

## Professional Affiliations with:

- Michigan Forestry & Park Association
- International Society of Arboriculture
- Tree Care Industry Association
- Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
- American Society of Consulting Arborists
- Michigan Green Industry Association

## Tree Trivia:

Thomas Mortimer wrote in 1707 the following; Summary; Planting trees too deeply is probably the most common and potential deadly landscape error. For most woody plants the root collar must be exposed, (visible) and be kept as dry as possible. A buried root buttress may be subject to, (updated information) armillaria or phytophthora root rot or several other root collar maladies.



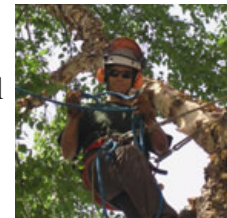
Watering the trunks of trees can be deadly. Thomas Mortimer wrote this caution over 246 years ago and it is still true today.



In the 1700s tree cavities were filled with stiff loam, horse dung and fine hay mixed together. Tar and goose dung was also commonly used and clay mixed with pig dung was applied as a finish wound sealer. WOW! I sure wouldn't want to be the one shaking hands and talking to these arborist after filling cavities in my trees would you?



The art and profession of tree pruning goes back at least to the time (1700s) of Thomas Mortimer when he writes in one of his books the following; As to pruning of trees, it is a work that requires a great deal of skill and care, and for which general rules cannot well be given, because of the great variety which is met when doing of it.



*Call Branch Tree Service, Inc for all your tree and shrub care needs. 586.756.7737 | branchtree.com*

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Spring 2008

The first recorded tree ordinance did not grow out of an American movement back in the 1960s but in fact was written by King Henry the VIII sometime between 1491-1547. The Statue read that 12 oak trees shall be left on each acre of ground where trees were felled for timber.

In Frankfort Germany a young farmer could not leave his home to marry until he produced a certificate proving he had planted a certain number of new walnut trees.

In Luxemburg no farmer could cut down a tree for any reason until he could prove that he had already planted a new one.

Letter from the Owners Desk,

I don't know about you but I can't wait to see the trees and shrubs blossom this spring. I've had enough of hearing about all the grim things going on. I'm sure having dynamic color in the landscape this spring would be a great pick-me-up for all of us.

Now tree blossoms and flowers flourishing may not be a big deal to you, but for me it's as good as any medicine for the soul, mind and body that I can think of. After seeing Brittany Spears making headlines and talk show news week after week, followed up by other similarly important news matters I need a shot of something "GREEN" to keep me healthy in a lot of ways.

With everyone throwing the word "Green" around, I hope we all remember if you're really going to be "Green" you have to take care of your trees. That's right, No Trees, No Green, No Green, No People? More and more information is available of the importance of trees both in the woods and in your own landscapes. Even trash hauling companies see the importance and advertise about caring for trees and the landscape.

We can all make a difference in the year 2008. Let's set aside earth shaking items such as the Brittany Spear head-line news stories for just a moment and really focus on making an impact for our earth this year. This year is a great time to give back some of the TLC your trees and shrubs give you.

If each one of us takes care of just one tree - together we have changed the world!

My staff and I truly appreciate you and look forward to servicing you this year,

George R. Lee  
CEO/Owner



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## An Increasing Threat to Pine Trees in the Landscape

Dr. David L. Roberts, PhD, with Michigan State University Extension Services, and our staff arborists agree that the disease Diplodia Tip Blight is the number one threat to specific conifer species in our landscapes. In a December 2007 article by Dr. Roberts (in a local trade publication) he writes that the Austrian, Scotch, Red, Mugho and Jack Pine are extremely susceptible to Diplodia. All of these species of pines are widely used in the Michigan landscape.

Diplodiva typically attacks pine shoots (candles) in the early spring after bud break and during shoot elongation. If weather conditions are conducive, millions and millions of tiny spores land on newly emerging shoot growths. Within days or weeks these infectious spores can girdle and eventually kill the new growth.

Once Diplodia sets in, pests such as bark beetles and borers become added threats to the health and life of these pine trees. Generally younger pine trees appear to be more tolerant of these pest threats as opposed to trees 10 years and older.

Managed Care of pine trees involves first and foremost having your tree planted/growing in the right soils and location in your landscape. The second most important matter is moisture. Rainfall and installed sprinkler systems both have a major impact on the amount of infection a tree might receive during a growing season. Pines in general do not like too much water.

The third and final consideration is professional care and treatments. Sanitized pruning of dead and infected branches, timely target treatments, and micro injections all assist in keeping your pine trees healthy and beautiful.

For further help with your pine trees call the experts at Branch tree Service, Inc and ask for one of our certified arborists to assist you.



## Keeping Our Future Alive

It's amazing what 30 plus years of being an arborist will teach you. Just when you think you've heard and learned it all you realize you need another 100 years of training to be the best you can be. All I can hope for is that there will be an increased interest in trees. That people of all ages and walks of life will strive to care for trees knowing how important our trees are to our future.

With the word Green buzzing all around America I thought it appropriate to share with you some of my 30 plus years of experience in caring for trees and shrubs. I could write for pages and pages but few would have the time to read it. Instead I'd like to provide you a few pointers that will get you on the right track, keep you on the right path, and assure that caring for trees is vital to everyone.

**Fact #1:** Planting trees and shrubs correctly the first time is the healthiest way and most cost effective method of enjoying a healthy, beautiful landscape. The reality is over 70% of all landscapes installed in the past 20 years have been incorrectly placed and/or planted. Thus we now have a generation of overwhelming tree and shrub problems to deal with.

**Fact #2:** Proper tree and shrub pruning is still the greatest service that will keep your trees safe, healthy, beautiful. Correct pruning of dead limbs and branch thinning is the number one treatment. Disney is world famous for having beautiful, healthy landscapes and one of the major reasons is they prune their trees and shrubs on a regular basis. Disney claims tree pruning improves our energy resources, affords a better environment for their guests, and reduces pest problems by as much as 60%. We at Branch Tree Service, Inc completely agree that pruning is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!**

**Fact #3:** Chemical treatments when applied correctly are a help to trees and shrubs but they are certainly not the "cure all". Most pest threats are caused by improper planting, lack of proper pruning and poor soil conditions. The more fundamental care for your landscape the less chemical care is needed.

**Fact#4:** Your trees and shrubs need a healthy, well drained and nutrient enriched soil to live in. We must cultivate the soil (a lost art that only few still understand the value of), add natural soil enhancing materials, and good formulated fertilizers.

-George R Lee, Certified Arborist

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THE BRANCH LEAFLET