

HEALTHY & HAPPY TREES

We in the South Riding Community Standards Department are by no means EXPERTS when it comes to tree health, but we have learned a few things over the years that we'd like to share with you.

Do you know the difference between a healthy tree and one that is struggling to survive (also known as stressing)? Before the leaves begin to fall this Autumn take a moment to look at the trees on your property and the surrounding area and compare them to the pictures in this article. Often a stressing tree just needs water to help it survive the dry season. Your personal landscaping company can set up a watering plan to assist you or you can simply put an inch or two of water on it regularly with your garden hose.

1 STRESSING TREE – The leaves are falling prematurely from this tree during the heat of the summer and many of the branches are already bare.

2 STRESSING TREE – This tree has lost all of the upper leaves and these top branches are unlikely to ever sprout leaves again so remove those branches and nurture the tree back to good health.

3 DEAD TREE – It's too late. This tree is dead, the branches will snap right off and it needs to be replaced.

4 WATER SHOOTERS – These also known as water sprouts or water suckers are the leaves and branches that sprout from the bottom of the tree. These are detrimental to the overall health of the tree because they are stealing valuable nutrients from the higher branches. Remove the shoots as soon as they appear for a healthier and more attractive looking tree.

5 Now let's talk about Tree Stakes – When properly secured into the ground the tree stakes help young trees stay straight and are typically only needed through the 1st year of growth. There are some that believe trees become reliant on the tree stakes preventing them from establishing a strong root system. It is important to understand that if the stakes are loose and falling over they are no longer providing the intended support and should be removed along with all associated hardware.

6 Additionally, if the bindings on the trunk of the tree are too tight they prevent the tree from moving with the wind and can injure the young bark of the tree –

The worst scenario is the binding is too tight and the tree trunk is choked or girdled which is devastating to the tree.

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GIANT, ENORMOUS, HUGE, & REALLY BIG, TREES

Did you know, you may submit an Application for Exterior Modification to remove a gigantic evergreen tree? As the community ages we routinely get requests of this nature that are easily approvable. Applications are available at www.southeriding.net, under Resident Services.

The owner of the home shown to the right went through the process. See how fresh the home looks now that the overwhelming tree has been removed.

