

Weekly Column for Week of 10-12-09
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Time for Checking Your Trees this Fall

Tree assessment is very important for many reasons. Trees provide shade and protection in the yard. They are also the home of many wonderful creatures that depend on trees to survive. They may be a food source or simply a magnificent site in your yard that you want to keep healthy year round. Fall is a great time to take a close look at the trees in your yard to make sure they receive the care they need and are ready for the winter.

The spotting of a beautiful bird or the chance to see the squirrels at play are just a couple of things that are made possible by trees. Trees can be food sources for not just animals, but for us as well. Apple and cherry trees are great examples among many. Trees can also serve as a focal point in the yard or an appealing addition that brings character and depth to its surroundings. Furthermore, one must not forget that they help to clean up the air around us.

So how can a tree be observed carefully and taken care of properly so that it may survive the winter months? It is important to check the tree for any signs of stress. Anything that looks unusual should be addressed. For instance, if a tree is changing colors too early in the season or is thinning prematurely, it may be under some type of stress. Also, a tree should be watered properly in the fall to supply enough water for it to avoid drying out in the winter. This is because the tree will not collect water once winter arrives. Dead and broken limbs should be removed and any unusual or diseased leaves should be removed as well. This will ensure that insects and diseases do not overwinter and show up in the spring.

For more information on assessing tree health, you can visit the web at <http://www.westvolusiatreeservice.com/tree-pdf/Assessingtreehealth.pdf>. For information on addressing stress related tree problems, you can visit the web at http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP_37_W.pdf. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information at 574-533-0554.

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