

Advantages of Winter Pruning



Dormancy

Trees live and grow in seasonal cycles. In the spring, a tree draws on energy stored in woody tissues to produce the first leaves of the growing season. Throughout the summer, leaves produce the food the branch requires, and stores any excesses in the tissues nearby to be used for internal maintenance, defense, and to produce more leaves. When fall arrives, the surplus energy stored in the parent branches moves into the large woody tissues to pay back what was borrowed in the spring. By pruning in the winter, when trees are dormant and energy is stored, arborists can minimize the interruption to this cycle and maximize a tree's internal resources, making it less vulnerable to stresses such as drought, disease, and pests.



Visible Structure

Urban trees are expected to perform. Unlike in the forest, our urban trees must meet the high standards of safety we require and aesthetic beauty we enjoy. Proper pruning achieves and maintains those high standards. Pruning during the winter allows the arborist to spot tree defects more easily, as well as view the tree's entire structure without the obstruction of leaves. Managing tree defects and maintaining proper structure are imperative to tree health.



No Insects or Disease Transmission

Any pruning of live tree tissue creates a wound. These wounds begin to close within hours of a pruning cut being made. In summer, that can be more than enough time for insects to visit the open wound and transmit diseases. During the winter, insects and diseases are inactive, eliminating any concerns of pests and disease transmission.

Reduced Impact to Landscapes

Tree pruning can be an intensive operation in a landscape. Foot traffic, branch removal, and equipment can all affect sensitive plantings. Pruning during the winter helps reduce the impact to your property by allowing the frozen ground and snow cover to protect your turf and perennials.

