

# The Branch Leaflet

Spring 2009

Produced with growing care by Branch Tree Services

## Branch Tree Service

is dedicated to preserving and protecting our environment by taking care of trees, shrubs, turf and other plants. We serve commercial and residential clients throughout southeast Michigan. Branch offers fertilization, pruning, consulting and a host of other services.

## The Branch Leaflet

is published to help our clients understand their landscaping needs. To continue our campaign of "Going Green" this will be one of our last printed and mailed versions. As we move forward, future newsletters will be available via e-mail, posted on our web site at [www.branchtree.com](http://www.branchtree.com), or you may request a paper copy.



We Are TCIA Accredited, Licensed, Insured and Certified, Branch Tree Service is proud to say we have now been servicing your community for over 25 years.

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## Tree Related Accidents Are Nothing To Sneeze About

Homeowners rent chippers, chain saws, portable lifts or hire unqualified people to tackle their tree service projects all across our country on a regular basis. Some folks simply have that do-it-yourself attitude while others think they're saving money.

However, tree service work can be and is a very dangerous undertaking. While you may look at other ways of spending your free time or tightening up the budget, tree care is one project you still want handled by a professional arborist.

Last year 83 men were killed during logging operations and many of them were related to chain saw use or felling trees. A father standing high on a ladder was paralyzed after the limb he cut swung back and knocked him to the ground. Another man was killed helping his nephew cut down a tree. A large limb fell down striking the elder man in the head, breaking his neck. A man in Georgia was paralyzed from the neck down after falling 30 feet out of a tree he was working on and another in Virginia was killed when a limb swung back and crushed his chest. Unfortunately I could go on. Please don't let your story be in our next newsletter. Call a professional!



## It's All About Safety, Health and Beauty

People often focus on their lawns and forget to look up at their trees. Dead limbs falling on someone or something should not be taken lightly. All trees (ornamental, fruit, & shade type) require pruning at one time or another. Properly pruned, trees are much healthier and better able to fight off pest and cultural threats. Also, a tree left uncared for can make an otherwise great landscape or home look un-kept.

Safe and healthy trees improve property values even in a tough market. And, healthy, pruned trees help keep us all just a little bit more "Green".

Tree care also includes the painful and dreadful task of clean-up and disposal. If you've done brush dragging, cutting, stacking, chipping, raking and sweeping, then you certainly can appreciate having someone else take on this laboring task.

Now is a great time to schedule the tree care project you've been putting off. Our arborists will make your trees Safe, Healthy, and Beautiful while giving you both values in service and pricing that can't be beat. Call us today.

George R. Lee  
Owner / ISA Certified Arborist



## What Will Your Landscape Look Like After A Hard Winter?



Heavy snow falls, ice damage, high winds, deep freeze, I think we've had what many of us would describe as a good old fashion "Hard Winter". We haven't seen this type of winter since back in the 70's.

You're likely to see a considerable amount of burnt looking dried out or totally dead evergreens as we transition from winter to spring. Although rock salt is great for keeping our roads dry and safe most conifers and evergreens feel the burn placed on their stems and roots. As the ground begins to thaw excess residue from deicing materials begin to leach down into the soil creating chemical burn to plant root zones.

Large shade trees and selective ornamental trees, (including ornamental fruit trees) will not escape the impact of this hard winter either. Don't be surprised if during a nice June or July day your beautiful tree shows signs of die-back on one side or the other or you see leaves laying all over the ground that weren't there the day before. Salt damage to deciduous trees and shrubs is a good possibility.

There are other impacts from winter as well. A deep freeze will certainly hurt plants that are not native to our growing zone. Heavy ice and snow on branches will cause limb fractures that may be noticeable later in the summer. Large evergreens may be uprooted and/or lean after dealing with ice, wind, snow and early spring rains. Pest threats may be way up, about the same, or way down from other years. It's hard to outguess pests from one year to the next so I'll not offer any forecast since I'll probably be wrong. And, yes we can all expect lots of grass, outdoor lighting, and sprinkler repairs due to the grueling task of plowing, shoveling, blowing and pushing snow.

