



NOVEMBER 2003

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS



flowering dogwood
Cornus florida

Flowering dogwood, Missouri's official state tree, is a small, deciduous tree with a mature height of 20 to 40 feet and 20 to 50 feet wide. Prized for the showy bracts of the flowers, which can be white, pink, or red, this tree also has year round beauty. The leaves provide interest in the spring and commonly turn red in the fall. The fruit is a red drupe that may persist into December. Proper placement of this tree is a must. Prefers partial shade and will do better on north and east sides of buildings or larger trees.

Native Range:

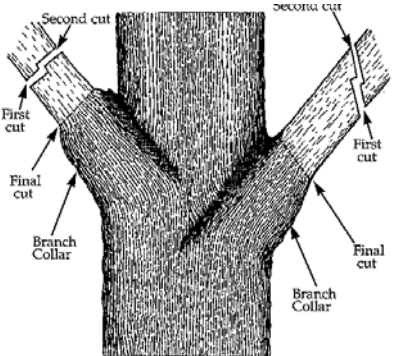


Plant illustration by Dale Larison, Missouri Department of Conservation

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

THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT



Pruning Primer

Pruning is one of the most common things we do to a tree. If done properly it improves tree health, appearance, and reduces conflicts with property and people.

I encourage all to learn and practice pruning techniques that benefit trees. There are multiple sources of excellent information. I will gladly provide all the information I have and how to contact other sources.

Topping it Off?

By John Kmitta, editor, Arbor Age magazine



I have recently received several phone calls regarding the practice of "topping" trees. Several people have asked for information about topping and/or whether there are any cases in which topping is an acceptable practice.

I recently posed these questions to Geoff Kempter, manager of technical services at [Asplundh Tree Expert Co.](http://www.asplundh.com), a certified arborist and [American National Standards Institute](http://www.nationalstandardsinstitute.com) (ANSI) committee member. According to Kempter, ANSI A300 pruning standards allow for heading cuts for prescribed purposes (a heading cut is a cut not to a suitable lateral). However, topping is indiscriminate heading.

Kempter quoted ANSI A300 pruning standards by stating, "Heading should be considered an acceptable practice for shrub or specialty pruning, when needed to reach a defined objective."

What is specialty pruning? According to ANSI, specialty pruning includes:

Espalier: The combination of pruning, supporting, and training branches to orient a plant in one plane.

Pollarding: The maintenance of a tree by making inter-nodal cuts to reduce the size of a young tree, followed by the annual removal of shoot growth at its point of origin.

Restoration: Selective pruning to improve the structure, form, and appearance of trees that have been severely headed, vandalized or damaged.

Vista pruning: Selective pruning to allow a specific view. (Note: although the ANSI A300 pruning standards recognize specialty pruning, consideration must be given to the ability of a species to tolerate specialty pruning.)

ANSI also states the following, "Topping - the reduction of a tree's size using heading cuts that shorten limbs or branches back to a predetermined crown limit - or Lion's Tailing - the removal of an excessive number of inner, lateral branches from parent branches - are not acceptable pruning practices."

According to Kempter, "generally speaking, we try to avoid using the word 'topping,' because topping means so many things to so many different people. It becomes misunderstood jargon. There is almost always a better word to use. As a certified arborist or practicing arborist, we try not to say 'topping.' We would rather say that we are going to reduce the crown or reduce the size of the tree using acceptable arboricultural practices, including heading cuts, as defined in A300."



For more information on this topic, see the [International Society of Arboriculture](http://www.isa-arbor.com) (ISA) "Best Management Practices Series: Tree Pruning" publication, available for a fee at <http://store.isa-arbor.com>. Or see the ANSI A300 standard itself, which is available for a fee from both ISA and the [Tree Care Industry Association](http://www.treecare.org) (formerly the National Arborist Association).

This article originally appeared in the August 2003 issue of Arbor Age magazine, and is reprinted by permission of Arbor Age (copyright 2003). For more information about Arbor Age magazine, visit www.greenmediaonline.com/aa.

