Seasonal Report

WACHTEL 1935 90 YEARS 2025 TREE SCIENCE

WACHTEL TREE SCIENCE INC.

"Keeping Trees Healthy and Beautiful Since 1935"

$5.00

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"Watch It Fall"

By: Luke Volbrecht, ISA Certified Arborist WI-1112A

That time after summer and before winter might just be my favorite season of the year. The cooler days and nights after the heat of summer, the memories of picking apples from an orchard with family, and the disappearance of mosquitos are especially welcome this time of year, not to mention the beautiful fall color that trees provide! But the realization that the fall season is the culmination of an entire year's worth of effort before the winter chill sets in and many of us begin to "hibernate" for the winter is what I enjoy most.

For the trees in our landscapes, their overall health can partly be attributed to the care we provide for them throughout the year. This can be with springtime apple scab sprays to protect crabapple leaves from summer defoliation, and by injecting ash trees to protect from emerald ash borer feeding damage as two examples (we would no longer have the beautiful fall color of 'Autumn Purple' ash trees if it weren't for the trunk injections). Pruning trees to improve their branch structure and overall aesthetics also plays an important role in keeping trees healthy and beautiful.

Although the days are becoming shorter and it feels like the year may be coming to a close, there is still time to help your trees remain healthy and attractive.

- **Fall soil treatments/fertilizations** to encourage healthy root and canopy development.
- **FAC – iron trunk injections** to fight chlorosis (foliar yellowing) will be completed.
- Review and inspect trees for existing storm damage and pruning needs that can be completed in winter.
- Planning ahead *now* for new tree planting in the spring, too. **(Tree Planting work is already being booked for spring.)**

Thank you to everyone who has trusted Wachtel Tree Science to help care for their trees this year. We at Wachtel Tree Science (and your trees!) appreciate it. If it wasn't for your own passion and commitment to care for your trees, the mosaic of fall color throughout our communities would be diminished. Make sure to take a moment to appreciate the beauty of your trees which you have helped to cultivate. Listen to the wind rustling leaves in the trees. Sit and watch the first leaves from your favorite tree, gently flitter to the ground. Enjoy the season for everything that it offers, it takes a whole year to get here.



Fall brings color changes that add interest to all landscapes

ACCREDITED TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ETHICS QUALITY CONFIDENCE

WI-002

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An Arborist's Favorite Trees

By Jenn Schanz, ISA Certified Arborist WI-1671A

Trees have a way of connecting us to time and each other. Trees remind us of the past, help us look into the future and help us recognize the ongoing cycle of life. There are so many trees I love, and each one is special in its own way.

One of the first things I notice about a tree is its leaves. Some are deeply lobed; some have spikey edges while others are smooth. Some leaves feel fuzzy, some are thick and waxy, others are paper-thin. They all feel a little different in your hand or under your feet. I love how leaves paint the landscape throughout the seasons. In spring, leaves may emerge with bright gold, green or red and turn dark and shiny in summer. In fall, many trees do magic tricks by drastically changing their leaf color like **ginkgo!** A forest in the fall is beautifully stippled with red, bright orange, and golden yellow.

Another feature that draws me in are the flowers of a tree. Some trees have big, colorful flowers, while others have small blossoms that are edible and a source of pollen for bees like **Eastern redbud.** There's nothing more nostalgic to me than the smell of lilac blooms wafting through open windows in late spring. Trees also provide fruit or nuts for people and wildlife. Many trees grow berries, pods, or nutlets, all of which beautifully accent the tree year-round like **ironwood.**



This European beech* (Fagus sylvatica) *demonstrates an example of interesting structure.

Finally, I always admire the form and the bark of a tree. Trees may spread their arms out wide, while others grow in a gumdrop shape and some shoot straight up to the sky. I love trees that have a unique architectural form with branches that twist and turn. Many trees have interesting bark with varying textures and colors. One of my favorites is **musclewood,** aptly named for its smooth bark with long ridges underneath giving it the appearance of muscles.

I collaborated with some of my fellow arborists to gather a list of a few more of our favorite trees that we would love to plant in our yards:

- *Quercus muehlenbergii* – **chinkapin oak**
- *Cercidiphyllum* – **katsura**
- *Larix laricina* – **tamarack**
- *Celtis occidentalis* – **hackberry**
- *Staphylea trifolia* – **American bladdernut**

Contact your Wachtel Tree Science Certified Arborist to learn more about planting any of these wonderful trees on your property!