Be cautious with how you take care of your battered landscape this spring. Rushing to prune out fractured branches and doing it the wrong way will simply create another challenge. Fertilizing with the wrong material can certainly do more harm than good to many conifers and evergreens already suffering from rock salt damage.

Your trees and shrubs are an extremely important part of your landscape. Before you start reacting to possible winter damage we invite you to call and let our experts share with you the facts about your particular issues. At absolutely no obligation to our readers we will review your entire landscape and offer helpful suggestions of how you can retain a healthy and beautiful landscape again this year.



## Healthy Living Starts With Healthy Trees

Trees are the foundation of our very existence. The carbons they absorb and turn into clean oxygen is a phenomenal masterpiece of nature. Crude oil is important for our automobiles, steel is important for constructing buildings but without trees we have no future.

Besides giving us our very life line (oxygen), trees also reduce noise pollution, help purify water, provide erosion control, and give food and habitat to our wildlife. Caring for and protecting your trees is one of the greatest investments in life that you'll ever make. A healthy tree will keep giving back to you for many generations.

With the invasion of so many various types of pest threatening our trees we are seeing millions and millions of large mature tree cultivars lost all across the United States. In Michigan it's the Ash Tree Borer, in Georgia it's the Pine Bark Beetle and in the western states it's the Conifer Bark Beetle. All across America our forests and our landscapes are being challenged like never before with deadly pest invasions.

The campaign continues around the globe for us to be "Green" or otherwise stated, "Environmentally Smart". It's great to recycle our trash, to build vehicles that are less toxic and to plant new young trees. However, we need our mature trees to keep on living while young trees grow and we need our trees as healthy as possible so we all can live healthy lives.

Congratulations to  
Michigan's Going Green Award  
Winners for 2009



#### Green Industry Innovators

Adaptive Materials  
Aristeo Construction  
GANTEC-Advance, LLC  
Great Lakes Electronics  
Linc Mechanical, LLC  
MV Software  
Natural Kids  
Planterra Corporation  
Pleasantrees  
Plymouth Technology, Inc.  
Resource Recycling Systems, Inc.  
VPSI, Inc.

#### Green Organizations

Arts and Scraps  
Electric Auto Association Michigan Chapter  
Grand Rapids Art Museum  
The Kresge Foundation  
Lawrence Technological University  
Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center  
Michigan Green  
NextEnergy  
Walsh College  
West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

#### Green Initiative Champions

A3C  
Branch Tree Service, Inc.  
Clayco, Inc.  
Days Hotel Grand Rapids  
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.  
Harbor Industries  
ITC Holdings, Inc.  
Mason L. Brown & Associates, Inc.  
Meijer Logistics

Nichols Paper & Supply Company  
Pet Supplies Plus  
Sheraton Detroit Novi  
Staff Resources, Inc.  
Steven C. Flum, Inc.  
Sunblossom Solar Gifts, LLC  
Turner Construction Company  
Viability  
Webasto Roof Systems, Inc.

## Fertilizing: The Multi-Vitamin For Your Trees and Shrubs



If there is one treatment you should consider for the health and beauty of your landscape it is fertilizing. The urban environment we live in is neither natural nor ideal for plant growth and development. In a natural forest setting, trees are supplied with the 16 basic nutrients they need to survive through the forest floor's complex nutrient cycling process.

It is "natural" in our cities and suburbs to rake up and remove nutrient containing leaves. Additionally, it is rare to find trees in our service area that are not impacted by soil compaction or do not have a root zone restricted issue. These activities limit the amount of nutrients available for plants to support and promote their health.

When trees don't have an adequate supply of one nutrient their health and appearance suffers. Trees and shrubs will show a nutrient deficiency by any, or all, of the following stress signs:

- *Discolored leaves*
- *Stunted leaves and growth*
- *Branch dieback*
- *Increased disease and/or insect problems*

Due to the severity of nutrient deficiency problems we believe it is ideal to fertilize on a preventative basis, before the damage occurs. Our goal through our fertilization treatments is to supply needed nutrients to your valuable trees and shrubs to promote health, beauty and longevity.

