

Mature trees growing satisfactorily usually don't require fertilizer, which if not applied wisely may not benefit the tree at all, or even harm the tree. Keep in mind that mature trees have an expansive root system which can extend from 2 to 3 times the size of the leaf canopy. This is especially important for homeowners with lawns who also use weed and feed fertilizers – it contains a broadleaf herbicide which can be picked up by the trees roots.



Sprouts indicate upper tree dying

Third, the overall balance, structure, form, and density of the canopy is evaluated. We use trees to moderate temperatures by planting evergreens for summer cooling, deciduous trees to allow winter warming, we use trees to create sound attenuation, screen objectionable views, frame desirable views, to deflect the wind, and to attract and harbor wildlife among many others. Pruning, the most common procedure in tree maintenance, is done to maintain the safety and aesthetics of trees in the landscaped areas of the house and also the forest trees near the personal areas of the property. Improper pruning can drastically shorten the life of a tree, or even kill a very mature or compromised tree



Pine canker

Pruning is necessary to remove dead, diseased, or insect-infested branches and to improve structure, enhance vigor, and maintain safety. It may be done to increase light penetration to the inside of the tree's canopy or to the landscape below. Pruning changes the growth of the tree, and can also cause damage so it is important to understand the effects upon the tree. Removing foliage decreases photosynthesis and decreases the manufacture of sugar used as energy



conk - early indicator

for growth and development. After pruning, growth takes place on fewer shoots and branches, and so they tend to grow longer than they would if the growth was spread across the entire tree without pruning. Over-pruning can cause a multitude of problems with a tree, and sprouting is commonly seen within brashly pruned broad trees, and on the lower trunks of our local redwoods when too many limbs are removed. Pruning large and mature trees requires special education, training, experience, and equipment for a coordinated crew to perform safely. This work can be dangerous if done improperly and it is usually best left to professionals who can complete the work safely.

Removal is usually performed as a last resort when circumstances indicate it is necessary. Safety of persons and property is the most important reason to remove a tree. This may be due to the advanced age and poor health of a tree which is dying or irreparably hazardous, or due to inappropriate planting of a tree type and height that poses a reoccurring risk to an occupied area or valuable structure. Well-spaced trees can grow properly whereas overcrowded trees rarely thrive and reach maturity. Poorly maintained trees are more likely to prematurely succumb to disease and damage which will result in an untimely removal.

A preventive care program can help you maintain healthy happy long lived trees which add considerable enjoyment and value to your property. When you consider that trees can live as long as 200 to 300 years, it makes good sense to begin a preventative care program for your trees. In doing so, you will become more knowledgeable and live more safely with your trees now, and demonstrate the time honored wisdom of investing in resources that will offer enjoyment and value for generations to come.



Defect in base from structure damage

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