

Sperry Tree Care

NEWSLETTER

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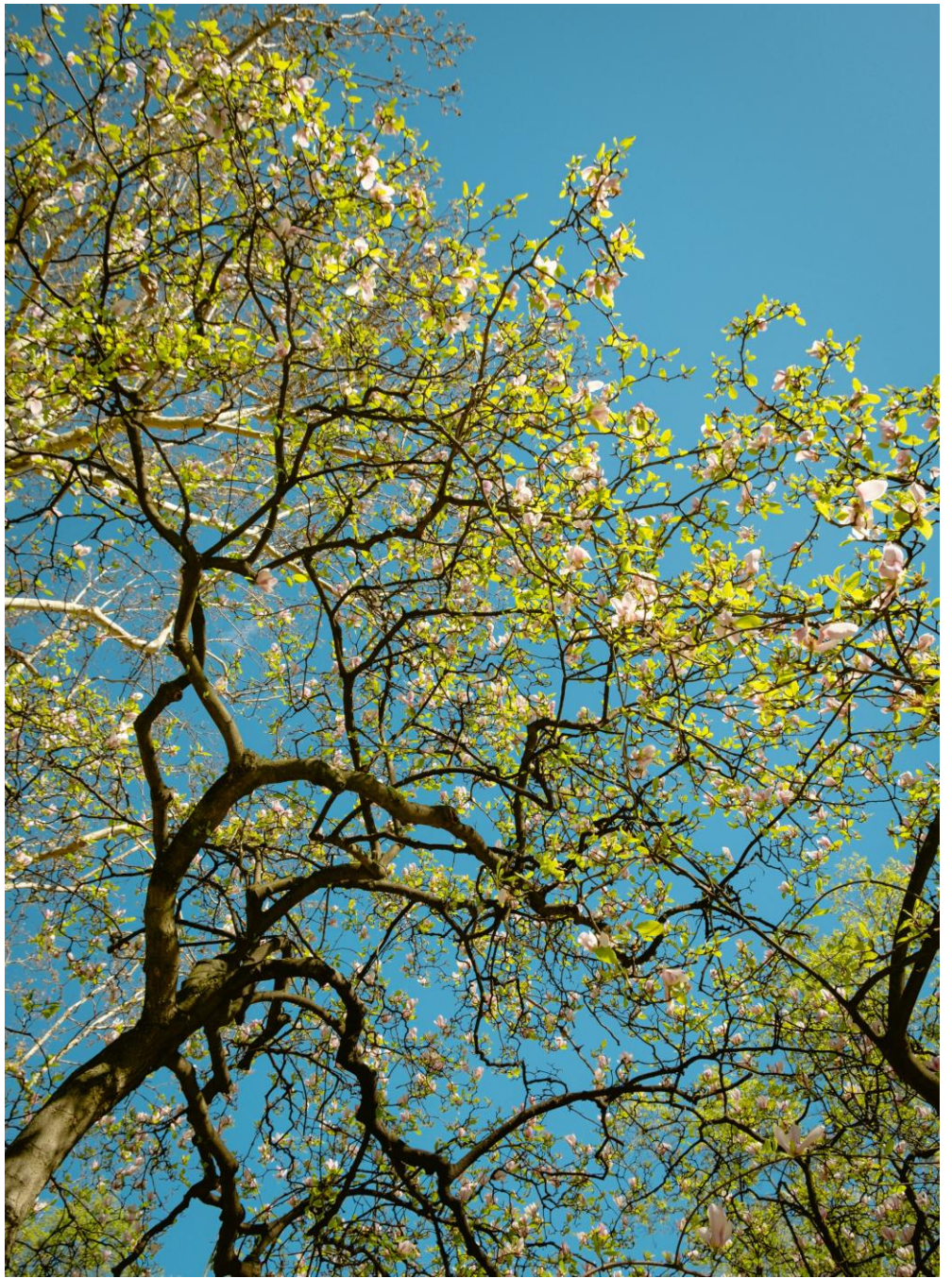
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Summer
2025

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER!

Summer is in full swing, and we hope you're enjoying the sunshine! In this issue, we're sharing expert tips to help you keep your trees healthy through the heat, to reduce fire risk around your home, and a guide to help you determine whether you should keep or remove a tree. The arborists at Sperry Tree Care are here to help your trees stay strong and beautiful through the warm months ahead. If you haven't had your trees looked at recently—or if you're seeing dead limbs or overgrowth—now is the time to schedule a free estimate.

Summer Tree Care Tips



WATERING TO COMBAT SUMMER HEAT

Summer heat can put serious stress on your trees, especially during extended dry periods. Proper watering is essential to keep them healthy and resilient. Unlike lawns, trees need deep, infrequent watering to encourage strong root systems.

Focus on watering the root zone—not the trunk—using a slow soak method. A soaker hose or drip system works best. For mature trees, water once every 1–2 weeks, allowing the water to reach 12–18 inches deep. Younger trees will need more frequent watering. We recommend giving new trees 10-15 gallons per watering the first few years, then more as they get bigger. Small native trees may only need 5 gallons.

Avoid shallow, daily watering, which promotes surface roots and leaves trees vulnerable to drought and instability. Early morning or evening watering reduces evaporation and helps conserve moisture. Also, be sure to let the soil around the tree completely dry out before watering again.

Consistent, thoughtful watering during summer helps trees thrive through heatwaves and stay strong against pests and disease.

Keep or Remove?

WHEN TO REMOVE A TREE RATHER THAN KEEP IT

Trees add beauty, shade, and value to any property—but sometimes, removing a tree is the safer or more responsible choice. Knowing when to remove a tree rather than keep it can prevent damage, reduce liability, and improve the health of your landscape overall.

