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We are proud members of the following organizations:

- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
- Global Relief of Michigan
- Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)
- Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA)
- Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM)

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Needles & Nuts

Fall 2009



"Mike's Tree Surgeons, Inc. manages landscapes using the highest ethical standards. Our long-term commitment to education and communication inspires us to perform at a level that is unequalled. We are professionals dedicated to protecting and enhancing the landscapes entrusted to our care."

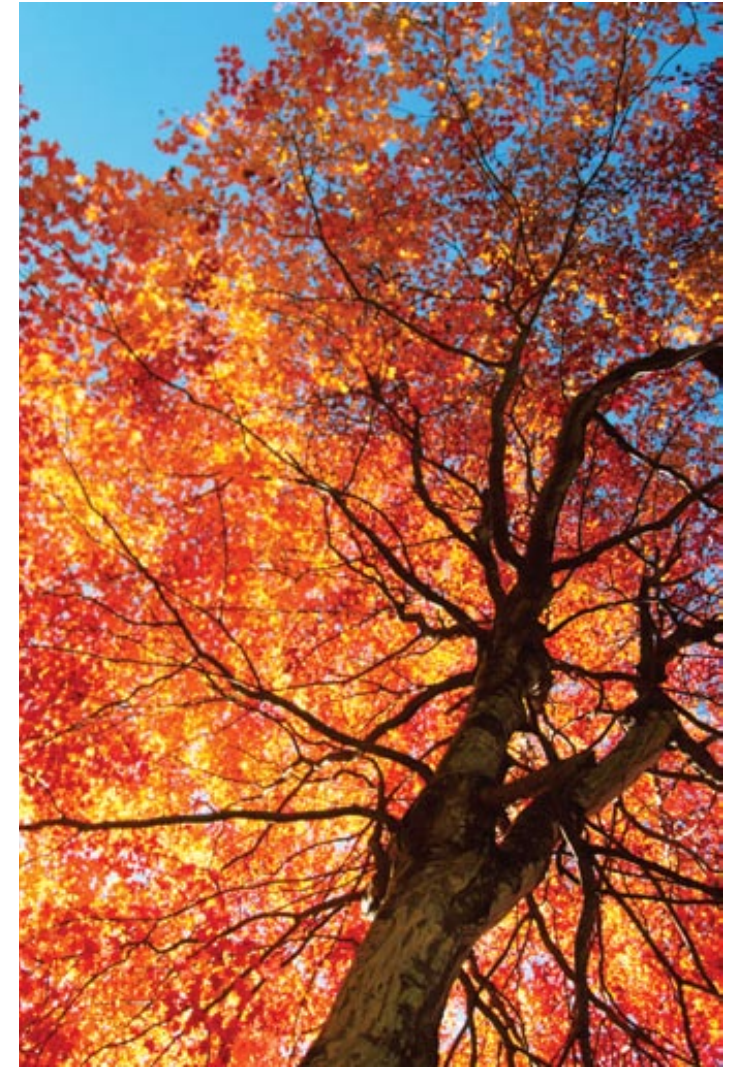
Fall Fertilization of Trees and Shrubs

Tree and shrub fertilization is especially important in urban and suburban areas of Michigan where soils have been altered due to construction, even if that construction happened years ago. These urban soils tend to be heavily compacted, poorly aerated, poorly drained, and low in organic matter. Even where soils have not been affected, fertilization may be needed as part of a maintenance program to increase plant vigor or to improve root or top growth. Weather also plays a role in determining the need for fertilization. Michigan's dry, windy summers tend to put sensitive ornamental plants in stress even if they are watered properly. A visual inspection of trees and shrubs is often the best overall factor to use in making fertilization decisions. Look for:

- Poor leaf color (pale green to yellow)
- Reduced leaf size and retention
- Premature fall coloration and leaf drop
- Reduced twig and branch growth and retention
- Overall reduced plant growth and vigor

When discussing tree fertilization it's important to understand that Plants can require up to 17 elements for normal growth depending on species. The nutrients that are most likely to limit plant growth are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Our fertilization program uses all 3 of these nutrients, plus organic elements such as amino acids, proteins, vitamins and the micronutrients manganese and iron. In certain situations we can inject beneficial soil organisms directly into the root zone of the tree to help increase the natural defense mechanisms of the roots and restore the ecological balance that is needed to promote a healthy root system. If you are not scheduled for a fall fertilization of your trees, you should consider giving us a call, so we can send a trained arborist or technician to your property to evaluate what plants may benefit from fertilization.



