

Arborilogical™
Services, Inc.

16 STEEL ROAD • WYLIE, TEXAS 75098
www.arborilogical.com



The Tree Care Experts

To receive Tree Topics on-line, visit our website!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

— Friday Feb. 25 thru Sunday Feb. 27 —

15th Annual All Texas Garden Show

Arlington Convention Center

Bring your photos and questions.

Our I.S.A. Certified Arborist will be there to answer all your tree care questions.

— Saturday April 16 —

2011 Live Green Expo

Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek, Plano, TX

Visit our booth and meet our staff of I.S.A. Certified Arborists.

— Friday April 22 and Saturday April 23 —

Dallas Earth Day

Dallas Downtown Arts District
(An estimated 50,000 to attend)

Look for updates on our Facebook page and our website at **Arborilogical.com**.

— Friday May 20 and Saturday May 21 —

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship

Fort Worth

Watch our Production Crew members compete with climbers from throughout the state for the 2011 title. Look for updates on our Facebook page and our website at **Arborilogical.com**.

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YOU ARE INVITED:

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facebook twitter

If you have not seen the Arborilogical Services website recently, we invite you to visit us at Arborilogical.com, and see the changes we have made. There is a new look--designed to serve you better. A drop-down menu allows you find information quickly, while the search feature will scan all of the site's information looking for your key word. The home page displays timely articles with seasonal tree care tips and information. The Contact/Request Services page is a convenient way to contact our office, especially after business hours, on weekends, or during storm events.

If you are a Facebook fan, we invite you to "Like" Arborilogical Services. Facebook provides a venue of communication that allows us to share timely tree care information at a moment's notice. We provide you with tips on pruning, insect and disease management, and tree-related community activities. Our Facebook posts also provide our tree care clients with links to timely articles on the Arborilogical Services website.

If you have an interest in tree tweets, follow us on Twitter. You will find us at TheTreeExperts. The focus of these three methods of communication is to provide our clients with timely tree care information. We welcome you.



TREE TOPICS

From Your Friends At Arborilogical™ Services, Inc.

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ANSWERS FROM YOUR ARBORISTS

CAN I REMOVE EXPOSED TREE SURFACE ROOTS IN MY LAWN, OR COVER THEM WITH SOIL?

by Kevin Bassett – I.S.A. Certified Arborist

Surface roots in the lawn can be a big nuisance. Nevertheless, there is a number of ways to address them successfully. It is important to understand that a healthy root system is vital to a tree's health. Roots perform a number of fundamental functions including the absorption of water and nutrients, transport of those raw materials, anchorage of the tree, and storage of energy that can be utilized when needed.

Arborists always encourage practices that prevent or minimize injury to roots. Cuts to the root system can open entrance courts for root diseases. The loss of root area can also have a devastating impact on tree health. Yet in many ways, the removal of a problematic root is much the same as the removal of a limb or a branch.

It is important to consider how many roots may need to be removed. One or two small surface roots removed correctly will probably not affect a tree's general health. However, damage or removal of more than 25 percent of the root area can have devastating results.

Root pruning before or during our hot summer months should be avoided. The demand a tree places on its root system is highest during these months and root regeneration is less likely to occur. If roots must be removed, fall and winter months are best. When roots must be cut, they should be cut in a clean, sharp manner. Jagged, torn, and

ripped roots will not regenerate new roots nearly as well as roots with a precise cut.

Covering surface roots is another possible option. This is preferred in many situations if the roots have been exposed by soil erosion. Root areas may be covered with 2-3 inches of quality, loose topsoil. Some potential drawbacks need to be considered. Adding soil may create drainage problems. Adding too much soil can deprive the roots of the oxygen needed for normal function.

Often the best solution is to leave the surface roots and convert the turf area to an appropriate groundcover. Turf and trees is seldom a good match. Thinning turf and turf loss under trees are very common since turf is a prairie plant. There is an inherent conflict when we try to grow one under the other. Many trees are seriously damaged by over-thinning and removing large, low limbs to gain more light for the turf.

One of our Certified Arborists can evaluate your particular situation. Potential solutions and a plan can be developed to help address surface roots. Be very careful with any actions that could impact the roots. They are vital to tree health.

Learn more about trees and their root systems by going to the Arborilogical Services website.