1. The Tree Is Dead or Dying

If more than 50% of the tree is damaged or dying, it's unlikely to recover. Dead trees can become brittle and unpredictable, posing a serious risk to structures, vehicles, and people below. Signs include:

- Brittle branches with no leaves
- Significant bark loss or decay
- Some species of fungi growing around the base (like mushrooms)



2. Structural Instability or Leaning

A tree that's leaning suddenly, or shows cracks in the trunk or large branches, may be structurally unstable. This is especially concerning if the lean is toward a home, driveway, or heavily trafficked area.

3. Root Damage or Encroachment

If roots are lifting sidewalks, damaging foundations, or threatening underground utilities, removal may be necessary. Trees with major root damage (from construction, soil compaction, or disease) are also at risk of falling.

4. Pest or Disease Infestation

Severe pest infestations (like emerald ash borer or bark beetles) or diseases (like verticillium wilt or Dutch elm disease) can compromise a tree's health beyond recovery and may spread to surrounding trees if not removed.

5. Overcrowding or Poor Placement

Trees planted too close to buildings, other trees, or power lines may need to be removed to allow space for healthier growth. A poorly placed tree may also interfere with your landscape design or future projects.

6. Storm Damage

Storms can snap branches, split trunks, or even uproot trees. If the damage is extensive and the tree poses a hazard, it's often safer to remove it than attempt high-cost restoration.

7. Impact on Property Value or Use

Sometimes a tree blocks sunlight, restricts views, or limits property use (e.g., prevents building a garage or expanding a patio). In these cases, removal may be a strategic decision to improve functionality or aesthetics.

Tree removal is a big decision—but in the right circumstances, it's the responsible one. Always consult with a certified arborist to evaluate the health, safety, and value of your trees. A professional assessment can help you weigh the risks and benefits and ensure any removal is done safely and legally.

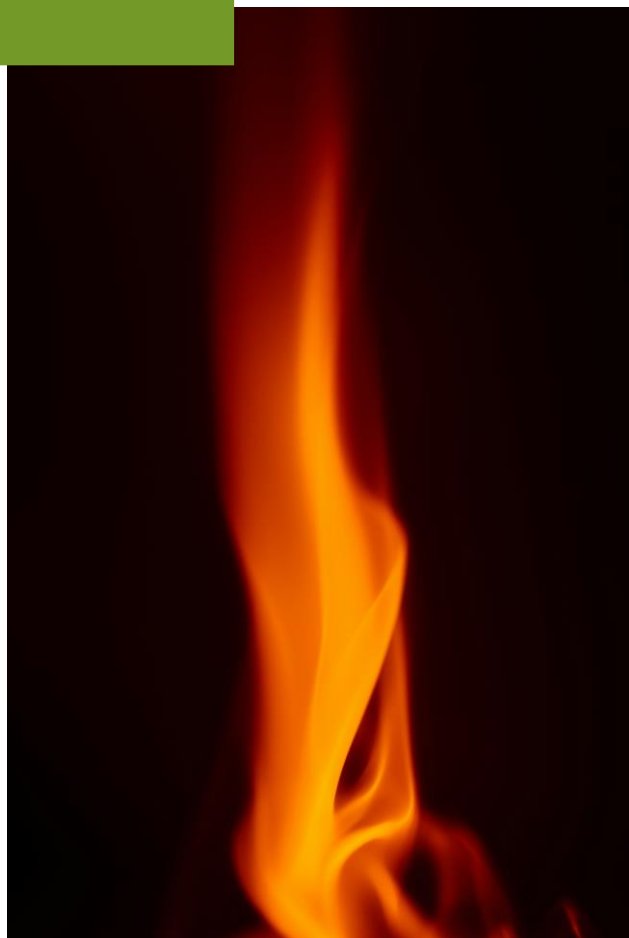
Fire Risk Reduction

PRUNING TO MITIGATE RISK

Pruning trees during summer is a smart, proactive step to help reduce fire risk around your home or property—especially in fire-prone areas. As vegetation dries out in the heat, trees with excess deadwood, dense canopies, or low-hanging branches can act as fuel ladders, allowing fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy.

By thinning branches, removing dead limbs, and raising tree crowns (the lowest limbs), you create space that can slow the spread of fire. This is especially important within the “defensible space” zone—typically the first 30–100 feet around a structure.

Regular seasonal maintenance not only boosts fire safety—it keeps your trees healthier, stronger, and better able to withstand environmental stress.



Leaf It to Us

TOMOGRAPHY

A Look Inside a Healthy Tree

Tree tomography is a modern, non-invasive technique used to assess the internal condition of a tree—much like a medical scan for people. Instead of cutting into the tree to check for decay, cavities, or structural weaknesses, we use specialized equipment to send sound waves through the trunk. These signals measure how quickly they pass through the wood, creating a detailed image of the tree’s internal structure. The resulting "map" helps identify hidden rot, hollow areas, or other defects that aren’t visible from the outside but could pose a risk of failure. Tree tomography allows arborists to make informed decisions about treatment, risk, and removal while preserving as much of the tree as possible. It’s a great example of how science and technology are improving tree care for both safety and sustainability.



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10% off tree pruning accepted by July 31, 2025.
May not be combined with other offers. Code: STC25



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Following us on Facebook is a great way to stay in the know and get the most out of your tree care experience. We share seasonal tips, updates from the field, educational videos from our experts and links to blog posts packed with helpful knowledge and advice. Plus, we post some pretty great photos— views from the canopy, our crew in action and more!

You'll also be the first to hear about updates and local happenings. Come follow along—we think you'll like what you see.



Photos

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