Seasonal Report

$5.00

WACHTEL TREE SCIENCE INC.

"Keeping Trees Healthy and Beautiful Since 1935"

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Just a "Standard Pruning"

By Luke Volbrecht, ISA Certified Arborist WI-1112A

Although it may sound easy (and Wachtel Tree Science crews may make it look easy), pruning a tree to the ANSI A300 Standards can be more complex than you may think. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is an organization that writes standards by which professionals of various industries need to abide. The A300 Standards, specifically, are the leading set of recommendations for the care of trees, shrubs, and other woody landscape plants. Within this incredible resource are 147 pages, covering practically every aspect of tree care. **Tree pruning, supplemental support systems (cabling/bracing), tree planting,** and **tree risk assessment** are only a few.

Before a crew ever arrives to prune out a storm-damaged branch, to clear branches away from your house, or to improve the branch structure and aesthetics of your trees, a work plan must be developed. Objectives are defined, including consideration for a tree's maturity and condition, and the specifications for work must be prescribed and agreed upon. Some general pruning guidelines, as specified in the A300, are listed below:

- **Smaller diameter cuts should be preferred over fewer, larger cuts to achieve objective.**
- **Interior and lower branches should be retained when compatible with objective.**
- **The majority of reduction cuts of live branches should be made in the outer crown.**
- **Following a reduction cut, the remaining branch should be at least 1/3 the diameter of the stem or branch being removed.**

The descriptions within a pruning proposal may seem lengthy but they are designed to improve clarity for the work to be performed on your property. Only once a detailed plan is established and agreed upon can we get to the action—the pruning of the trees themselves! With a blend of modern equipment and tree climbing techniques, our team of Certified Arborists will perform to current industry standards in pruning. Our commitment to following the latest science and staying up-to-date on industry trends keeps us prepared to care for trees at the highest level possible.

Contact our office or your Wachtel Tree Science arborist to ensure your trees are pruned and prepared for their ever-growing future!



Allison improving a tree's structure.

WI-002

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS ON STAFF

Ron Gumz MN-0324B*
Ben Reince WI-0610A
Anthony Arnoldi WI-0102B*
Mike Klein WI-0306A
Brent Kahn WI-0302A
Jean Ferdinandsen WI-0149A
Dan Barwinski WI-0716B*†§
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Chris Frankulin WI-0984A†
RJ Busch WI-0985A
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Alec Schuppel WI-1281A
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Maria Reiss WI-1479A§
Matthew Siesco WI-0959A
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Audrey Earle WI-1567A
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*Board Certified Master Arborist | †Certified TreeCare Safety Professional | ‡Municipal Specialist | +Registered Consulting Arborist | §Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

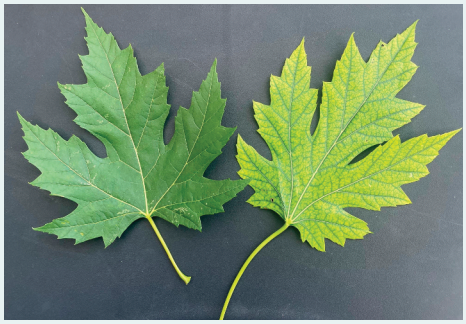
"Take Two of These and Call Me in the Spring"

By Anthony C. Arnoldi, ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist WI-0102B

Trees have had their share of problems this year.:

- **Diminishing root systems** due to recent alternating drought and wet conditions. **Root rots** have taken advantage of this weather pattern favoring their development and advance.
- **Wood boring insect** populations have risen to high levels due to last year's deep drought and are attacking various tree species.
- **Chlorosis** (yellowing due to decreased chlorophyll levels in the leaves) has begun or intensified on susceptible trees. The very wet spring and early summer washed available iron, other micronutrients, and even Nitrogen down and through the soil profile, away from roots, initiating deficiencies in trees. Such trees make less food and dieback starts from starvation.
- **Needle and shoot diseases of evergreens** and **fungal leaf spot diseases of deciduous trees** are visible everywhere, wet spring weather having promoted infection.
- **Storm damage** in many areas.
- **Dieback and decline** have started on many trees because of these problems.

