

## **PRUNING STORM-DAMAGED TREES**

At this time of the year there is the possibility that you might have some winter storm damage to your trees. If this has happened, make sure that the damaged areas are pruned away. Pruning removes broken limbs as well as dead and/or diseased wood and bark. Proper pruning helps to control the shape of the tree and is essential to the overall health as well as the beauty of your trees. However, avoiding “Topping Out” a tree as this can ruin the looks or beauty of the tree.

As we continue through the last of winter and early spring there is still the chance and possibility of ice or snow storms capable of damaging your trees. Having properly pruned your trees earlier in the year will help prevent serious storm damage during the winter months. Inspect your trees now to see if limbs that cannot withstand ice storms or heavy snow storms should be pruned. Pictures of weak and bad limbs can be seen on OSU Fact sheets as listed below.

Some basic guidelines for pruning storm-damaged trees:

- 1) Remove all broken or damaged limbs, which are the most hazardous to people. Be careful to not remove more than 1/3 of the limbs on any tree. If this should be necessary, complete tree removal should be considered.
- 2) When pruning trees, having the proper equipment on hand is essential. Make sure all cutting tools are clean and sharp. A short list of handy tools to have on hand include: Lopping Shears, Folding Saw, Bow Saw, and Hand Pruner.
- 3) Tools should be cleaned after each cutting in order to not transfer disease from one tree/area to another.

For very large trees, consider calling a certified Arborist due to the type of equipment involved and the danger it can present to those unfamiliar with large tree pruning.

More detailed information is available on our Tulsa Master Gardener web site: go to [tulsamastergardeners.org](http://tulsamastergardeners.org), click on “Lawn & Garden Help”, then “Pruning Guide” under “Tips and Techniques”.

Consult OSU Fact Sheets:

[EPP-7323](#)

Managing Storm-Damaged Trees

[HLA-6409](#)

Pruning Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Vines

All are available at our Master Gardener Office located at 4116 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or phone 918 746-3701.