

TREETISE

FALL 2009

Tree Care for the Seasons!

R O O T E D I N K N O W L E D G E

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 5

As the fall and winter months approach, we often see a pretty significant increase in requests (RFPs) for tree work. It seems as though tree-trimming waxes and wanes from March to September and, for some reason, explodes in a frenzy from October to February.

Perhaps this is because of delayed maintenance, or because people think it's a service that can and should wait – possibly not realizing the importance of regular tree care. There's also the chance, and the good likelihood (!), that the fourth quarter comes around fast, and sneaks up on people before they realize they haven't had a chance to have their trees trimmed.

Regardless of how or why it happens, one thing seems for sure; seasonal tree-care maintenance plans don't appear to have been established in a majority of our communities. And while certainly understandable (we've all got a lot on our minds these days!), this can cause a variety of challenges to occur – which is why it's important to be proactive, not viewing trees as a nuisance to disregard, but as an important community element that's beautiful to look at and safe to enjoy. In order to do this, however, a serious perspective towards tree care must be thoughtfully considered and adopted.

Southern California is home to a wide variety of trees, and when you think of trees in San Diego those that probably come to mind are Palms, Eucalyptus and Pines, which make up a majority of our arborscape. Additionally, San Diego has many other common trees that blanket its landscape, such as Carrotwoods, Liquidambar, Sycamores and White Alders, just to name a few.

Each of these trees has species-specific traits that may limit the time and method of pruning that can be performed on each tree: some trees have pest issues that are more prevalent in warm weather; other trees produce large seed-pods and fruit that drop during certain times of the year and create a mess or slip hazard; still other trees just don't respond well to direct sunlight and therefore should be pruned during the winter months only. All this makes it that much more important to know the types of trees you have, so you can have them cared for well.



Message from the President

“Four Seasons Tree Care is proud to announce that the following outstanding employees have earned their ISA Tree Worker Certification. This is a huge accomplishment for each of them and we commend them for all their hardwork.”

Gustavo Hernandez
Donaciano Diaz



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ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE

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And that's the job of your arborist – to know about seasonal pests and the hosts they feed on, as well as the times of year certain trees drop fruit and which trees are susceptible to sun-scalding. A proactive arborist helps the community he or she serves to develop a game plan for maintenance based on the species-specific factors involved in the community arborscape.



If you are reading this and you

are a **property manager**, you will reap huge benefits from working with an arborist who can identify these important facets of tree care management. As a matter of fact, the more you require seasonal maintenance programs for the communities you manage, the less work tree care will be and the better the communities you manage will look.



Performing seasonal maintenance programs has other benefits as well (aside from species-specific issues). For example, they ensure an arborist visits your community at least twice a year to investigate any changes in the community – thus heading off any issues that might arise.

Because we manage 90 percent of our accounts through seasonal maintenance programs we have been able to remove unhealthy trees before they fall; discover new pest problems and begin treatment before an entire tree species is eliminated from the community; and identify areas where hardscape is beginning to be damaged before the issue becomes a full-blown problem.

Seasonal maintenance programs keep arborists in tune with your needs (and heading off costly problems), and for you, that can only result in a safer community forest, better communication with your contractor, increased aesthetics and an overall sense of security and pride in your arborscape. For your convenience we've included a quick reference guide of a few trees common to San Diego, when they should be trimmed and the reason why.

Tree	Season	Reason
Pines	Winter	Reduce potential access to wood boring insects
Eucalyptus	Winter	Reduce potential access to wood boring insects
White Alder	Winter	Susceptible to sunscald
Coral	Spring	Most break-outs occur in hot weather
Palm	Summer	Reduce mess made by fallen seeds
Liquidambar	Summer	Reduce mess made by fallen seeds
Carrotwood	Summer	Reduce mess made by fallen seeds

DID YOU KNOW?

The value of a full-grown, healthy tree can fall between \$1,000 and \$10,000 dollars. This goes to show that taking care of your trees when they need it will add great value to your property.

Four Seasons Tree Care is now on social-networking website Facebook. Connect with us so you are up-to-date on all the latest news about tree care.

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 OF TREETISE

Tree care from a landscaper's view, by guest writer Jason Stewart, Park West Landscape.

n. (tree• tis) a formal and systematic exposition of the principles of a subject; more detailed than an essay.

Four Season Tree Care

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