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Thank You For Your Business!

A Few Words From Some of Mike's Satisfied Customers:

"I was very pleased with my tree removal by Nate, Scott and Joe. They were very professional and did a 'treemendous' job!"
Ann - Rochester

"My backyard looks wonderful & your tree crew did a great job! I should have done the landscaping years ago!" Barbara - Troy

"My yard has never looked better! Thank you for the wonderful service." Marianne - Bloomfield

"We have used Mikes for everything related to our landscape care - from spraying for pests and removing trees to re-landscaping our yard, Mike's has provided fantastic quality products and amazing service". Jennifer - Bloomfield Twp.

Did You Know We Do ...

TREE CARE
Tree & Shrub Pruning, Tree & Stump Removal, Cabling & Bracing, Lightning Protection

PLANT HEALTH CARE
Insect & Disease Management, Tree & Shrub Fertilization, Macro & Micro Trunk Injections

BIO-TURF LAWN CARE
Custom Fertilization Programs, Selective Weed-Control, Core Aeration & Lawn Renovation

FORESTRY
Woodland Inventories & Inspections, Street Tree & Park Inventories, Tree Preservation Programs

Visit Our Website: www.mikestree.com



Photo property of <http://www.forestryimages.org>

Scale Update...

For those of you that are experiencing scale insects on your trees and shrubs, it is NOT too late to treat for them. Right now we are finishing off our late summer scale treatments and will soon start our fall horticultural oil and soil applied injections. Horticultural oil and fall or early spring soil injected products are great methods to use for treating scale. They are less harmful to beneficial insects than foliar applied, broad-spectrum insecticides. Give us a call if you'd like for us to give you a free estimate.



Lecanium scale
Photo property of, www.branchoutburlington.org/pests/lecaniumscale

<http://www.mikestree.com>



Remember, you can use our new website www.mikestree.com to contact us, pay bills, renew contracts and find out useful information regarding insects and diseases that are common to the trees, shrubs and lawns in the Metro-Detroit area!

A HAPPY, HEALTHY LAWN

Fall is the most important time for lawn fertilization, weed control and aeration. There is plenty of research that shows fall fertilization is the best time to 'feed' your lawn. It is also a great time to fight back against many broadleaf weeds. Broadleaf weed control treatments are usually more effective at this time, because in the fall, plants are actively building root systems. Therefore, our weed control treatments are much more effective in controlling the weed, roots and all! If you are not currently scheduled for a late summer/fall application, let us know so we can schedule it for you. Your lawn will love you for it, and there will be fewer weeds next spring.

Core aeration is one of the best things you can do to improve the health of your lawn. Core aeration involves extracting several plugs (cores) of soil. By aerating your lawn you provide the following benefits to your lawn and its root system:

- Oxygen gets to the roots and the soil allowing it to "breathe".
- Fertilizers and organic matter get access to the root system.
- Water reaches the root system better.
- Helps to reduce thatch, by re-introducing soil organisms to the thatch layer, where they feed, breaking down the thatch.
- Tight, compacted soil is loosened up allowing the root system to grow, thickening up the lawn.

Give us a call if you'd like for us to aerate, fertilize or treat your lawn for weeds this fall!

WINTER CARE OF TREES & SHRUBS

We all know that Michigan winters can be hard on plants. One of the most common types of winter injury is winter burn. This is a common occurrence to boxwood, holly, rhododendron, and most conifers. Winter burn symptoms often develop when temperatures warm up in late winter and early spring. This type of winter damage is often misdiagnosed as an infectious disease or damage from excessively cold temperatures.



