

Ottiger Tree Service, LLC Fall Tree Care Tips



Fully Insured  Nationally Accredited

Volume 1, Issue 5

Early Fall Color Could be Sign of Tree Distress



In many parts of North America, people will soon enjoy one of nature’s finest shows — fall foliage.

Color-changing leaves make for a beautiful display, but early changes in leaf-color can be a sign that your tree is stressed and is susceptible to insect and disease attack.

If the leaves on your trees seem to have gotten a jump-start on fall compared with those on similar trees in the area, then you might want to consult a professional arborist, who can identify any problems and offer possible solutions.

“Premature colors can be an indication that a tree isn’t vigorous enough to withstand insects and disease organisms that may attack it, not to mention the usual changes that occur when the weather turns cold,” says Tchukki Anderson, staff

arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association.

“Occasionally only one or two limbs of the tree will show premature fall color. This could be a sign of a disease at work, weakening only the infected limbs.”

The more common situation is for the entire tree to exhibit premature fall coloration, a phenomenon usually linked to root-related stress. “Trees respond to these stresses by trying to curtail their above-ground growth,” adds Anderson.

Leaves can be thought of as small factories containing raw materials, products and by-products, all in chemical form and some with color. As the leaf is “abandoned” by the tree, the green chlorophyll—the dominant chemical found in most leaves—is broken down and “recycled,” leaving behind

other-colored chemicals. Supply lines to the leaves also become clogged. If the major chemical remaining in the abandoned leaf is red, then the leaf turns red. If it’s yellow, then the leaf turns yellow, and so on.

“The yearly variation in color intensity is due to varying weather conditions, which can affect the balance of chemicals and their composition in the leaves,” Anderson says. Differing amounts of rainfall, sunlight, temperature, humidity and other factors may have an effect on how bright, how quickly and how long the “leaf-peeping” season will be in any given year.

Contact a Professional

A professional arborist can assess your landscape and work with you to determine the best course of action.

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

Tree Care Industry Association
www.tcia.org

International Society of Arboriculture
www.isa-arbor.com

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org



**This Month
We Are Looking
to Meet:**

- *Property Managers*
- *Contractors*
- *Realtors*
- *Subdivision Trustees*

Ottiger Tree Service, LLC

OJ Ottiger, Owner, ISA Certified Arborist MW-4428A
Nick Ottiger, CTSP, ISA Certified Arborist MW-4622A
Mindy Ottiger, MA, Marketing Director

1265 Trails Drive
Fenton MO 63026
Phone: 636.225.3292
E-mail: info@ottigertreeservice.com
Web: www.ottigertreeservice.com

Call for an Estimate Today!

636.225.3292



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.

Fall is Pruning Season

You may think that the approach of the end of the growing season means you can stop worrying about the trees in your landscape. Think again!

Fall is one of the best times to examine the safety and health of your trees say experts in tree care. Why?

1. With the leaves off, cracks, defects and deadwood are easier to see.
2. With winter storms approaching, hazards should be removed now—before they damage property.

“Most trees can be pruned year-round,” says Robert Rouse, staff arborist for the TCIA, “and certain operations are easier to do in the fall, when dead branches are easily seen and removed.”

Some homeowners worry that arborists will not be able to determine deadwood on a tree when the leaves are off. On the contrary, this is the best time for an arborist to locate deadwood by looking for changes in color, fungus growth, cracks, and other symptoms, which can help them make this determination.

Since the leaves are off, the view of the entire tree's architecture is clear and a thorough check can be performed.

Pruning is much more than the simple act of sawing off limbs.

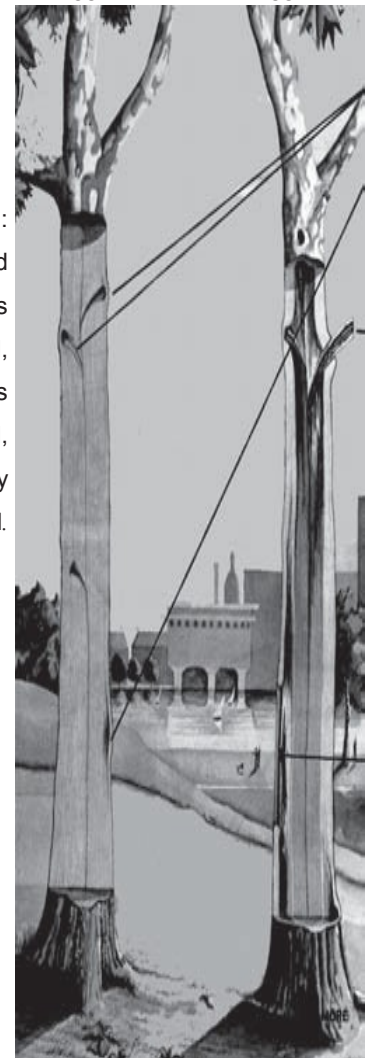
Proper pruning is an art based on scientific principles of plant physiology. At its most basic level, pruning trees involves removing damaged, dead or structurally weak limbs, which will improve a tree's health and reduce the chances of personal or property damage caused by falling limbs.

HIRE A PROFESSIONAL

Professional arborists have the capability to make the tree safer and more attractive by pruning live growth as well. Proper pruning encourages growth, increases flower and fruit production, improves plant health, repairs damage and helps add aesthetic appeal to a tree.

Pruning at the right time and in the right way is critical, since it is possible to kill a tree through neglect or over-pruning.

Tree 1 Tree 2



Tree 1: Dead branches removed, wounds covered, decay limited.

Tree 2: Dead branches allow infection and decay into trunk.

Home Owner Tip of the Season

Although it is the end of the growing season, autumn can be the best time to prune your trees!

Here's why:

- ~ With the leaves off, cracks, defects and deadwood are easier to see.
- ~ With winter storms approaching, hazards should be removed now — before they damage property.
- ~ It is the best time for an arborist to locate deadwood by looking for changes in color, fungus growth, cracks, and other symptoms

Information provided by:
www.treecaretips.org