Combinations of these various issues have left our trees stressed, vulnerable to further insect and disease attack, and in less-than-ready condition to endure another long winter.



Silver maple leaves – healthy (left); chlorotic (right)

One of the most powerful tools arborists have at their disposal to help trees recover from stress and damage is fertilization. It is often necessary to help trees by controlling insect or disease attacks, but when it comes to actually improving the health and vigor of trees, fertilization is the cornerstone.

Several options of fall fertilizer formulation enhance our ability to help your trees recover and avoid potential problems:

- **Polymer-based nitrogen in a specially balanced complete fertilizer** allows us control in dosing correctly and completely for an entire year without "pushing" the tree or stimulating excessive growth. This provides the necessary elements for growth, defense, replacement leaves or roots, and compensating for physical and environmental stresses.
- **Root biostimulants and humates.** This enables the roots to be primarily targeted to compensate drought, construction damage, and root rot damage. It is invaluable in assisting trees without stimulating key root rot, vascular, fungal shoot blight or other diseases. It can also help to avoid attack by specific insects by avoiding nitrogen. It is indispensable in encouraging newly planted trees to become established, especially in our difficult, heavy, clay-based soils.
- **Soil-injected systemic fungicide** will help reduce root rot activity so replacement roots can be generated.
- **Soil-injected iron, or manganese** (depending on tree species) can help mitigate or prevent chlorosis caused by a soil deficiency.

Your ISA Certified Arborist is best qualified to choose the right options and combinations to design the program tailored for your specific situation, and to direct changes in the program as needed to maintain optimum tree health.

Fall is the perfect time to fertilize because roots naturally peak in growth as leaves shut down for the year. Fall fertilization can enhance this peak and promote greater pickup of soil-injected materials, helping to prepare your tree for a long winter and to "wake up" in the spring!

Congratulations to Our Newly Certified Arborists!

By Amy Vida McCambridge

Wachtel Tree Science characterizes greatness as, "to be as good as we can be and better than we have been." Continuing education and training are foundational to this and we congratulate those employees who have earned their ISA Certification so far this year.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is an organization that promotes arboriculture as a profession by way of education, research, and technology. Wachtel Tree Science is proudly affiliated with the ISA as well as its local chapter, the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA). As a locally owned company, Wachtel Tree Science employs more ISA Certified Arborists than any other tree care company in Wisconsin!

What's it about? ISA has this to say about the certification: "The ISA Certified Arborist designation sets you apart as someone with the commitment, dedication, and knowledge to succeed." The program for achieving certification is accredited, and certification not only demonstrates training and knowledge in all aspects of arboriculture—it also includes adherence to a Code of Ethics. We're proud and pleased of all our ISA Certified Arborists—pictured are some who have achieved certification so far in 2024!



l-r: Allison Lemke, Jake Caldwell, Andrew Linsmeyer, Matt Anderson, Micah Stege; not shown: Avery Pollard and Carson Lauer.

Caring for Your New and Established Trees

By Keith Glaznap, ISA Certified Arborist WI-0678A

Planting a new tree is exciting, and taking care of your newly planted trees can be easy once you're familiar with the basics. This aftercare can be broken into two time frames: initial care in the first year, and then the longer-term care that comes in the years that follow.

Below are some guidelines for promoting the health of your newly planted tree as it becomes established and begins to mature.

Where do I water my newly planted tree?

- In the first year, water **the entire root ball and just beyond.**
- In future years, water **under and well beyond the drip line** (the outermost circumference of a tree's canopy).

How much should I water?

- Distribute one inch, or 2-3 gallons, of water per tree during each watering.
- If using a sprinkler, place a rain gauge in the areas being watered to help you determine how long it takes your sprinkler to generate one inch of water in a given area.

How often should I water?

- In the **first two weeks** after planting a tree, water **3-4 times each week.**



Adding mulch is a great start in caring for a new tree.

