

TREETISE

SPRING 2009

Don't Forget the Little Guy

April showers bring May flowers and those blooming accents are very enjoyable. We like when our communities have brilliant, healthy trees and want to do what we can to perpetuate that kind of vibrant aesthetic. Unfortunately, many communities rely on the untrained or inexperienced to perform work on trees at a very pivotal period of their growth, the juvenile phase. The assumption that trees under 12-15 feet do not require the attention of educated professionals permeates the market. That's right! The "little guy" is often not given the amount of respect or appropriate attention it requires to become a vibrant and vigorous tree that we all want to enjoy. No disrespect is intended to our partners in the Landscaping industry but the honest reality is that a majority of Landscape companies do not have the training programs in place to provide their laborers in the field with the knowledge required to make appropriate pruning cuts in young trees for the sake of "trimming". This quarters TREETise is intended to focus on shifting the industry paradigm from relieving Landscapers of the responsibility of pruning trees and putting that responsibility onto the Arborist. However, pruning trees for clearance issues and visibility is perfectly acceptable for Landscaping employees to perform.

One of the most important members of the arborscape in a community is the young tree.

members of the arborscape in a community is the young tree. This is where it all starts. The cuts made in young trees will determine the structure, liability or risk, and vigor of those trees when they mature and become what now is considered an appropriate tree to call a tree-trimming contractor out to perform work on. In many contracts or RFP's provided to landscapers, trimming trees under 12-15 feet is required as part of their monthly maintenance responsibility. When landscapers do not have training programs as a part of their training procedures, trees can be damaged. This often translates into untimely rising of lower branches, improper flush cuts that expose the trees natural defense systems and in-

appropriate structural changes that deform trees as they grow. Lower branches are very important in young trees as those branches have some of the densest patches of foliage available to young trees for photosynthesis. If those branches are removed, the tree's ability to create food and shade the trunk are greatly hindered and can be detrimental to the trees health while thwarting vigor. This is not the approach we want to take toward our young arborscape.

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

FOUR SEASONS TREE CARE | 760-477-7795 | WWW.FOURSEASONSTC.COM

ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3



Message from the President

Did you know that there are only 2 tree care companies in San Diego that are accredited by the Tree Care Industry Association? We at Four Seasons Tree Care are working hard to become the 3rd. To learn more about this "seal of approval" please visit www.tcia.org.



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All trees that have sound structure should have some form of central tendency.

and some form of central tendency. This means that there should be one main branch that outlines the central nature of the trees lateral development and serves as a reference point for assessing appropriate structural development and deficiency. This should be obvious whether the tree has a round (or decurrent) canopy or a straight, almost pyramidal (or excurrent) canopy. Central tendency can be maintained in all trees when pruned for structure when they are juvenile. Most trees do not require structure pruning any more frequently than once every 2 years. This is an important facet of tree care and is a worthwhile investment for any community to pay time and attention to. Managing young trees and training the structure to develop properly from the beginning will create beautiful, low-risk trees to be enjoyed for many years after they are initially planted.

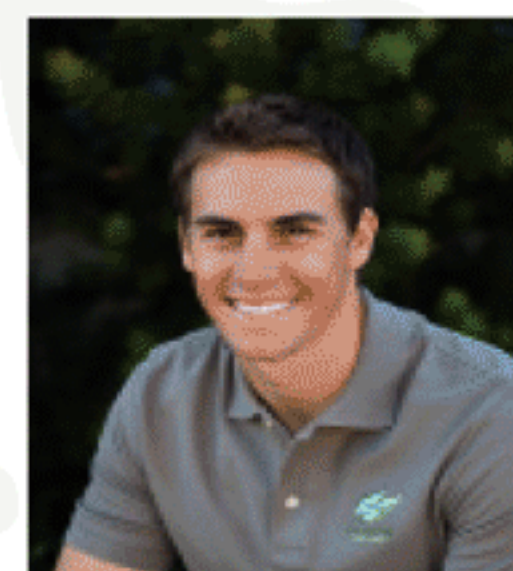


Now as you can see, the trees in the photos on this page have not been cared for well. Each one of these specimens are under 12 feet tall. They are the product of untrained laborers making cuts in trees to satisfy contract agreements. Don't let this happen to you. Make sure your landscaper has educated field operators touching your trees or call your arborist. Our goal is to make the rest of our communities beautiful and vigorous. One of the best ways to do that is to provide trees with the proper care and attention from the day they are planted until the day they are removed. Like the old saying goes, "...Insanity is defined by performing the same activity over and over while expecting different results." We know the traditional approach to young trees has not produced the results we're looking for. Let's change that approach and create something great together.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over a 50-year lifetime, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.



Welcome to the team Shannon Miller! Our new Customer Support rep will assist you in a variety of ways to continue to allow us to provide you with quality customer service.

Look for our next issue, "The Fungus Among Us!"

Where we will be talking about various kinds of wood decay fungi. Being able to identify the various fungi or, minimally, being able to recognize when a tree is infected with one will help you develop an appropriate course of action. Identification of fungi is one of the best tools arborists use to identify hazardous trees and remove them before they become an actualized liability.



ISSUE 3 OF TREETISE

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