

The Family Tree

SPRING 2015

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT WITH PLANT HEALTH-CARE SERVICES

People and businesses invest a lot in their landscapes. Trees and shrubs often make up much of that overall investment, and replacing them—when they fall prey to pests or disease and don't get the care they need—can add substantial expense.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT?

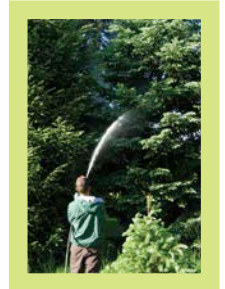
Consider Heritage's personalized Plant Health

Care (PHC) service to keep your trees healthy—and save you money in the long run. Our accredited PHC specialists focus on proactively inspecting, evaluating, treating, and monitoring your trees and shrubs so your valuable landscape assets have staying power.

OUR PHC SERVICE INCLUDES:

- Inspection to identify existing and potential problems including pests, improper planting, root issues, over-mulching, pruning needs, nutrient abnormalities, etc., and determine recommendations.
- Treatment, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that provides both preventive and corrective treatments in a way that considers both the threat of plant damage and the protection of our environment.
- Monitoring of your landscape to stay on top of seasonal and pest population changes that could affect treatment requirements.

Get the most from your investment. Call us at 717.292.9994 for a FREE, no obligation, full PHC inspection.





GETTING TO THE “ROOT” CAUSE OF TREE ISSUES

Too often, trees have been planted too deep, covering not only their roots, but also part of their trunks. While roots are made to thrive when covered with soil, the tissue of the trunk isn't. The constant moisture in the soil inhibits the movement of oxygen and carbon dioxide within the tree—and it basically suffocates.

ARE YOUR TREES PLANTED TOO DEEP?

Look at the “root flare” of your trees—where the trunks transition into the roots, getting wider at the base. A root flare should be above the ground not covered with soil. Adding mulch to a root flare can compound problems. Sometimes “girdling” (when roots circle around the trunk and strangle it) also occurs when trees are planted too deep or when they've grown in containers for too long.

FIXING THE PROBLEM

Planting trees properly in the first place is the best defense. Don't cover the root flare with soil, and keep mulch away from the trunk.

But when a tree is in trouble, we can rescue it with a “root excavation.” With an air spade, a tool using compressed air, we gently blow away mulch and excess soil from around the trunk. If we find girdled roots, we cut away those that have wrapped around the trunk. Then we even out the remaining soil by hand-raking it, and we apply a thin layer of mulch on the roots to preserve moisture.

Remember, plant correctly from the start. But if you have trees in trouble, we're here to help!



**World-class care.
Right in your backyard.**

Follow us to get valuable information and timely expert advice.



Did you know?

Heritage is a member of two professional tree-care industry organizations!



- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)



- Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA)

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Dear Heritage Customers,

With another brutal winter finished, it's time to give your landscape some attention—including your trees and shrubs!

At Heritage, we have eleven tree care professionals—with a remarkable average of twenty years of experience each.

Their credentials include:

- 4 college degrees (3 in forestry, 1 in biology)
- 9 ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborists
- 3 Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturists
- 1 Certified Landscape Technician
- All technicians licensed as Pennsylvania Certified Pesticide Applicators

Certifications require ongoing education from the state and the ISA.

We offer training at Heritage, too, opening our doors to others in the industry. In addition, we provide lawn- and tree-care training to school district personnel via the Lincoln Intermediate Unit (LIU).

Annually, we also participate in city of York Arbor Day events. We believe in educating the public about tree care and celebrating trees as the magnificent resource they are.

All my best,

Tom Bechtel

Tom Bechtel, CEO

To learn more, visit our website at HeritageLawnAndLandscape.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER PRUNING

PRUNING NOT ONLY MAKES TREES LOOK NICER, IT'S ALSO OFTEN NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN TREE HEALTH AND TO ENSURE A SAFE LANDSCAPE.



WHY PRUNE?

