

Tree Care

By: Melinda Sperl

Trimming of trees is an art and not something homeowners should take lightly.

My teeth clenched as I witnessed a commercial company new to our area cutting down trees in Katy. We have so many of these companies coming here to help us remove our dead trees some are qualified but many of them have never trimmed a tree in their lives. This truck says they cut down, chip and trim trees while I witnessed them cutting branches with a chainsaw that butchered those trees. The very next week my neighbor hired this same company to cut down and trim their trees. I am sorry to say that what they did to those trees was criminal. Hiring an arborist is more expensive but is what is needed to trim your trees not the guy that mows you lawn. If nothing else, educate yourself on the proper method so that you know to stop them when you see the first branch cut wrong before they kill your entire tree.

When you cut the branch of a tree, you need to leave at least 1 inch of the branch for it to heal itself or to scar over. Never cut the branch flush with the tree as the tree cannot scar and that will only cause a large hole in the tree over time.

Trees are not like shrubs where they show their damage right away so you can correct it. They will not show damage for 5-10 years.

Trimming a tree is best done when the sap is not running. This is because certain insects and diseases are attracted to fresh sap and when you cut the tree you expose the tree sap. So trimming of your trees should only be done in the late fall and winter.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is a Horticulturalist and the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc. You can reach Melinda at Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com