



THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

DECEMBER 2005

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Utility Pruning: The Necessary Evil

Safe, dependable electric service just does not happen. Many people, including myself, do not understand all the details of electricity. We just know we want the coffeemaker to work in the morning. Most of the time it is that easy for us. Reality is hard working people maintain the electrical grid. This includes pruning trees along electric distribution and transmission lines.



Utilities prune or clear utility lines to reduce outages caused by tree limbs rubbing on the lines and by storm damaged trees from breaking the lines. There are two schools of thought on how this is done. The old way is to cut everything back to a given distance, regardless of where the cut is. This usually leaves severely topped trees behind. The newer method removes branches in such a way as to reduce health problems and still improve utility line safety and clearance.

This new way is called directional or target pruning. Essentially, it involves removing branches at a parent branch or the trunk and removing it correctly to leave the smallest wound possible on the tree. This provides obvious benefits to the tree and helps the utility in the long run. Improperly pruned (topped trees or stubbed branches) trees respond by regrowing new branches quickly back into the lines, where properly pruned branches and trees utilize the plants normal growth hormones to reduce or eliminate the quick regrowth. The lack of this regrowth will save the utility and their clients next time they return to an area to prune trees along the lines. Carthage Water and Electric Plant has started using the directional methods to one save money in the long run and to work towards qualifying for the Tree Line USA recognition program. There are a few other utilities in the area that have also started to use this method.

Communities can assist their utility by enacting ordinances that do not allow trees that grow more than 30 feet from being planted under or within 30 feet of an utility line. This becomes a win-win for the community, the individual tree owner, and the utility. If you are interested in learning about directional pruning, Tree Line USA, or tree ordinances contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) at 417-629-3423.

Shake the Money Tree



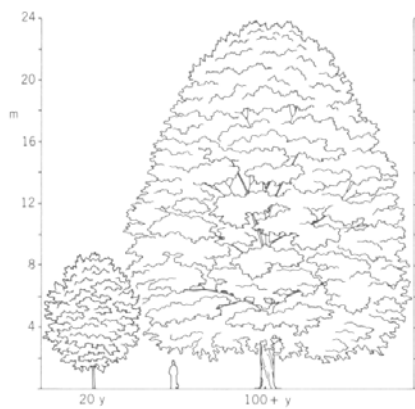
Money does not literally grow on trees, but trees do provide a return on investment. Unfortunately, many see trees as an luxury expense, but in reality properly planted, located, and maintained trees provide a financial return greater than their costs.

It is well documented that properly placed trees can reduce heating and cooling expenses (a return on investment). Trees provide the most cooling benefit when they shade the West, Southwest and East, Southeast portions of a building. They provide the most heating benefit when windbreaks are designed to protect from northern and westerly winds.

Business districts benefit when trees are there and properly maintained. The payoff comes from happier, longer staying, and better purchasing customers. Research has found visitors to a

business district with trees find the visual quality better than other treeless areas, perceive these areas as more pleasant, better maintained, have a higher quality products and helpful merchants. The customers will also travel farther, more often, and stay longer in a business area with trees and are willing to pay 9 to 12 percent more for the products.

Communities in general can also benefit from their trees. A Modesto, CA study found that a single large shade tree reduced cooling costs by 9 percent, absorbed 10 pounds of air pollutants, intercepted 760 gallons of rainwater, removed 330 lbs of CO² (90 Lbs C), and added 1 percent to property value every year. The rainwater interception is of particular interest now that the EPA requires all communities to control stormwater runoff both in quantity and quality. The cost of dealing the 760 gallons of water can easily be attained by civil engineers.



sugar maple
Acer saccharum

Sugar maple is a large, deciduous tree with a mature height of 60 to 75 feet with a spread of 40 to 50 feet. This tree is appropriate for medium to large yards, parks, and boulevards with wider planting strips. The specie does best on well-drained, moderately moist soils. Verticillium wilt is the only major pathogen to this tree, though sapsuckers do like to peck holes in it in the spring. Late summer scorch and "leaf-tatters" are a concern on exposed sites. The cultivars 'Legacy,' 'Green Mountain,' 'Caddo,' and 'Commemoration' do much better on these sites.



Plant illustration by Jenny M. Lyverse, from *Landscape Plants for Eastern North America*, 2nd Edition, Harrison L. Flint Author

Range map modified from USDA Forest Service *Silvics of North America* Web site - www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_2/acer/saccharum.htm

Book Review

Fifty Common Trees of Missouri is a new free publication from MDC. It replaces the venerable “Green Book,” officially titled as Missouri Trees.

This updated version adds 25 more trees to the book. Each with descriptions of key identification features, growth rate, potential height, an interesting fact and a line drawing for the leaf and some of the fruit. Also added is a dichotomous key and a glossary of leaf, fruit, and bark types, and miscellaneous terms.

Pick up a copy at an workshop or the Conservation Office in Joplin.

GATHERING LEAVES

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.

I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight;
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.

Next to nothing for use.
But a crop is a crop,
And who’s to say where
The harvest shall stop?

-- Robert Frost



December 1

Missouri Community Forestry Council State Meeting, Conservation Employees Credit Union Meeting Room, Jefferson City, MO, 10:00 AM Contact: Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-522-4115 Extn. 3116

December 5

Tree Pruning Workshop, Newton Hall Conference Room, Crowder College, Neosho, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 9

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Springfield Conservation Center, 4600 South Chrisman, Springfield, MO Contact Alan Moore, 417-864-1135, Registration Deadline November 21, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx

December 12

Tree Pruning Workshop, Room B, Thiebaud Auditorium, Lamar, MO 7:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 15

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Historic Railroad Depot, 430 North Main, El Dorado, KS Contact Eric Berg (eberg@oznet.ksu.edu), 785-532-3308, Registration Deadline November 30, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx

January 8 - 10

Western Nursery & Landscape Association - Western 2006 Annual Meeting and Trade Show, Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, KS Contact WNLA (info@wnla.org), 816-233-1481, Registration information at www.wnla.org.

February 1 - 3

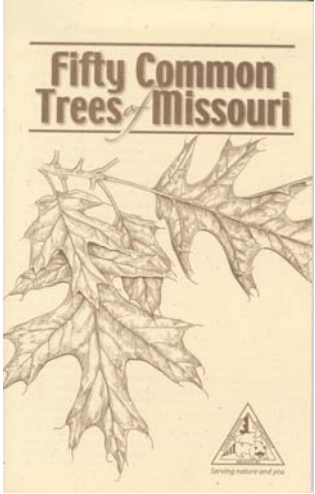
Missouri Natural Resources Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO Contact Andy Austin (andy.austin@mdc.mo.gov), 573-468-3335 Extn 239, Registration information at www.mnrc.org.

February 21 - 24

Missouri Park & Recreation Association's 2006 Annual Conference, Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, Maryland Heights, MO Contact MPRA (info@mopark.org), 573-636-3828, Registration information at www.mopark.org.

February 20 - 23

Midwestern Chapter of the International Society Arboriculture Annual Conference, Bismarck, ND Contact Jeff Heintz (jheintz@state.nd.us), 701-222-6561



REFLECTION

A nations’ growth from sea to sea
Stirs in the heart of a tree.

--Henry Bunner

WHAT'S HAPPENING

“The Stump” web site:
www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/

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