

# Ottiger Tree Service, LLC Tree Care Tips



Fully Insured  Nationally Accredited

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## Beat the Heat with Nature's Air Conditioners

If you have ever escaped from blazing hot sun in a shady spot under a tree, you know how these natural air conditioners can make you feel more comfortable. In fact, trees in a parking lot can reduce air temperatures by up to 25 degrees than on nearby blacktop.

But beyond comfort, planting trees around your home is a great way to lower summer energy bills, beautify your yard and increase your home's value. According to the Department of Energy, adding three trees in the proper spots west, north and east of your house can save the average household up to \$250 a year. Add a full landscape of trees and shrubs, and you can cut your utility bills 25 percent to 50 percent. Trees cool in summer and protect from harsh winds in winter – and their photosynthesis releases beneficial water vapor into the air.

Before designing an energy-efficient landscape, the Solar Energy Research and Education Foundation says you need to know your home's orientation to the sun as well as the intensity and common direction of the wind around your property. The Foundation recommends planting trees and shrubs that shade as much roof, walls and windows as possible on the east and west sides of your home.

Deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in the autumn, offer the double benefit of allowing warming sunlight into your home in the colder months.



When picking out shade trees, the California Energy Commission (CEC) suggests selecting those with the height, growth rate and shape that will provide the shade you need. A less dense tree that shades a larger area is better than a denser tree with less shade area.

In addition to large shade trees, the CEC advises planting smaller trees and shrubs a few feet from your home to direct cooling summer breezes indoors. Put shrubbery next to your foundation to reduce soil and wall temperatures. Since gravel and paved areas store and reflect heat, place shrubs and grass around your patio and driveway to offset the hot-spots.

Trees don't just make a difference in the summer. To cut winter energy costs, the most common approach is to plant evergreen trees and shrubs on the north and northwest side of your property. These wind barriers can dramatically channel winds away from your house and cut the cold. In addition, shrubs, bushes and vines planted next to a house can help insulate the home in winter and summer.

Beyond energy savings and beauty, homeowners who take care of their trees and keep manicured yards find the value of their properties increase. A research study at Clemson University lists maintaining beautiful landscaping as a cost-efficient way to increase the value of a home. In a comparison of house prices to house characteristics, location and landscape quality, the study showed houses which obtained an "excellent" landscaping rating from a local landscaping professional could expect to sell at a price six to seven percent higher than equivalent houses with a "good" landscaping rating. Improving landscaping from "average" to "good" resulted in a home premium about five percent.

*Homeowners looking for someone to assess their landscape and make recommendations for energy savings should consult a professional arborist.*

### Our Mission:

***We are dedicated to maintaining the balance between tree health, customer safety & satisfaction, and raising the standards of the arboriculture industry.***

### Membership Affiliations:

St. Louis Arborist Association  
[www.stlouisarborists.com](http://www.stlouisarborists.com)

Tree Care Industry Association  
[www.tcia.org](http://www.tcia.org)

International Society of Arboriculture  
[www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)

Better Business Bureau  
[www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)



### This Month We Are Looking to Meet:

- **Property Managers**
- **Contractors**
- **Plumbers**
- **Subdivision Trustees**

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Taking Care of Trees for Over a Decade.



Ottiger Tree Service (OTS) offers tree/brush removal, pruning and dead wooding to the greater St. Louis area.

We are a first-generation, family-owned business, and proud of our reputation as a dependable and quality-oriented arbor care services company.

With ISA Certified Arborists on staff, we are staying up-to-date on the latest techniques and information since these professionals pass extensive exams covering all aspects of tree care and have continuing education requirements to maintain certification and accreditation.

## “Tree”mendous Trees!

If you're going on vacation or planning one in the future, here are some record-setting trees you should be sure to see. Following are some of our photos from trips to nature's biggest trees!

### Tallest Softwood

The General Sherman, a giant redwood sequoia of California. General Sherman is about 275 ft or 84m high with a girth of 25 ft or 8m.

### The World's Tallest Tree

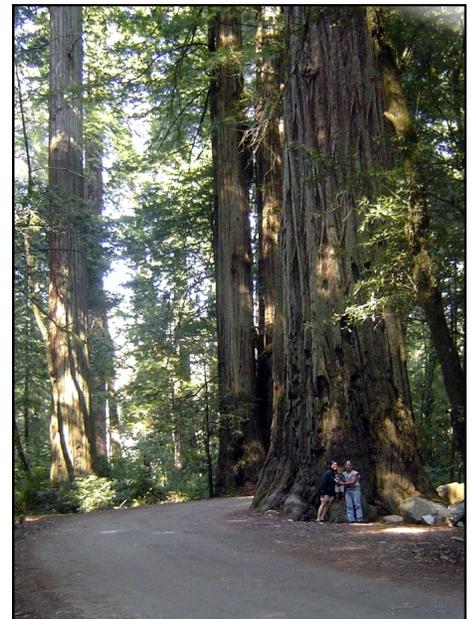
is a coast redwood in California, measuring more than 360 ft or 110 m.



Nick “conquering” an already cut stump on a California Redwood.



Nick and Mindy at the base of The General Sherman.



This California Redwood makes Nick, Mindy, and their son, Will, seem very small in comparison.

### In Australia

The 236 ft or 72 m high Ada Tree of Australia has 50 ft or 15.4 m girth and a root system that takes up more than an acre.

### The World's Oldest Trees

4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.

Barb, OJ's wife, entering Sequoia National Park.



Information for this newsletter provided by:  
[www.treecaretips.org](http://www.treecaretips.org)  
and  
[www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org)