- Reduce the potential for tree or branch failure
- Reduce shade and wind resistance
- Influence flower or fruit production
- Improve appearance
- Provide building clearance
- Improve plant health
- Improve a view (aesthetics)

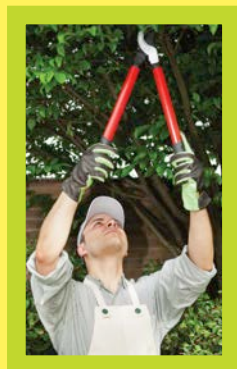
Regardless of the reason, pruning needs to be done correctly.

IMPROPER PRUNING CAN DAMAGE A TREE FOR LIFE. Before making pruning cuts, consider long-term tree development. Each branch removed has the potential to change a tree's growth because that's where it stores its vital resources. Removing leaves reduces a tree's photosynthetic capacity and may reduce overall growth, creating a dwarfing effect. Also, post-pruning growth happens on fewer shoots, so unpruned parts tend to grow more than before pruning.

HOW DO YOU PRUNE PROPERLY? Pruning cuts should be made carefully, at the correct location, leaving a smooth surface with no jagged edges or torn bark. In most cases, the preferred place to make a thinning pruning cut is close to the parent branch or trunk, just to the outside of the branch collar. That location simulates where branches shed naturally.

No more than 25 percent of a tree's canopy should be removed at any time. In fact, older trees respond better when only their dead or structurally unsound branches are removed. Younger trees can usually tolerate heavier pruning than mature trees.

The most common pruning methods include crown cleaning, thinning, reduction, restoration, and raising. The method used on a particular tree depends on your pruning objective.



If your trees need pruning and you're not sure how to do it yourself, don't take chances. We're here to help! We have nine certified arborists on staff, so you can rest assured that your trees will stay healthy and look their best.

DISEASES & INSECTS



HOW TO NIP TREE LEAF DISEASES IN THE BUD

Most tree leaf issues are fungal infections that are more of a nuisance than life threatening. If they remain untreated, however, over time trees become more vulnerable to more serious problems.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF LEAF DISEASE?

If you notice spots on your tree's leaves or see more leaves falling than usual, your tree might have a leaf disease. The most common leaf diseases include "leaf spot," "anthracnose," and "leaf blister."

While leaf infections often start in early spring, they sometimes don't show up until later in the spring or early summer. Fungal spores thrive in damp conditions, so wet springs typically bring more leaf diseases than drier springs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

After leaf disease has started, there are options that can stop it from getting worse. However, there's no way to cure it in that particular year.

The best way to combat leaf disease is preventive care. Even affected trees can be treated the following year to avoid it from happening again.

Heritage plant health-care specialists can apply a fungicide early in spring as new leaves develop. With two to three applications, delivered 10–15 days apart, the treatment protects leaves, making them less vulnerable to fungal spores.

Want to nip tree leaf disease in the bud? We've got you covered! Call us for an appointment.

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE EAB CONFIRMED IN MOUNT WOLF AREA

Last August, the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was sighted in Dillsburg.

Earlier this month, our team of experts confirmed another York County case of EAB in the Mount Wolf area.

EAB poses a serious threat to our ash tree population. Its larvae feast on the inner bark and phloem of the trunks, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients the trees need to survive. Once a tree is infested, it is difficult to stop the damage and the tree will often die.

Preventive treatments are the only way to protect your ash trees. Find out more by talking with a Heritage tree-care specialist.



TREE OF THE QUARTER EASTERN REDBUD

Native to eastern North America, the Eastern Redbud is one of the first trees to burst into bloom in springtime.

Its heart-shaped leaves and clusters of pink flowers make it a wonderful choice for enhancing landscapes. Traditional Redbuds have green leaves, while the "Forest Pansy" variety has purple leaves. At 20–30 ft. tall with a 25–30 ft. canopy, the Redbud works well as an ornamental tree near the corner of a home.



Sign Up and Save Some Green!

Sign up for our Plant Health Care (PHC) or Total Lawn Care Program and get **50% off** your first visit.

Add Fall Tree/Shrub Fertilization and get **25% off** (up to \$50) of that service, too.

Offer available to first-time tree care customers only.

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