



INTEGRITY TREE SERVICES

2300 Sanford Ave. SW • Grandville, MI 49418

Fall 2014
SEASONAL REPORT

"YOUR CARES *are* OUR CARES!"™



More details inside.

Dave Ramsey's Entrepreneurship Seminar

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Oak Wilt

Fall is the best time of year to trim oak trees. Oak trees are time-sensitive when it comes to pruning. Pruning at the wrong time of year can be devastating for oak stands. Oak Wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) is a fungus that can cause rapid death in oak trees.

The fungus enters the vascular system in the oak trees. The oaks produce a resin to prevent the fungus from spreading and this in-turn clogs the vascular system. Therefore, the tree is unable to absorb water and nutrients. Red and black oak trees may die only several weeks after being infected with Oak Wilt while the white oak groups are more resistant to the fungus.

Oak Wilt is spread to healthy trees by interwoven roots (root grafts) underground and also by Picnic Beetles (*Nitidulidae*) which are attracted to sap flow coming from open wounds in the trees. This contact can easily transmit spores of oak wilt. Sap flow occurs most readily in the spring and summer months. Pruning oak trees in the spring and summer months invite Picnic Beetles by the scent of sap to the open wounds on the tree. Consequently, oak trees should be pruned when the sap flow has ceased and the tree is dormant, such as fall or winter.

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http://imgsrv.gardening.ktsa.com/image/ktsag/UserFiles/Image/O_Images/oak%20wilt%202.jpg



http://www.oakwilt-help.com/oak_s11.jpeg

-Mission of Integrity-

To be the leading tree service providing expert guidance and superior quality workmanship that demonstrates the highest integrity in exceeding customer expectations.

(616) 301-1300
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Oak Wilt (cont'd)

If you suspect oak wilt in your oak trees, give us a call and we will assist you in determining if the problem is Oak Wilt as well as if there is a possibility for the tree to be saved. A fungicide injection, if done promptly following infection by one of our certified arborists, may extend the life of your oak tree. To be positive, lab tests on tree tissue can be done to confirm a case of Oak Wilt. Brown streaks can be visible in the twigs, branches and under the bark which can further provide evidence toward a case of Oak Wilt. In summary, it is easier to prevent Oak Wilt than eliminate it. Resist the urge to trim or remove oak trees in the spring and summer!

Fall Fertilizers

Fall fertilizers generally begin the first of November at Integrity Tree Services. This influx of nutrients right before the trees and shrubs go completely dormant for the winter will give the plants proper stored energy reserves resulting in better winter vigor and early spring green-up.

In urban settings, trees and shrubs may experience numerous problems they may not have if they were in their natural ecosystem. The urban soil may not have the proper pH for the specific tree or shrub planted or there may not be beneficial microbes or mycorrhizae present. Urban trees may also experience compacted soil, limited water and a lack of organic matter such as leaves or decaying plant life.

A thin layer of mulch around trees and shrubs can hold moisture during dry times of the year and offer organic matter which can be broken down by microbes in the soil. Keeping your plants watered can prevent desiccation and can help the plant absorb nutrients. An injection of our deep root fall fertilizers can help aerate the soil and give the trees and shrubs the nutrients which may be lacking in urban soil. Our organic fertilizers are designed to assist mycorrhizae and to promote new root growth. A healthier tree will mean it will be less susceptible to insect infestations and diseases.

A fertilizer can improve the health of your tree. However, it is possible for a tree or shrub to simply be too stressed to react positively to an influx of fertilizer. In order to evaluate the health of the trees and shrubs in your landscape, call one of our certified arborists today to give you a health assessment of your plants in distress. Soil tests can also be done in order to diagnose your landscape plants with the precise nutrient they may be lacking.

Call 616-301-1300 ext. 118 and schedule an appointment today with one of our certified arborists!

Sources:

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 Brown-Rytlewski, A Pocket IPM Scouting Guide for Woody Landscape Plants. P. 72-73 (2007)
 University of Minnesota Extension, Tree Fertilization: A guide for fertilizing new and established trees in the landscape. 2014. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/tree-fertilization-guide/>
 ANSI A300 (Part 2). American National Standard for Tree Care Operations. Tree, Shrub and other woody plant maintenance – standard practices (fertilizations). 1998. <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/factsheets/13fertilizingtrees.html>
 Wilson, Carl. Fall is the time to fertilize lawns. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. 2010. <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Lawns/fullfert.htm>

FALL Calendar Chart

Integrity Tree Services provides many additional services not listed in the chart below. If your need is not listed, please contact us.

COMMON SERVICES	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Frozen ground reduces turf damage when removing large trees					
Mycorrhizal injection to increase root absorption					
Water trees (if there's less than 1" of rain every 7-10 days)					
Corrective and rejuvenation pruning of shrubs					
Inspect evergreens for insect and disease damage					
Spray anti desiccant on evergreens to reduce winter damage					
Deer/rodent spray (30-day intervals)					
Inspect trees for cracked and broken branches					
Best time to prune oak and elm trees					
Tie-up/support trees in danger of snow damage					

*All dates are approximate and may vary slightly from year-to-year depending on scientific indicators, weather conditions, and treatments. ©2014 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.

Continuing Education

This fall, Integrity Tree Services offered leadership training to a large group of our team members. Dave Ramsey came to Grand Rapids as a part of his Entreladership series. ITS listened to multiple speakers lecturing on leadership characteristics, goals for companies and individual team members, different team member personality traits, and how to deal with those in a work environment as well as constructive ways to solve work-related problems. The speakers were influential and motivating. The Entreladership seminar was a comprehensive encourager to be a leader and to assist in making a small local company stronger. Following the seminar, we were treated to a delicious meal at The Bluff Banquet Center where we discussed all that we learned that day. Many thanks to the owners, Matt Langelier and Shane Herrema, for this educational (and enjoyable) opportunity!

