

MAINTENANCE

All ornamental trees benefit from proper pruning during their development. Informed pruning will help maintain the health and vigor of the street tree.

- **Do** remove dead or dangerous limbs.
 - **Do** remove branches obstructing street or sidewalk clearance.
 - **Do** select "preferred" limbs.
 - **Do** remove branches interfering with preferred limb development.
 - **Do** maintain a natural growth pattern.
 - **Do** use Natural Pruning
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- **Don't** shear or stub off branches
 - **Don't** remove all leaf bearing limbs
 - **Don't** rip the tree bark in the process of removing branches.
 - **Don't** allow street trees to be "topped".

NATURAL PRUNING

Natural pruning will enable the tree to "heal" pruning wounds in the quickest, most efficient manner. Thinned by natural pruning and removal of crossing branches (all cuts made back to a lateral branch, no stubs), a properly pruned tree retains natural form.

"TOPPING"

"Topping" is the drastic cutting back of large branches or the cutting off of the crown on mature trees. It is the intention of the Commission to eliminate this practice! Topping of Street Trees is Vandalism of public property! Topping leads to disease, decay, split bark, insect infestation, dense shade, bird problems, high maintenance costs, and decline of tree. This accelerates the death of many of our trees.

UTILITY LINE CLEARANCE

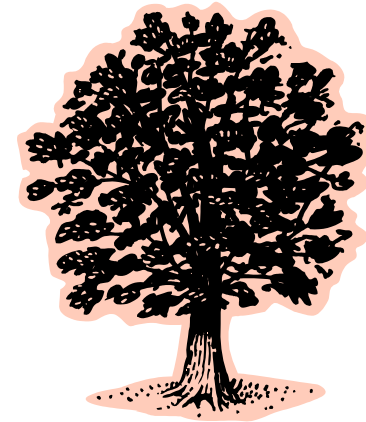
Utilities employ tree trimming contractors to maintain line clearance. Contractors are required to or should utilize Natural Pruning and Directional Pruning Techniques. However, **UNINFORMED** property owners will occasionally insist on having street trees topped or rounded over. If you are asked for permission to trim street trees in front of your property, permit only natural pruning of limbs approaching wires. Let your neighbors know that topping is not a permissible practice. Trimming for line clearance does not address all the pruning needs. Pruning of other limbs is usually necessary to for tree health and appearance.

PROTECT STREET TREES

The active living and growing tissue in a tree is called the "cambium". This thin layer of cells, responsible for both wood and bark development, is located just underneath the tree bark. Injuries to the exterior of a tree will often involve damage to the cambium. This opens the tree to any diseases that may enter through the wound and the tree's ability to repair the damage is reduced. Painting these wounds does not prevent decay and may inhibit the trees natural mechanisms for closing the wound. Homeowners should avoid any activity that damages the cambium layer.

- **Don't** use nails to post signs on trees.
- **Don't** injure the roots or bark when mowing grass around trees.
- **Don't** remove more than one-third of the leaf cover during pruning, otherwise the bark may split from direct sunlight exposure.
- **Don't** allow climbing spikes to be used

STREET TREES FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHAMBERSBURG



For more information on street tree policies and community beautification, contact:

Chambersburg Shade Tree Commission
Chambersburg Borough Office
100 S. 2nd Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 264-5151

Prepared by the Chambersburg Shade Tree Commission. Additional Support Provided by Northeast PA Community Tree Assn. and Penn State Extension

In 1682, William Penn decreed that one out of every 4 acres cleared for farming shall be left forested, and towns be designed with green commons for public use. Since that time, trees have been an important part of Pennsylvania communities. Over the years, many people have realized that the benefits and services provided by trees far exceed the price paid for tree planting and maintenance.

WHY TREES?

- Trees help combat air pollution. Leaf surfaces trap and filter dust, pollutants and pollen from the air.
- Trees reduce noise pollution. A single row of street trees reduce city noise.
- Trees cool their surroundings and provide a natural air conditioning effect.
- Trees soften the cityscape of masonry, metal and glass.
- Trees increase property values (5-20%).
- Trees provide food and homes for birds and other wildlife.
- Trees beautify and add value to the quality of our lives.

WHAT IS A TREE COMMISSION?

In 1993, in accordance with Borough Code, the Chambersburg Borough Council adopted a Shade Tree Ordinance to protect those trees planted on public property between the curb and sidewalk. This same ordinance created a Shade Tree Commission, consisting of appointed residents who serve as unpaid advisors with regard to borough street trees. This commission has exclusive custody of all street trees in the Borough, and has the responsibility of overseeing all planting, pruning, removal, and protection of these trees.

TREE COMMISSION DUTIES

- To study problems and determine needs of the community tree planting programs.
- To recommend the type and kind of trees to be planted along the streets and parks.
- To assist borough officials and citizens by providing information regarding selection, planting and maintenance of trees within the community, and desirable legislation concerning any borough tree program.
- To assist and educate persons engaged in tree care and maintenance business in the proper procedures required to maintain healthy and attractive street and shade trees.

OWNERSHIP OF STREET TREES

Most trees lining the streets are within the streets' right-of-way and are therefore the property of all borough residents. In the past, property owners fronting on street tree locations have been responsible for maintaining such trees. This practice continues. These homeowners are in effect the stewards of our community forest.

TREE SPACING

The urban environment places many growing space limitations on our street trees. Don't compound the situation by planting trees too closely together, forcing them to compete for space and nutrients. Follow recommended spacing guidelines.

*Space **large** sized trees 40-50 feet apart.

*Space **medium** sized trees 30 feet apart.

*Space **small** sized trees 25 feet apart.

*To avoid infrastructure conflicts and maintain visibility, plant trees:

-30-40 feet from intersections

-25 feet from light posts

-10 feet from fire hydrants

-5 feet from underground utilities

PLANTING STOCK

Any tree to be planted along streets should meet the "American Standard of Nursery Stock for Shade & Flowering Trees". Ask your supplier about these specifications. Minimum standards are:

- 2" minimum caliper (diameter). In some situations, smaller stock may be used.
- 12" root ball diameter for every 1" in caliper
- 10-12 ft height & limbed up to 5-6 feet
- Single stemmed trunks should be sound and free of damage
- The root ball must be sound (no cracks) and made of natural (non-synthetic) burlap.

SPECIES & SITE SUITABILITY

The type of tree selected for planting in a given location should receive careful attention. To prevent future problems, it is important to plant the right tree in the right place. Consider the mature size of the tree. Remember that the roots need room to grow too. Many trees traditionally planted along our streets, such as, Norway Maple, Silver Maple, and Sycamore will quickly outgrow the available space. It may be beneficial to select narrow & compact species.

***A complete list of species and cultivars recommended by the Chambersburg Municipal Shade Tree Commission for street tree plantings is available at the Borough Office.**

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE!