

How To Kill A Tree

Actually, What NOT To Do To Your Tree

While mechanical damage and improper tree care kill more trees than any insects or diseases, you can avoid making any of these 24 common tree-damaging mistakes.

Do not:

- 1) "Top" off tree branches.
- 2) Leave weakened "V"- shaped co-dominant leaders.
- 3) Leave crossing and rubbing branches.
- 4) Ignore insect and disease damage.
- 5) Coat pruning cuts with paint or sealer.
- 6) Leave broken branches unpruned.
- 7) Spray unapproved herbicides over roots.
- 8) Damage roots and trunk with lawn equipment.
- 9) Rip through roots when digging trenches.
- 10) Plant too close to house or obstacle.
- 11) Forget to remove wire or rope left on branch too long.
- 12) Prune randomly leaving branch stubs.
- 13) Prune too flush reducing wound closure.
- 14) Forget to remove tree stake.
- 15) Leave wrap on trunk.
- 16) Pile up excessive mounds of mulch.
- 17) Put non-porous black plastic under mulch.
- 18) Stack heavy items atop of roots.
- 19) Leave ball roping on trunk.
- 20) Plant too close to downspout.
- 21) Leave top of wire basket in place.
- 22) Leave treated or synthetic burlap around roots.
- 23) Dig hole too narrow.
- 24) Dig hole too deep or fill with gravel.



While a few of these improper practices alone would kill a tree, multiple problems will certainly stress, and could eventually kill, a tree.

Adapted Source: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech/ Virginia State University, Bonnie Appleton, Extension Specialist.

This valuable tree care information has been brought to you as a public service by Leesburg Today and the Town of Leesburg Tree Commission.