To understand winter injury, it is important to understand that while a plant is creating its food by photosynthesis, it is releasing large amounts of water through the process of transpiration (the evaporation of water from the plant). Over the course of a day, a large tree can lose hundreds

of gallons of water. When plants are unable to obtain the water they need (due to drought or frozen soil), the water lost through transpiration cannot be replenished, resulting in dehydration, foliar damage, and even death. The pines in this picture are showing damage on the roadside of the trees. This is most likely a combination of three factors: 1) this is south-facing, so heat from solar radiation will cause the needles on that side of the tree to lose water more rapidly, 2) salt spray from the road during winter can burn the foliage, and 3) increased wind (relative to the north side) from traffic can lead to needles drying out.

Here are some good tips to follow for winter care of trees:

- Good winter care starts with thorough watering in the fall. When the garden season draws to a close, it is tempting to just forget about your plants. However you should continue to water all woody plants - especially newly planted trees and shrubs and all evergreens in the fall until the ground freezes.
- If your plants get salt spray from the road, burlap may help, but wrap them with a double layer, not a single layer. To avoid having to cover your evergreens, don't plant them near a road that gets salted, or plant salt-tolerant species such as junipers.
- Protect young trees by putting plastic tree guards around the bottom of their trunks to prevent damage from gnawers such as rabbits and mice. Make sure the tree guards go high enough - over the snow line. Always remove them in the spring. It looks better and you eliminate the problem of the guards trapping moisture against the bark in the summer and attracting insects.
- Have us apply an anti-desiccant spray, which is wax emulsion mixed with water. When applied it helps lock in the moisture that the plant has been able to store, thereby helping to reduce the effects of winter burn.

DORMANT PRUNING

Fall and Winter are a great time to prune trees. For oaks and elms, it is the ONLY time we recommend trimming. This is because we want to reduce the chance of your oak or elm contracting Oak Wilt or Dutch Elm Disease, both fatal fungal diseases of these valuable species of trees. If you have an oak or elm, we can usually safely trim from October until some time in March (depending on the spring weather and temperature), so it is now time to schedule this time sensitive service.



It is also a great time to prune most other types of trees! One advantage of trimming in the dormant season is that we can better assess the overall structure and condition of your trees. Crown reduction is best done in the dormant season, as the plant is less responsive to re-growth at this time. In addition to removing the obvious weak, damaged and dead branches, we selectively remove living branches to thin and shape the tree to its natural form.



PROTECT YOUR VALUABLE TREES!

In addition to pruning, this is a great time to consider other ways to protect your shade landscape trees. A few of these include;

- Cabling and Bracing
- Lightning protection

Your trees may benefit from the installation of cables and/ or braces to reduce branch or trunk breakage. Some trees need additional support because they may have weak structure, have been poorly maintained and may be in a prominent location. Correctly installing cables and braces may help your tree encounter less storm damage or branch failure in the future. Most importantly, it can be an effective tool to safely maintain the investment in your landscape.

In addition to wind and ice, "mother nature" has the unpredictable and often devastating force of lightning. Lightning protection systems are very effective, and can be utilized to protect your assets. It may prolong and even SAVE a tree from an otherwise early death or disfigurement, so you and your loved ones can enjoy them for generations to come! You may save MORE than just a tree!

You can see a few of our lightning protection systems at the Eleanor and Edsel Ford House and the Birmingham Country Club.

FIREWOOD

We have plenty of firewood available to be picked-up or delivered. Our firewood consists of seasoned mixed hardwoods. We do have specialty wood available such as cherry upon request for a limited time. Call soon before we run out!!!!



FACE CORD

(A face cord measures 4 feet high by 8 feet wide with 16-inch long pieces)

Delivered = \$100 • Delivered & Stacked = \$130 • Picked-up = \$80

HALF A FACE CORD

Delivered = \$75 • Delivered & Stacked = \$105 • Picked-up = \$60

**We do require payment prior to delivery or at the time of delivery.