

Digging Deep ... continued from page D16

What YOU can do to protect your trees:

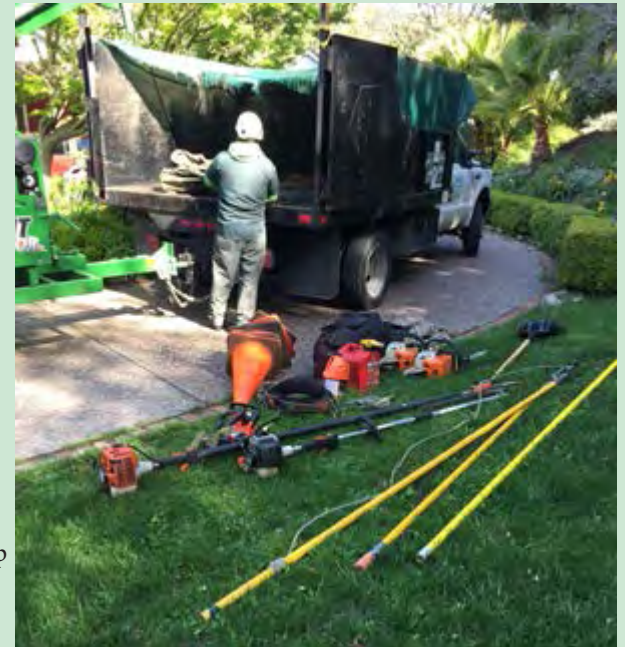
1. Plant the correct tree in the correct area. Before planting a tree, learn more about its habits.

Considerations include:

- How tall and wide will the tree be at maturity?
- How much water does this specimen require?
- Is it disease prone?
- Will it survive in a drought?
- Does it bear fruit?
- Is it evergreen or deciduous?
- Will your tree block a neighbor's view?
- Is it appropriate for your landscape?
- How will it look in all four seasons?
- Keep rocks away from around the base. Rocks get hot and the heat is not good for the roots. Use mulch instead.
- Trees are thirsty, especially redwoods. They need water all year long. Large trees need more hydration with a deep watering wand.
- Prune correctly. Improper pruning damages trees. Watch for crossovers.
- Remove suckers from the base of trees.
- Hire a certified arborist to inspect your trees. Ask questions and learn.



The ugly tree mushroom growing at the base of the tree.



Equipment for tree cutting.

Signs of Trouble:

- Mushrooms growing at the base of the tree. These are poisonous, do not consider eating them.
- Mistletoe hanging from the branches. As much as we love mistletoe at Christmas, it is always a sign of concern when it invades a tree.
- Branches without leaves and no new growth evident.
- Ivy or other vines climbing the trunk. Remove quickly.

What to Look for in a Tree Specialist for Hire:

- Arborist certification
- Valid state contractor's license
- Certified Tree Care Safety Professional by the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)
- Insurance
- Workers' Compensation
- Experience over cost
- Ask for recommendations and do your research
- Get an evaluation and a written bid before proceeding

My cottonwood exhibited all of the warning signs. The branches were so brittle that a bucket truck was necessary to elevate a worker with a chainsaw to cut the branches. When a tree is healthy, it can be climbed for pruning, but if the tree is dead, it could be too dangerous to attempt to climb it. The crew placed plywood in a "V" position to catch the cut branches as they fell. They then cut the pieces into firewood. Another option is to chip all of the wood for mulch.


After the cottonwood was finished, the bucket was used to cut the dry branches from the Mexican palms. Advance cleaned up the area and left the mulch for me to use in my garden.

If you are considering planting trees this spring, consider this:


- Redwoods and pines need copious amounts of water. Don't plant them. Pines are also very flammable.
- Ornamental trees such as red buds, pistachio, and Japanese maple do well with little water.
- The most drought resistant species are the natives: oaks, buckeye, manzanita and madrone, as they need very little water and in fact, won't thrive with too much.

The danger of a falling tree is real. Most homeowners are not really aware of the signals that trees exhibit when they are suffering. Don't wait too long to have your trees inspected. It's far better to be safe than sorry.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." – Chinese Proverb



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Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

SITE FACTORS

Site factors have significant influence on both the likelihood and consequences of tree failure. When our ISA certified arborist from Advance Tree Service comes to perform a free risk assessment, the site is often first evaluated for targets and consequences of failure. Site factors that can be used to evaluate the likelihood of tree failure impacting the target include the history of previous failures. This includes branch, trunk, root, and soil failure. Wind and other natural winter conditions can be a high risk factor as well.

So don't wait until it's too late, Call your local ISA certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service for all your tree needs.

*Advance Tree Service
Your Authority on Trees.*



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