I HAVE PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF THE METROPLEX. CAN I GET QUALITY TREE CARE OUTSIDE ARBORIOLOGICAL SERVICES' REGIONAL SERVICE AREA?

by Ben Thomas – I.S.A. Certified Arborist

While our regional service area is extensive, clients occasionally ask if we can provide quality tree care on properties outside the Metroplex. The short answer is yes.

Clients outside our service area often find great value in the services we offer, particularly when we are caring for a large number of trees, or

trees that contribute to a property in a significant way. We are flattered that people look to us to provide pruning for that historic grove of pecans around the old homeplace, or a pre-construction consultation for a new home sited in a motte of oaks. Clients outside our service area also rely on Arborilogical Services' expertise to

diagnose and manage tree pests and pathogens—including Oak Wilt.

If you have trees outside our service area and believe you can find value in providing them with the best of care, contact us by calling our office at **866-55-ARBOR** or **866-552-7267** or submitting a Service Request from our website.

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SHOULD I HAVE AN ARBORIST MAKE A NEW HOME PRE-PURCHASE VISIT?

by Kevin Bassett, I.S.A. Certified Arborist

If you are purchasing a new or an older home with established trees, it is an excellent idea to have one of our Certified Arborists inspect the trees prior to locking in the deal. Just as buyers need a home inspection to evaluate the house's foundation, roofing, heating and cooling systems, plumbing and electrical systems to make sure they are in good shape, a Certified Arborist should inspect the trees to make sure they are in good working order.

It is wise to know about the trees at your new home, beginning with the species of trees on the property. Many species have particular characteristics—good and bad: potential pest problems, structural defects, or disease issues. Only qualified arborists with education and experience can properly and accurately perform this job. Over the years, many clients, when informed that their new home has a tree with serious problems have stated, "One of the main reasons we bought this house was because of this wonderful tree."

I'M TOLD MY TREES HAVE AN IRON DEFICIENCY. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AND CAN IT BE MANAGED?

by Sarah Brackin, I.S.A. Certified Arborist

Iron Deficiency in trees is a common problem in North Central Texas. It is most frequently seen in a neighborhood with Red Oak, Sweetgum, or Silver Maple that never reaches a dark green color as spring leaves develop into summer foliage. A closer look may reveal leaf tissue that is yellow, while the leaf veins remain green. Extreme Iron Deficiency displays yellow leaves with brown edges, or leafless twigs.

DESCRIPTION

While a soil test may indicate sufficient iron for good plant growth, our alkaline soils (high pH) lock up this essential mineral, preventing its uptake into the tree's vascular system. When iron is not available in the leaves to produce green chlorophyll, the tree's ability to produce energy is reduced. This can stress the tree, making it susceptible to other problems or causing it to grow more slowly, or decline. In some cases, the tree

Sometimes the tree is wonderful, in good condition, sound and solid. Sometimes the tree has numerous defects, substantial root loss, large areas of decay, or other problems. It is important to know the issues that a tree problem can present and what can be done for them, prior to purchase. Often, trees are very large and in close proximity to the house. A large limb or trunk failure can be catastrophic. It is far better to know what potential problems exist before investing in a property.

Clients have often narrowed their home search down to two or three properties, and then have us inspect the trees on each property and actually make their purchase based on our professional opinion of the trees. Trees can contribute as much as 30 percent to the land value of a property, making them a significant asset. However, health condition issues and structural defects can also cause trees to become a tremendous liability. Only an arborist with sufficient experience, education, and specialized training can determine the difference.

does not show symptoms until it has been planted in the yard for more than 5-10 years. This is because the root system is growing further out into the soils and the needs of the tree are greater. The trees that most often show Iron Deficiency in North Central Texas include Red Oak, Pin Oak, Sweetgum, Pine, River Birch, Crabapple, Silver Maple, and Bald Cypress.

TREATMENT

When Iron Deficiency symptoms are mild, they may be addressed by amending the soil. The pH of a soil can be lowered by applying sulfur. By doing so, the iron that currently exists in the soil is released and the tree can pull it from the soil. Additionally, extra iron can be added to the soil if necessary. This can be done several times during the year, but it is most effective in the spring and fall.

