ISA Arborist Certification Exam Training

ISA Certified Arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through at least three years of experience and have passed a comprehensive examination. They are also required to continue their education in order to maintain their certification, ensuring their knowledge is updated on the latest arboriculture techniques. ISA Arborist Certification is a non-governmental voluntary process that operates without mandate of law. It is an internal self-regulating device administered by the International Society of Arboriculture. Certification provides a measurable assessment of an individual’s knowledge and competence required to provide proper tree care.

The training will occur 6:30 - 9:00 PM every Tuesday evening starting January 14, 2014 through February 18, 2014. February 25 is reserved as a bad weather make up day. The following topics will be covered: Tree Selection; Safe Work Practices; Soil Management; Installation and Establishment; Tree Identification; Pruning; Tree Biology; Urban Forestry; Tree Protection and Preservation; Tree Risk Management; and Diagnosis and Treatment.

An ISA Certification Exam will be offered February 26, 2014 (TENTATIVE) to those that meet the qualifications indicated in the ISA Certified Arborist Handbook/Application and are registered (includes a fee) through the ISA web site. For more information about taking and registering for the ISA Certification Exam visit: http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx.

New ANSI Z133 Safety Requirements

The American National Standards Institute Z133-2012 is a standard that provides general tree care work and operations' safety requirements for the tree care industry. Although it is not technically a regulation but rather a guide, it has been adopted by many municipal, state, and federal organizations in the production of their specific regulations. Thus, it can provide tree companies and personnel with an excellent idea of the safety requirements of their chosen profession.

The committee that creates/updates the standard is made up of tree industry professionals, including members from professional organizations, tree care companies, training companies, utilities, rope/gear manufacturers, and arborist equipment retailers. In short, each member of the tree care industry has the ability to play a role in suggesting changes or revisions in the regulations that govern their work, and participating in the important, though often thankless, task of helping keep tree folk safe as they move about in and beneath the canopy.

The Z133 consists of several specific guidelines for various common work activities in the tree care industry including general information on subjects such as traffic control, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), electrical hazards, rigging, climbing and removals, along with a number of informational appendices that are intended to help users better follow the guidelines. Among the specific guidelines, readers will find references to other standards that may apply such as the ANSI Z89.1 for helmets/hardhats or the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) for traffic control situations. In any case, not only should every organization that works with trees have a copy of the Z133 available, it is imperative that both workers and management be familiar with its guidelines; and make these standards part of the daily work practices and culture.


Red maple
Acer rubrum

A small to medium tree, red maple, ranges from 40 to 60 feet in height and up to equal in width. It has a fast growth rate. A single-stemmed tree if pruned. Often develops poor multi-stemmed structure with oval-rounded shape. Prefers full sun but will do ok in light shade. It also prefers slightly acidic soil (pH 6.0 - 6.5) Leaves are reddish tinged when unfolding changing to dark green. Fall color is variable but named cultivars provide consistent red color. Avoid Acer X freemanii cultivars due to poor structure and strength. Sunscald and borer damage is common in young trees.

Plant illustration by Jenny M. Lyverse, from Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd Edition, Harrison L. Flint Author
Web Site Review - American Grove

American Grove is committed to sustaining our green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees. Inside American Grove members share their tree passion and expertise with photos, discussions, videos, and articles to further encourage thriving community forests. Make sure you join your state group once you create your profile to access events and information local to your area. It operates similar to Facebook. See it at: www.americangrove.org

Pest Highlight - Sunscald

Sunscald occurs in late winter and early spring on the south and west side of trees. Young, thin bark trees are most susceptible, particularly newly planted trees. The direct sun or reflected sunlight heats tree bark during the day. The tissues becomes active and break dormancy. With freezing night time temperatures, the active tissues are killed. The bark area involved shows an elongated canker that appears discolored and sunken. Cracking and peeling of the bark may follow. The damage may not show until the next spring or summer when new growth occurs and loose dead tissue starts to be pushed off by tree growth. Further problems from insect and disease may occur to the weakened tree. Any loose bark can be removed from the split.

Wrapping the trunk with tree wrap from the ground to the lowest branch may reduce this damage. Remove all tree wrap in the spring for the growing season.

December 4 - 7

American Society of Consulting Arborist Annual Conference, Uncasville, CT, Information and Registration at: www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/ac-2013_home.cfm

December 12

State MCFC meeting, 10:00 AM, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO

December 17

SWMCFCC meeting, 8:30 AM, MDC Southwest Regional Office, 2630 N. Mayfair Ave., Springfield, MO

December 19

Joplin MCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin

January 22

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Tulsa, OK, Registration deadline January 6, 2014, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

January 14 - February 18, Tuesdays only

ISA Arborist Certification Exam Training, 6:30 - 9 PM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, For information contact Jon Skinner 417-629-3423

January 15 - 17


January 29 - 31

2014 Midwestern Chapter Annual Conference and Trade Show, Dubuque, IA, Information at: www.mwisa.org/conference-and-trade-show

February 2 - 6

TCIA Winter Management Conference, Paradise Island, Bahamas Information at: http://tcia.org/events/wmc-2014

February 26


March 10 - 12


For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.

~Martin Luther