Tree Support Systems

By Matthew Siesco, ISA Certified Arborist WI-0959A, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

Tree surgeon has become an antiquated term in the tree industry, but it accurately describes the care modern arborists give to trees. Careful and accurate cuts into the live wood, diagnosing disease to make sure trees get the proper remedy, and even drilling through the tree to add metal hardware. The science of tree care has come a long way, and some black and white photos in our office show the early methods of tree surgery, including adding cement to large tree cavities. While we don't add rigid cavity filling into trees anymore, we do maintain some of the proven methods that were pioneered by the original tree surgeons: cabling, bracing, guying, and propping.

Cabling involves the installation of a high strength steel cable high in the tree's crown, attaching two or more separate stems together effectively reducing the likelihood they will split apart at their union. This can be done for ornamental trees on a smaller scale as well. When the union has an advanced defect or crack, **bracing** is added for structural support typically in the lower portion of the tree. This is done by drilling through the trunk and installing a threaded rod through the split, adding support for this part of the tree. This added support can add countless years of useful life in the landscape by reducing risk and giving our clients an alternative to removing high value trees.

Guying is a less common support system but proved to be helpful after some of our recent snowstorms. This involves adding a support cable or strap from a strong and healthy tree over to the tree in need. This is especially useful for saving evergreens like arborvitae that tend to split apart from snow weight. If one individual branch is being affected by weight and needs some support from below, propping can be utilized. This method involves the creative use of wood or metal support systems below the branch to take the strain off the trunk and reduce the likelihood of failure.



Cabling a tree for structural support

Recently, severe weather events, from ice storms to tornadoes brought major tree failures, many of which occured at common, tree defects, which had they been correctly identified and proper support systems installed, were avoidable. Wachtel Tree Science's Certified Arborists can expertly diagnose and mitigate these risks, so please contact us if you have a tree in question.



How Construction Impacts Tree Health

By: Keith Glaznap, Board Certified Master Arborist #0678A

Rays of sunlight danced cheerfully about as a gentle summer breeze led the broad crown of an ancient white oak in a spectacular backyard ballroom dance. The proud owners of this monarch tree recently installed a rustic patio under it to give them an attractive outdoor space where they can bask in its splendor. They hope to entertain family and friends under the oak for years to come while enjoying its warm embrace.

Many of our Wachtel Tree Science clients, possibly even you, occupy a property with a tree or trees that are considered "priceless." Many of you would do nearly anything to save your beloved tree if it were ailing. That said, my experience tells me that prevention is the best investment toward tree health.

There is no shortage of stress for trees in an urban landscape. In the opening paragraph above, recall the rustic patio installed under the oak tree. While these individuals marveled at the above-ground portions of their tree, the below-ground portions were overlooked as they made their plans.

The below-ground portion of trees is commonly misunderstood. Would you believe that a tree's root system comprises about 1/3 to 1/2 of its biomass? Additionally, **80% of a tree's root system grows within 24 inches of the soil surface and typically spreads out horizontally in all directions, one to two times the height of the tree.** Yes! Most tree roots are relatively shallow and they extend quite far from the trunk! Construction or trenching could cause soil compaction or cut roots resulting in potentially serious and long-lasting consequences for a tree. Even removing just a few inches of soil could be disastrous.



Grade changes can significantly affect the roots and health of trees.

The health of an existing tree's root system or the root system of a newly planted tree can also be significantly impacted by the crushing weight of vehicles and construction equipment. Vehicle weight alone can directly kill existing tree roots. Soil compacted by construction can lead to tree stress or death as roots struggle to grow through the concrete-like aftermath of construction. This type of damage can also severely impact a tree's health and longevity.

If you are planning a construction project near your favorite tree or you would like to plant some new trees, consider contacting your **Wachtel Tree Science Certified Arborist** first. Your arborist will be able to help you identify sensitive areas near existing trees so that you can avoid damaging them. Before planting new trees, we can help you determine what species are appropriate for the soil and site conditions to offer you the best long-term results possible. Contact your **Wachtel Tree Science Certified Arborist** to help assist you today!



Compost Tea: A Natural Boost for Soil, Trees & Shrubs

By: Jamie Mason, ISA Certified Arborist WI-1494A

At Wachtel Tree Science, we believe one of the keys to thriving trees and shrubs is what is below ground. That's why we offer **compost tea,** an organic soil treatment that improves soil health and supports stronger, more resilient plants.