High Volume Injection is another method of providing supplemental iron.

continued on page 3

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT MY TREE SPLITTING?

by Kevin Bassett, I.S.A. Certified Arborist

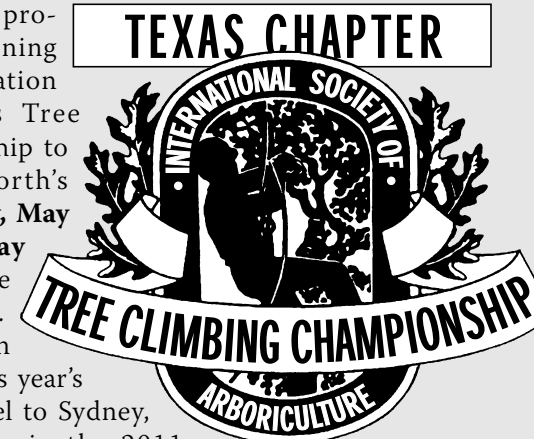
Splitting in branches and trunks is great reason for concern and action. Trees can split in a number of ways. The most common split occurs where two branches join in a tight "V" shaped fork. Many times the two branches are of nearly equal size. Arborists term this type of limb structure as co-dominate branching. A close inspection of the point where the trunks or branches meet, the bark will roll inward toward the center of the tree. This is an indication of bark being included at the point of attachment. While it may look as if the two branches have grown together, included bark is a very weak structural situation that frequently leads to

splitting. If you are buying young trees to plant, avoid trees that exhibit co-dominant stems or a tendency to form tight "V" shaped forks. This type of tree structure is likely to split once the tree has grown to a larger size.

Splits can be stabilized or even avoided by proper use of cables and/or brace rods. These artificial support systems can add many years to the lifespan of trees, which under normal conditions would split, fall, and be removed. You should call an arborist immediately if you see splitting or cracking in the major structure of the tree. Many times these conditions can be addressed with excellent results.

FORT WORTH'S TRINITY PARK TO HOST THE 2011 TEXAS TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of our production crews are honing their skills in preparation for the 2011 Texas Tree Climbing Championship to be held in Fort Worth's Trinity Park on **Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21**. The event is free and open to the public. The stakes are high. In July, the winner of this year's competition will travel to Sydney, Australia to compete in the 2011 International Tree Climbing Championship.



Plano's Bob Woodruff Park was the site of the 2010 Texas Tree Climbing Championship this past May. The park, known for its giant oaks and pecans, provided a worthy venue for the climbing competitors and ample viewing space for the hundreds of visitors who enjoyed both the competition and the great weather.

Climbers from around the state had the opportunity to show off their skills in the five events that qualified them for the Masters' Challenge. Four-time winner and Arborological Services Production Crew Foreman, Miguel Pastenes, was ready to defend his 2009 Championship title.

Pastenes placed first in both the Belayed Speed Climb and the Work Climb, qualifying him as one of four competitors for the Master's Challenge and the state title. When the leaves settled and the times tallied, Abram Zies, of Weatherford was the winner. Zies was successful in breaking a ten-year string of Arborological Services Championship wins.

Following the Texas competition, Pastenes traveled to Lisle, Illinois to watch the International Tree Climbing Championship at the Morton Arboretum. Joining him were Arborological Services Certified Arborist, Kevin Bassett, who was asked to judge the event and Arborological Services Executive Vice President/General Manager, Steve Barrett.

IRON DEFICIENCY *continued from page 2*

A material containing chelated iron can be injected directly into the tree's root flare. Arborological Services has been treating trees with Iron Deficiency with the chelated iron product, Verdur®, for a number of years. It is consistently meeting our expectations. Verdur should be applied once every three years while the tree is in its winter dormancy. Verdur can be applied exclusively, or in combination with soil amendments.

In some situations, it may be better to remove the tree and replace it with a species that is better adapted to the existing soil's pH. Your Certified Arborist can provide you with a list of recommended trees for your area. The decision to replace a tree should be based on the homeowner's opinion of how important the tree is to them, the cost of treatment for the tree's life, and the tree's overall health.

EXPECTATIONS

Amending the soil and adding iron can be successful in addressing mild symptoms of Iron Deficiency, but it is frequently short-term and only masks the symptoms. The soil will likely need amending on a regular basis.

High Volume Injections have proven to be more successful than soil amendments. The procedure must be repeated once every three years. Again, the treatment only masks the symptoms, but the results are favorable in even the most extreme cases.

If the tree is new to your landscape and you don't have years invested in it, replacement is recommended. If the tree is older and important to the landscape and home, treatment should be considered. Cost of treatment is determined by the tree's size. Your Certified Arborist can assist you in determining what might be best for you and your tree.