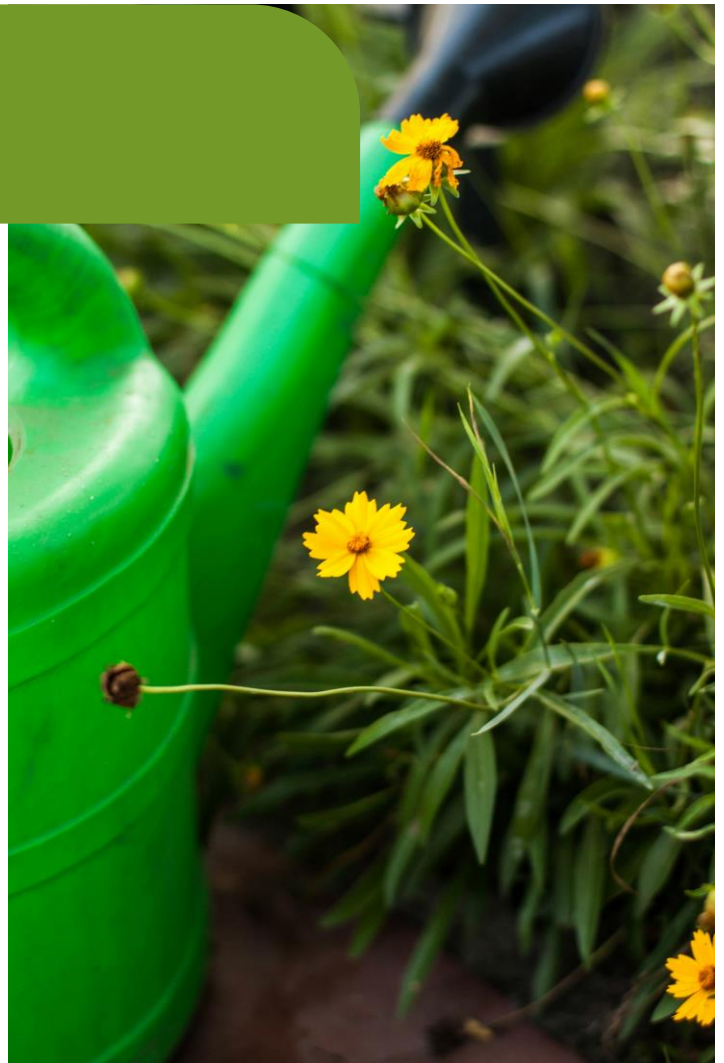
- Avoid watering directly at the trunk; instead, apply water to the area beneath the canopy and just beyond the drip line.

#### 3. Adjust Watering Based on Weather

- Increase watering during heatwaves or prolonged dry spells.
- Reduce frequency after rainfall but check soil moisture to avoid overwatering.

### Special Considerations

- **Young Trees:** Newly planted trees need more frequent watering as their roots establish. Provide 15 gallons per week for every 1 inch of trunk diameter.
- **Drought-Sensitive Species:** Some species, like dogwoods and maples, require extra attention in dry conditions.
- **Evergreens:** These trees may not show immediate signs of drought stress but still need sufficient watering.



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**CELEBRATING 35 YEARS!**

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# Leaf It to Us

## ANNUAL CARE PLAN FOR FRUIT TREES

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### Let Us Take Care of That for You

Life is busy and we know that you have a lot to keep track of. Fruit tree pruning season can sneak up on you as it comes on the heels of the busy holiday season. We have recently launched our Annual Care Plan for Fruit Trees so we can take this task of your plate and put it on ours.

### How Does It Work?

First of all, this Annual Care Plan program is entirely FREE.

Once you enroll you can check this task off your annual to-do list. In January of each year, we will contact you to schedule a visit by an arborist to create a tailored care plan and price estimate.

As a care plan participant, you will benefit from priority scheduling once your work has been accepted. Your participation will automatically renew annually, but can be cancelled at any time.



Contact our office to enroll today!

We offer **FREE** estimate appointments.  
Call our office or request an appointment online at [sperrytreecare.com](http://sperrytreecare.com).



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