

Arborists Maintain Tree Health

Who do you call when a one hundred year old, one hundred and fifty foot tall oak tree that sits ten feet away from your house needs pruning? Who do you call if your favorite 80-year-old pecan is starting to decline? The answer: a Certified Arborist. Certified Arborists are the surgeons of the tree trade as well as the physicians. They diagnose tree problems (diseases, insect infestations, and decline), implement strategies to mitigate poor tree health, and provide emergency tree care. At some time or another, most everyone will need an arborist. Remember, trees are investments that can become liabilities if not cared for properly.



Certified Arborists have the education and experience necessary to provide the most advanced tree work for their customers.

What does it mean to be a Certified Arborist?

A certified arborist has been through a rigorous training and testing process to assure that he or she meets the standards set by the International Society of Arboriculture for a qualified professional arborist. In order to maintain his or her certification, Certified Arborists must continue to receive training throughout the rest of his or her career.

Certified Arborists are well-trained in tree health, pest management, soil fertility, assessing storm damage, cabling and bracing, and proper pruning techniques. In other words, they are specialists in the care of trees. While all Certified Arborists are experts, some remove trees while others only consult.

When a Certified Arborist does a consultation, he or she evaluates tree health and tries to recommend a plan to stop any tree decline. They might recommend pruning to remove any dead wood or to shape the tree. If the tree has any unsafe branches or bad branch angles, the tree professional might cable the offending limbs. Cabling involves using heavy gauge stainless steel cable and eye bolts to secure limbs and trunks. The Certified Arborist may recommend a fertilization regime to increase the tree's vigor and stop any decline. Trees are often fertilized using a 1:2:3 ratio liquid fertilizers injected into holes that are drilled in the soil around the tree.



Deep root fertilization can help Certified Arborists get fertilizer deep below turf or ornamental landscaping.

If a tree is not salvageable, then the Certified Arborist will recommend removing the unhealthy tree. Often, the tree will be in a location where it cannot be felled easily. For example, perhaps there is a structure under or near the tree or the tree is near the property line. In this case, the arborist may decide to rope the tree. Climbing the tree, the arborist ties ropes to the branches. Then, the branches are cut off one by one allowing the rope to break the fall. In essence the tree is removed from the top down. The branches will be lowered down gently to workers on the ground to prevent any unwarranted damage. After removal, the company will chip the tree into mulch with a machine or haul it away. Reputable companies will leave the property only after they have cleaned up any mess and the customer is satisfied.

Trees are assets that add value to one's property. They should be cared for properly. With the help of a Certified Arborist, homeowner's trees will remain healthy and safe through proper fertility, pest management, and pruning. Certified Arborists can be found by using the search function at <http://isa-arbor.com/findarborist/findarborist.aspx> .

Submitted By:
Steve Pettis
Complete Horticultural Consulting, LLC.