What Is Compost Tea?

Compost tea is a liquid solution made by brewing high-quality compost in water, while supplementing oxygen and nutrients to encourage the growth of beneficial microbes—the "good guys"—in your soil. These beneficial organisms include bacteria and fungi that help break down nutrients, improve soil structure, and promote plant health.

Once brewed, we inject the compost tea directly into the soil around your trees and shrubs with a soil probe, helping to restore balance in the soil, which is often compacted or depleted in residential yards due to construction, mowing, and foot traffic.

Why It Matters

Healthy soil plays a major role in how well your trees grow. Compost Tea provides long-term, natural benefits, including:

- **improved soil biology**
- **better water retention**
- **reduced pest and disease issues**
- **healthier, stronger plant growth**

While compost tea is not a fertilizer, it enhances the soil so that nutrients are more available to your trees. When used alongside traditional fertilizer treatments, the results are even better.

A Smart Addition to Your Landscape Plan

Whether your landscape is showing signs of stress or you're just looking to go more organic, Compost Tea is a great option. Used as part of a seasonal care plan, it supports long-term soil and plant health without harsh chemicals.

Want to Know if Compost Tea is Right for Your Yard?

Talk to your Wachtel Tree Science arborist or give us a call. We'd be happy to recommend a treatment plan that gives your soil—and your trees—a healthy head start.

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"Keeping Trees Healthy and Beautiful Since 1935"

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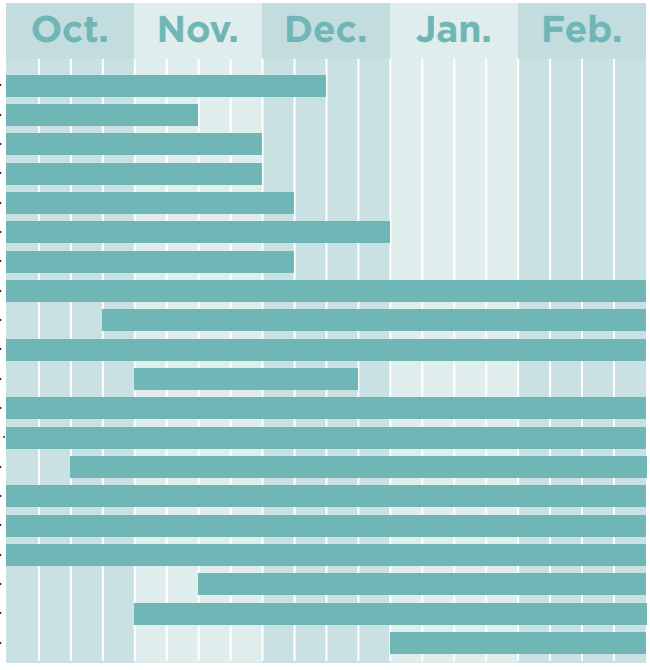
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Plant Health Care Calendar | 262-538-1900

2025 Fall & Winter



- Water evergreens and new trees until ground freeze if rainfall inadequate
- Trunk injections of iron or manganese to chlorotic trees
- Soil systemic insecticides for borer control in 2026
- Soil systemic insecticides for leaf-feeding insect control in 2026
- Late-season root biostimulants: mycorrhizae, humates, compost tea, etc.
- Maintain 2 to 4 inches of mulch for soil moisture retention
- Fall tree and shrub fertilization
- Dormant season pruning (especially for oaks and elms)
- Large cane thinning for renewal pruning of deciduous shrubs
- Inspect evergreens for insect and disease damage
- Apply antidesiccant to evergreens to reduce winter drying
- Protect young trees from deer rubbing with trunk protection
- Protect evergreens and smaller trees/shrubs from deer feeding with fencing
- Inspect trees for cracked and broken branches while leaves are off
- Inspect trees for cabling needs
- Inspect trees for spongy moth egg masses
- Inspect viburnums for viburnum leaf beetle eggs
- Cover evergreen ground cover and perennials with boughs
- Tie together and/or support Arborvitae to mitigate snow damage
- Frozen ground reduces lawn damage when removing large trees

We Love Referrals!

Prepare for Winter...Schedule Pruning Now!

"Your locally owned and operated tree care company!"