

NATURE ACTIVITIES

5 TREE CARE TIPS

Have a trees in your yard and not sure how to take care of them? Here are some tips on how to care for your trees that the whole family can learn together.

PART ONE - CLEAN

A cleanup is necessary for the general health of the trees in your yard.

Resources/materials needed: Gloves, rake, trash bag

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Pick up big sticks and general debris around your tree. Gather the small sticks and leaves up with a rake and pile in an appropriate location further away from the tree for pick up. This will allow the roots to breathe properly. If you have winter wraps around the tree, this is a good time to remove them.

Step 2: Remove all the strings or lights tied around the tree. This may girdle the tree as it grows. Girdling stops the flow of nutrients within the tree.

PART TWO - INSPECT

A pest and damage check is necessary for the health and sturdiness of the trees in your yard. The Emerald Ash Borer has destroyed many ash trees. There are pests and diseases that do the same

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Look for these signs:

- Hollow trunks
- Small holes in trunks
- Crumbling Bark
- Decay
- Fungus
- Dead Branches
- Cracks



Photo Credit: Canva



Photo Credit: Green Tree Ring



Photo Credit: PSU News

- Cankers
- Shallow pits in bark

Step 2: If you notice any of these signs, research local pests. If the holes and signs resemble what you think may be a damaging pest to your tree, you may want to hire a professionally trained Arborist to do a tree check. Treating trees is more economical than removing them and replacing them.

PART THREE- PRUNE

Proper tree pruning allows for new and existing branches to have room to grow.

Resources/materials needed: Loppers, Hand Pruners, Folding saw, gloves, safety glasses

DIRECTIONS:

Safety Tips: Wear safety goggles, a hat and gloves. Always be aware of where branches may fall. Avoid cutting above you where the branch could fall on your head. Always cut to the side of where you are standing. Never cut a branch that is touching an electric line. Close tools when you are not using them.

Step 1: Locate dead branches on the trees in your yard. Use loppers, hand pruners or a folding saw depending on the size of the branch. Look for a ring close to the beginning of the branch next to the trunk. This ring is called a branch collar and has cells that regenerate. It is best to keep this ring when you prune, so cut flush against it.

Step 2: If you do more research, you can prune branches that are crossing other branches, going into an unwanted area, or that are crowding essential branches of the tree. Just make sure you do not cut too much that the tree is damaged and cannot produce enough leaves for photosynthesis.

Cleanup and pile the branches away from directly underneath the tree.

PART FOUR- MULCH

Mulching your trees ensure moisture for the roots, keep weeds and some pests away, provide nutrients, protects



Photo Credit: The Impatient Farmer

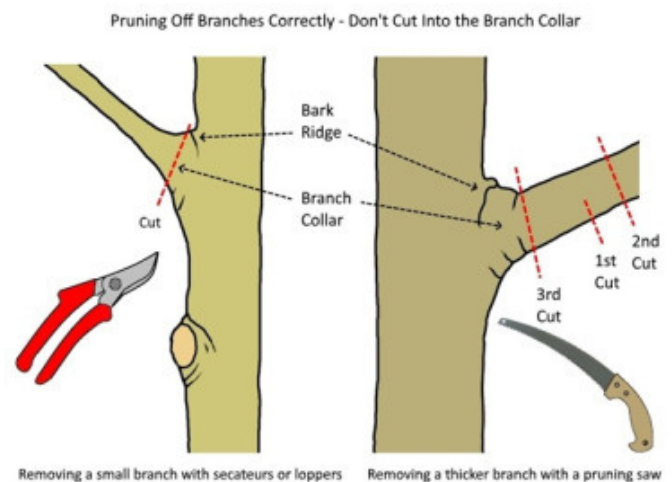


Photo Credit: Deep Green Permaculture



Photo Credit: The Daily Garden

trees from lawn mowers getting too close, and prevents damage caused by extreme temperatures. Mulch also looks nice under a tree!

Resources/materials needed: Mulch or woodchips, shovel, rake, and gloves

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Bring your bags or pile of mulch and tools over to your tree. Use a shovel to apply the mulch and a rake to even it out. Keep the soil covered with a 3- 5 inch layer of mulch. Leave at least 2 inches from the trunk of the tree untouched. You will create a "donut" shape extending 1-2 feet from the tree in a circle. The flare at the bottom should be visible.

Avoid "Volcano Mulching" at all costs. This will suffocate the tree.

PART FIVE - WATERING

Give your trees a watering to ensure hydration during the growing season through the warming months if it is not raining often. When the summer approaches, start deep watering.

Resources/materials: Gallon bucket or watering pale, water

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Check the soil moisture weekly 4 inches below the surface. The soil should be moist but not soaking wet. If the soil is powdery dry, it is time to water your tree. Deliver 5 gallons of water. Then keep checking.

Step 2: Understand what tree and age that you have. Newly planted trees require up to 20 gallons of water a week opposed to older trees who require less.

Check out these great resources for figuring out how much to water your specific tree!

blog.davey.com/2018/08/how-much-water-does-a-newly-planted-tree-need/
canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/watering-guidelines/



Photo Credit: The Arborist Now

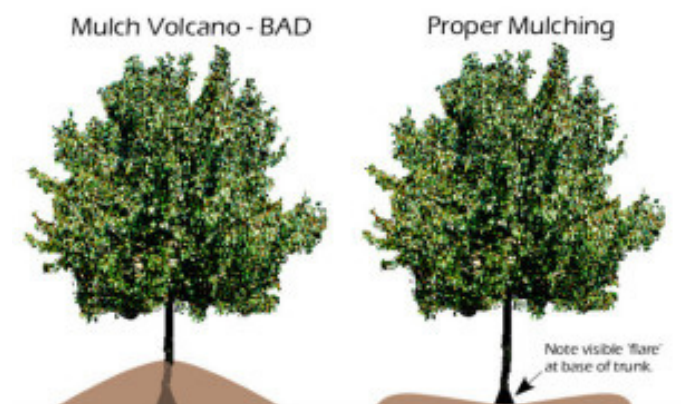


Photo Credit: Lushome



Photo Credit: Great Stems

Resources:

eastwoodhomes.com/blog/kid-friendly-diy-projects-for-the-home
aatrees.net/tree-care-advice/6-ways-to-care-for-your-trees-this-spring/
davey.com/arborist-advice/articles/spring-checklist/
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news.psu.edu/topic/research

thedailygarden.us/garden-word-of-the-day/branch-collar
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canopy.org/blog/four-tips-spring-tree-care/
theimpatientfarmer.com/taking-care-of-trees/