

Over fertilization can contribute to ground water contamination or pollution of adjacent bodies of water. If nitrogen is to be applied, slow release formulas are recommended as they will limit the chances of root 'burning', which can be caused by some of the quick release, high concentrate, nitrogen fertilizers. Natural organic forms of nitrogen are your best choices for fertilizing.

PRUNING



Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. Pruning to improve structure or enhance vigor is associated with mature or aging trees. When planting young trees, prune to remove the dead, broken or crossing branches. Cut the branches to just outside the branch collar. Avoid flush cuts or stubs. Do not apply wound dressings to the cut area after pruning. It is not necessary and may impede the tree's natural healing process. For more information or for a list of licensed tree pruners please call 384-4085.



PESTS

Some of the more common forms of pests include insects, mites, bacteria, fungi and viruses. There are many organisms in the landscape that are considered pests because of the amount of damage they cause the host plant or because they may be present in such large numbers that they become undesirable. However, some of these organisms **do not** harm plants but are truly beneficial to the host plant and are a valuable component of the ecosystem.

Many pest problems occur as a result of improper watering, poor plant stock, or an inferior planting site. Trees that are poorly adapted to a particular site are usually the ones most affected by pests. Choosing the appropriate tree and planting it in an environment capable of sustaining good growth will significantly reduce many pest problems.

In selecting the trees for the illustrated section of this guide, we have chosen species that have adapted well to our local environment. Although we have listed certain pests associated with these trees, with the proper attention to correct planting procedures, growing conditions and maintenance, you will promote a tree's best protection against pests...**good health.**

WEEDS AND THE USE OF HERBICIDES



Keep the area around your tree free of weeds and other competing plants. Use wood chip mulch to suppress the weeds or remove them by hand when possible. Avoid the use of herbicides near the tree as certain formulations may seriously injure or kill the tree. If you do decide to use herbicides, avoid getting any on the leaves, branches, trunk or near the root area of any plant you wish to keep. Beware of fertilizers containing weed killers. These types of 'weed and feed' fertilizers **should not** be used over areas where tree roots are growing, as they can seriously injure or even kill trees. Remember that tree roots extend well beyond the perimeter of the outermost branches.