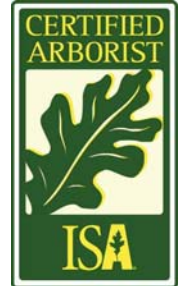


Tree E-News

From the Urban and Community Forestry Division of the
Colorado State Forest Service
February 2010

Urban and Community Forestry

Hire an ISA Certified Arborist: As the days warm up and the days get longer, thoughts turn to working outside. This is the perfect time of year for pruning trees because the cold days are behind us and leaf buds have not broken yet. Armed with a sharp set of bypass pruners and a small pruning saw, a lot of pruning can be done in the spring months. Eliminating deadwood, removing conflicting branches, thinning, and developing scaffold branches are all excellent reasons to prune.



However, pruning large branches (e.g. greater than six inches in diameter) and removing branches that require either climbing the tree or the use of a ladder alters the job complexity. When these complex pruning jobs show up, one should seriously consider hiring a professional *International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist* for the job. Here is why you should consider hiring a professional arborist:

1. They have the training and experience to do what is best for the tree in a manner that is safe for the tree worker and preserves the integrity of the site.
2. They have invested in the proper equipment and know how to use it. Steer clear of the so-called tree expert who shows up with a pickup and a chainsaw.
3. They usually carry insurance that covers personal and property damage, as well as workers compensation insurance. Be sure to ask for proof of insurance before hiring a tree company.
4. They have demonstrated their commitment to their profession by taking and passing an exam that covers the following aspects of tree care: biology, identification, maintenance, installation, nutrition, pest diagnosis, tree worker safety, risk management, and most importantly industry accepted proper pruning practices.
5. Once certified by the ISA, an arborist must continue to add to their education base by attending classes or workshops. Over a three year period they must accumulate thirty continuing education units (CEU) to show that they are adding to their knowledge base.
6. Mature trees are an investment and asset to the property. It makes sense to put their care in the hands of a knowledgeable professional. Visit www.treesaregood.org for more tree information.

Important Dates for Your Calendar

February 19th – The 21st Annual *Greeley Winter Tree Care Workshop* is being sponsored by the Greeley Forestry Program, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), and the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC). This annual event continues the tradition of providing state-of-the-art information on urban tree management. This year's line-up of speakers covers a wide range of subjects, from pruning small trees to examining some new pests currently attacking the urban forest. Workshop attendees will learn about the auditory problems associated with the tree service industry and how to mitigate them. A new feature of this year's event is an opportunity to receive a FREE hearing exam. Additional information, registration form, and maps can be downloaded from the Greeley forestry website at www.greeleyforestry.org. ISA Certified Arborist continuing education credits are available for this workshop.

February 25th – The *Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference* is being hosted by the Town of Springfield, CSU Extension, the CSFS, and the CTC. The theme for this year's conference is "Growing Healthy Trees in Eastern Colorado." Registration is only \$15, which pays for your lunch. The planning committee has assembled a group of speakers whose experience level spans decades. The agenda topics include basic pruning techniques, tree selection for that region of Colorado and steps necessary to keep trees thriving from the day they are planted until they shade homes and streets. In addition, those who attend will learn about local pest problems and how to successfully plant trees in sidewalk settings. An agenda and registration form can be acquired from the CTC website, www.coloradotrees.org. Once on the home page, select the Upcoming Workshops box. ISA Certified Arborist continuing education credits are available for this conference.