

## Spend Some Time On That Tree This Spring

Spring is the season of new life with new growth sprouting everywhere. It is also one of the best times to perform any kind of tree health check. Trees are just beginning to leaf out; damage suffered during the winter and high storm seasons is still visible to the naked eye. Trees are pulsing with new activity as new cells are developing just under the bark and new leaves are ready to sprout.

During this time trees are also susceptible to diseases and various insect attacks. Woody plants need a lot of attention and nutrition during this period. The following are some things homeowners can do in order to make sure that their trees are healthy.

**Visual Inspection:** While working on your garden, spend some time carefully looking at your trees. Look for dead wood, cracks, weak unions, cavities and decay. The presence of any of these signs indicates that there is a high possibility that the tree is at risk of failure.

**Disease Control:** Many leaf-injuring fungal organisms do their most extensive damage this time of year. Generally the damage goes unnoticed until summer when it is too late to stop. Arborists have disease control measures they can take now to prevent damage later.

**Insect Check:** Check the tree for any unusual insects. Tree-damaging insects are generally found on or in the leaves, twigs and bark. Look for chewed or damaged leaves, leaves with tunnels or mines in them, or holes in the bark. These might indicate insect activity. Infestations of certain insects require immediate attention.

**Fertilization:** Symptoms of a nutrient-deficient tree include a slow or low rate of annual growth on twigs and trunk, smaller-than-normal foliage, off-color foliage, increased amounts of dead branches, tip-die back in branches, and increased rates of disease and insect problems. A fertilizer application could improve overall tree health. However, only a professional should apply fertilizers to trees to be certain that the correct type and rate of fertilizer is applied.

Sometimes it is difficult for an untrained eye to determine if the tree is at risk. Professional help is advised whenever you are not sure about your tree's health. A competent, professional arborist can offer diagnosis and preventive maintenance to keep your trees in top condition and help you make the right decisions for the good health of your trees. If you would like to learn more about your trees' value or are unsure of their state of health, contact the licensed tree experts at Pardoe's Lawn and Tree Service at 800-427-4890.