- In **weeks 3-12,** reduce watering to **2-3 times per week,** as needed.
- For the **remainder of the tree's life,** reduce watering to **1-2 times weekly, only as needed.**
  - Check soil moisture daily with your finger (or a well-rated hydrometer).
  - Weekly rainfall amounts and dry weather should be factored into your weekly watering totals.

When should I have my newly planted tree pruned?

- Begin pruning your tree within 1-2 years of planting and keep pruning it on a 2-4-year cycle.
  - This helps to encourage and maintain good tree structure. Good structure becomes structural integrity, reducing the chances of future tree failure. Trees not pruned while young may develop poor structure and be more prone to later breakage and failure in storms.

What else will help my newly planted tree?

- Trees will also benefit greatly from maintaining a mulch ring, roughly 2-3 inches deep, with as large a diameter as possible. Depending on your tree's size, be sure to keep the mulch 3-12 inches from the trunk so moisture isn't trapped against it, increasing potential for root rot.

If you have specific questions regarding what might be best for your tree(s), contact your **Wachtel Tree Science** Certified Arborist for a meeting. We are here for you, and look forward to helping you create a custom care plan for your trees!

Exploring the World of Trees: Our Research Club in Action

By Michael Peterson, ISA Certified Arborist WI-1293A

At its core, science is about asking testable questions and exploring potential answers. As an ISA Certified Arborist, I find this approach invaluable in our quest to understand and care for trees more effectively. Because we love the science that helps us care for trees, several Wachtel Tree Science employees have taken the initiative to form a Research Club dedicated to advancing our knowledge and practice.

At monthly meetings, we dive into various topics related to tree health and care. From diagnosing and treating chlorosis (the yellowing of leaves) to considering the benefits of planting trees in guilds or associations, informal, thoughtful debate and conversation allow us to share insights. Our most recent meeting delved into the potential of biochar as a soil amendment, and we examined how we can improve our soil science practices.

A diverse array of members from production, diagnostics, management, and accounting provides a broad range of perspectives, and allows many voices to contribute to our collective understanding. While scientific studies provide insights into the mechanisms behind tree disease, practical experiences offer feedback on how these theories play out in real-world scenarios. Combining the two helps us to better grasp what works, what does not, and why.



Using a microscope helps with identifying diseases.

The Research Club is more than just a forum for exchanging ideas; it's a testament to our commitment to continuous learning and improvement in tree care. By coming together and pooling our knowledge, we strive to enhance our practices and ultimately provide better care for the trees we cherish.

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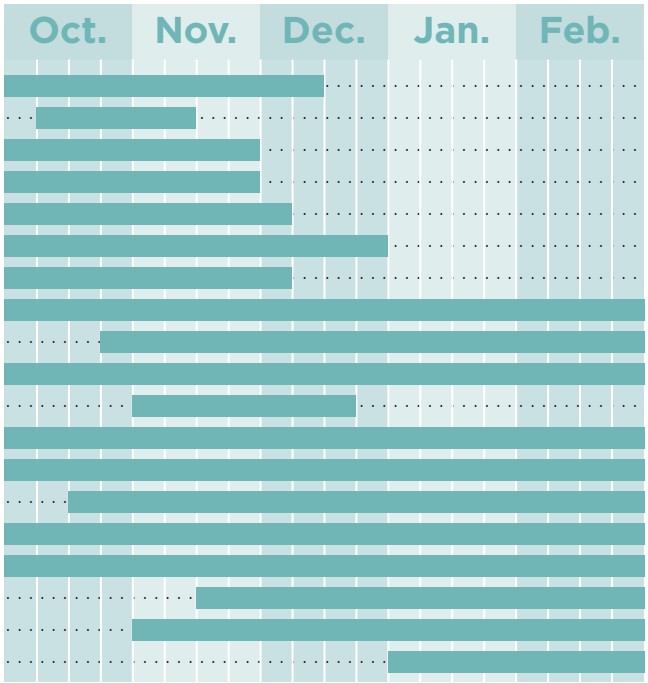
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Plant Health Care Calendar | 262-538-1900

2024-2025 Fall & Winter



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