Storm Preparedness and Response: Lessons from the Past, Techniques and Tools for the Future Workshop

Southwest Missouri has been heavily impacted by recent storm damage. In many cases, tree damage could have been less. Learn how to predict and reduce storm damage before it happens by attending this workshop on November 20 (8:30 - 4) in Kirkwood, MO (Fee: \$10, lunch included). If you have not received a flyer already, Contact Justine Gartner, 573-751-4115, Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov for information. Registration due Nov. 14.

Web Site Review

John C. Fech’s article Tree Topping Is Rookie Error in Grounds Maintenance, October 1, 1997 issue provides detailed information about the detrimental effects of topping. He covers the biological, aesthetic, and social results of this undesirable practice. See his article at http://grounds-mag.com/ar/grounds_maintenance_tree_topping_rookie/

A LEAF-TREADER

I have been treading on leaves all day until I am autumn-tired. God knows all the color and form of leaves I have trodden on and mired. Perhaps I have put forth too much strength and been too fierce from fear. I have safely trodden underfoot the leaves of another year.

All summer long they were overhead, more lifted up than I. To come to their final place in earth they had to pass me by. All summer long I thought I heard them threatening under their breath. And when they came it seemed with a will to carry me with them to death.

They spoke to the fugitive in my hearts as if it were leaf to leaf. They tapped at my eyelids and touched my lips with an invitation to grief. But it was no reason I had to go because they had to go. Now up, my knee on top of another year of snow.

-- Robert Frost

The Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence

Does your community have a successful tree project by an individual, group, business, or city? Get recognition for it! Apply for “The Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence.” Contact Jon, 417-629-3423, Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov for application.

Didya Know...

“The Stump” is also online. You get the same newsletter with color! All Internet address links are active, plus the previous issues are all there. Check it out at www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/. If you want to get new issues of “The Stump” online, send your email address to Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

November 5

Hazard Trees Workshop, Midwest City, OK, \$50 Registration Contact: National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655, conferences@arborday.org, www.arborday.org/programs/conferencelist.html

November 6

Trees, People, and the Law Seminars, Midwest City, OK, \$50 Registration Contact: National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655, conferences@arborday.org, www.arborday.org/programs/conferencelist.html

November 6

Proper Pruning: The Art and Science Workshop, Carthage, MO Contact: Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

November 6 - 8

Green Industry Expo, St. Louis, MO Contact: GIE, 888-303-3685, www.gieonline.com, info@gieonline.com

November 8

ISA Certification Exam, St. Joseph, MO Contact: ISA, 217-355-9411, www.isa-arbor.com, application deadline - October 23

November 10

Proper Pruning: The Art and Science Workshop, Stockton, MO Contact: Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

November 13

Autumn Small Towns Workshop, Grain Valley, MO, \$50 Registration, Contact: Missouri Park & Recreation Association, 573-636-3828, www.mopark.org/Education.htm, info@mopark.org

November 13 - 15

TCI EXPO 2003, Baltimore, MD Contact: TCIA, 603-314-5380, www.TreeCareIndustry.org, TCIA@treecareindustry.org

November 19

ISA Certification Exam, St. Charles, MO Contact: ISA, 217-355-9411, www.isa-arbor.org, application deadline - November 3

November 20

Storm Preparedness and Damage Workshop, Kirkwood, MO, \$10 Registration Due November 14 Contact: Justine Gartner, 573-751-4115, Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov

December 10

ISA Certification Exam, Springfield, MO Contact: ISA, 217-355-9411, www.isa-arbor.org, application deadline - November 20

December 11

Missouri Community Forestry Council Meeting, Jefferson City, MO Contact: Justine Gartner, 573-751-4115, Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov

December 18

Branching Out: Public Employee Tree Care Short Course - Part II, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO Contact: Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

Reminder:

Jon’s email address has changed to:

Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

REFLECTION

How pleasant to walk over beds of these fresh and rustling fallen leaves - clean, crisp, and wholesome.

- Henry David Thoreau

WHAT'S HAPPENING

“The Stump” web Site: www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/
To add or remove your subscription, update your address, change contact information, or convert from the paper to the email - web version of “The Stump”, contact:

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