

Trees are valuable to our health and economy (continued)

I explained the value of trees as thermoregulators and sources of oxygen in the first part of this discussion about trees, and now intend to explain their aesthetic value, benefits to wildlife, and importance as sources of income in this issue of the newsletter. After reading this article you should understand reasons why homes are more valuable with trees than without. Most of Rolling Meadows' trees are deciduous trees though we also have evergreen conifers both which are aesthetically pleasing and attractive to wildlife. I'd also name a few industrial uses for trees and how to benefit from them.

Aesthetic value

Trees are pleasant to look at and improve the value of a property financially by providing curb appeal, year-round interest, and even income. Most of Rolling Meadows' trees are deciduous trees though we also have evergreen conifers. Many deciduous trees enrich homes with fall colors which also enhance the home as a financial investment. Some also have showy flowers and fruits during spring or summer, and witch hazels bloom during winter!

Evergreen trees also are valuable aesthetically. Conifers remain green year-round serving as winter interest when all other trees in Rolling Meadows' are empty and snow glitters on their branches. Though they won't over-winter in Rolling Meadows, palm trees remain green in Mediterranean climates such as California when most other plants are dormant from the combination of high temperatures and drought throughout summer. Conifers are usually more symmetrical too.

They are also opportunities for gardeners to plant around their trunks, an activity that would enhance a home's appeal to neighbors walking past it and potential buyers.

Trees support and attract Wildlife

Residents who enjoy watching wildlife should appreciate the value of trees to these animals who find food and shelter within trees. Many wild mammals, insects, and birds inhabit trees, eat their leaves and fruit, and entertain humans with their behavior, and some of these animals can plant trees in return. Animals can even enjoy dead trees as homes.

Trees support many insect species who feed upon trees, enrich our lives and themselves serve as food for larger animals. Some insects can damage trees by feeding under the bark, but that does not mean every insect feeding upon a tree is as destructive, and even those that kill trees maintain diversity in forests. Trees feed pollinators such as bees with nectar and pollen from their flowers. They can serve as larval hosts for some moths and butterflies who lay their eggs on leaves. Cicadas feed underground from tree roots and only emerge to reproduce which is when they make noise and become prey.

Squirrels benefit from trees by nesting in branches and by eating their fruit. They are mainly vegetarian though they can supplement their diets with insects. They can unintentionally plant trees themselves when they don't eat every acorn, samara, or walnut they cache and thus provide shelter for many species in the future.

They are especially important for the success of birds who inhabit them and eat either fruit growing, sap, or insects feeding from trees. Many of our native trees' berries feed wild birds preparing to migrate, during their migration and also birds who remain with us during winter, and some species are edible for humans and dogs. Birds also prey upon the insects a tree supports. Many use caterpillars and other insects as food for their young. Woodpeckers both nest in tree cavities and prey upon insects feeding from within tree trunks neither harming nor helping the trees they hollow.

Continue reading more about trees and how to landscape with them. Trees photosynthesize and support many species of wildlife. Fruit trees feed us, and trees in general enhance our neighborhood by with their aesthetic values and by providing shade. The articles here include information about trees with instructions on mulching and removal.

Avoid Volcano Mulching

Volcano mulching, the of piling mulch around trees and shrubs so that it superficially resembles the slope of a dormant volcano is a common although inappropriate habit in landscaping. Anyone is welcome to compare examples of volcano mulching with an image of Mt. Fuji. It is true mulch benefits trees in moderation, though that is not necessarily true about improper and excessive mulching. Landscapers and homeowners uneducated about its harm to trees can falsely impress upon the population that volcano mulching is a clean and appropriate way to mulch trees. The resulting mulch volcanoes which are appropriate around statues look neat but they should not surround trees.

Mulch volcanoes slowly kill trees by smothering their roots, trapping moisture against tree trunks and encouraging insects, fungi, and diseases to rot them. Volcano mulching also encourages roots to grow from the trunk which can threaten to girdle it if not removed.

Appreciate the Value of our Snags

Dead trees can benefit homes years after death. We intend to explain the costs and benefits of keeping dead trees which are known as snags so residents can accept them and rest assured that most do not need removal. Snags not eyesores but important homes for wildlife and aesthetically enhance the value of neighborhoods. I intend to elaborate on their aesthetic and functional values to our landscape including how they protect homes from gusts of wind. I also clarify reasons for homeowners to remove snags so they can budget unless these snags endanger people.

Let us remind you how snags enhance neighborhoods though they no longer photosynthesize. Homeowners who recognize and appreciate snags in their landscape can enhance their yards around them. A snag is also an opportunity to plant flowers around its trunk and attract attention to your home as a natural trellis. I support using snags as vertical assets in the design of a landscape and nailing boxes to provide shelter for birds and bats. It also softens gusts of wind toward a person's home.

Most snags homeowners pay to replace do not need to be removed.



Removal is only necessary for trees and branches We would strongly advise each homeowner and landlord to evaluate snags on their property if any compromise safety or property, and remove snags that become dangerous.

Symmetrical consistent Conifers

Conifers retain their color and continue to interest us when all other trees lose their leaves. You will learn how to recognize conifers by naming examples of trees that are conifers if you haven't already known, how they work, and their beauty. I will also compare them with our deciduous trees.

Conifers are beautiful, easy to recognize and beneficial to our landscape. They are symmetrical evergreen cone bearing trees and shrubs enrich cities with consistency throughout winter. Pine, spruce, cedar, fir, yew, and juniper are all conifers commonly grown in people's yards. The shape and fine texture of conifers is preferable when planning formal hedges. Conifers are also festive during winter when humans appreciate their symmetry by decorating them as Christmas trees

Symmetrically distributed branches and evergreen needles explain how conifers effectively buffer wind, muffle noise, and serve as screens for privacy compared with deciduous trees and shrubs. These advantages also extend to their snags. Pine snags are effective wind breaks.