

# Gruettville Gazette

all the news that's fit to prune

Why are trees always getting so lost?  
They never know what root to take!



CALL A CERTIFIED  
TREE WHISPERER

(877) 447-8388

## URBAN FORESTRY: HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Trees growing in an urban forest are very different from trees growing in a natural forest. Urban forests are planned and maintained with human benefits in mind. We plant trees for beauty, food, shade, and privacy. Sometimes we plant trees that are not well suited for our environment, or that will grow too large for the space provided. Many trees have vastly decreased lifespans in an urban vs. a natural environment. Because of this, we must actively nurture and maintain urban trees in ways that trees in nature would never require. In nature, trees 'self-prune'; as limbs grow old or become less useful, they are dropped. In an urban environment, this same process could be hazardous. Fungi can infect 'wild' trees, become hollow and fall over, in your backyard this same process would most definitely be hazardous!

Here are important, responsible steps for a homeowner to take to mitigate liability and hazardous situations:



**Cultural Care:** Soil maintenance, fertilization/re-mineralization, and irrigation should be species and climate appropriate. Poor cultural care is the source for most tree health issues.



**Health and Hazard Assessment:** Trees should be assessed for overall health (just like you, your kids, or your pets!) Hazards should be evaluated and monitored. All evaluations should be by a Certified Arborist.



**Treatment:** Pest infestations should be diagnosed and treated early to prevent severe health consequences.

**Trimming:** Depending on the species, most trees should be trimmed every 1-3 years to open the canopy for air flow and remove hazards. NEVER TOP YOUR TREES, or you will pay the price later.



**Protection:** Trees should be protected during all construction by having an Arborist set up a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), and the tree should be inspected during and after construction.



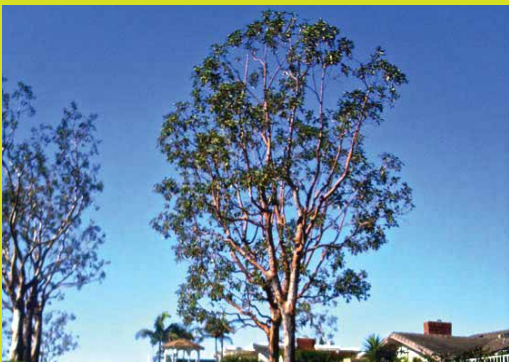
**Removal:** Trees do get old, old trees are susceptible to heartwood rot leading to hollow, unstable trees. Old trees should be removed if they become hazardous.

Call Gruett's team of ISA Certified Arborists to do an annual assessment of your trees, you wouldn't forget about your pets or your kids would you? What about your leafy family members?



# COOL CUTS!

Besides snuggling up by the fireplace with friends and family while sipping on hot cocoa these chilly Winter days, now is still the perfect time to trim your trees! The consistently cold temperatures allow for proper and safe tree trimming that will encourage new healthy growth as well as cleaning up old dead branches. Here's a quick summary on why right now is the best time to trim your trees, especially your pines:



During winter, trees are still in dormancy, which is the best time to prune them. Pruning them while they're still in dormancy lowers potential stress as well as encourages new, healthier growth during the next growing season. Insect and pest activity are also at their lowest around these times, thus decreasing the chance of insect infestations or attacks on your trees!

When the weather warms up and the growing season begins, trimming in the late Spring, while still possible, has its risks for specific species. Pruning is still safe in Spring if it is before your tree starts budding or blooming. On top of that, insects also start to become more active during this time, which can possibly lead to an insect invasion to freshly exposed wounds!

Trimming in the summer with its intensive heat, can cause tremendous stress on some tree species. When you prune trees, you expose the inner branches to more heat and sunlight that it has not been used to, which can possibly sun scorch the bark. Insect activity is also very high during this time period so there is a higher chance for an insect or pest invasion at recently pruned sites on your tree!

Pruning of heavily damaged, diseased, or dead wood (after proper evaluation) can be pruned at any time during any season. This is because inadequate branches can pose a high hazard risk factor! Structurally compromised branches could possibly fall and cause damage to your car, house, walls, and even people!



Get a Gruett Tree Company tree care specialist to come out and give you a competitive quote to have your trees trimmed!



# TIME 2 TRIM YOUR PINES!



We are licensed, insured professionals  
State Ca# 707165 C27, D49, C61  
Licensed as QAL for Tree Healthcare



ISA Certified Arborists On Staff  
Tree Healthcare Practitioners On Staff  
Tree Care Specialist On Staff  
Biologist on Staff  
Certified Water Managers on Staff



## This Month's TREE - Meyer Lemon



What makes a Meyer Lemon unique from a regular lemon? Unlike its lemon counterpart, Meyer lemons are not true lemons, they are a hybrid that is native to China and a cross between a citron and a mandarin. When you think lemons, you generally think super acidic, very sour, and tart. That's not the same for Meyer Lemons, these lemons, while still acidic, have a much sweeter taste to them, sometimes distinctively closer to an orange; they're generally so much sweeter that some people may add their juices directly to salads and desserts! In fact, you can even eat a Meyer Lemon as is, peeled and consumed just like a sweet juicy orange! One disadvantage this curious fruit has is that while regular lemons are generally available year-round, Meyer Lemons are generally seasonal and usually only available around December through May.

## This Month's PEST - Asian Citrus Psyllid



The Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) is a small bug with an even more harmful bite! As the name suggests, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) originated from southern Asia regions but has spread globally to other citrus growing regions such as Florida, Texas, and our own Southern California! ACP damages citrus trees by targeting and feeding on freshly new leaf growth. They produce a toxin that deforms the leaves and prevents them from growing normally. Besides reducing the effectiveness of leaves they feed on, they are vectors to one of the most detrimental citrus diseases! Common names of this viral disease are Huanglongbing (translated to yellow dragon disease) and citrus greening disease. Affected citrus trees may have stunted growth, off-season flowering that fall off, and small, irregularly shaped fruits that have a thick peel and taste very bitter. Currently, there is no known cure for HLB, so the most important action that can be taken now is to prevent and control.

# TREE ADAPTATIONS

Understanding trees and their diseases isn't always as simple as 1 2 3. Trees, being living organisms, are constantly evolving, reacting and morphing based on their surroundings, the environment & temperature. Environmental factors affecting trees are climate, soils, topography, and biota. Each species of tree adapts to these factors in an integrated way - that is, by evolving specific subpopulations to the constraints of their particular environments.

Many tree species that survive in unfavorable habitats actually grow better in more favorable habitats if competition is eliminated. Such trees have a low threshold for competition but are very tolerant of extremes. Competition for the same environmental resources can affect the general health and output of fruit and foliage for most species. Aboveground competition centers on light, space and symbionts, while below ground the struggle is over water, space, nutrients and symbionts.

Providing an environment conducive to our trees in many cases centers around soil. Aside from light and air space, the soil directly affects a tree's health and longevity. Call Gruett Tree Company's ISA Certified Arborists to assess your trees and make recommendations if you notice your trees aren't putting out as much fruit or foliage as you're used to seeing. It may be something as simple as a nutrient deficiency.







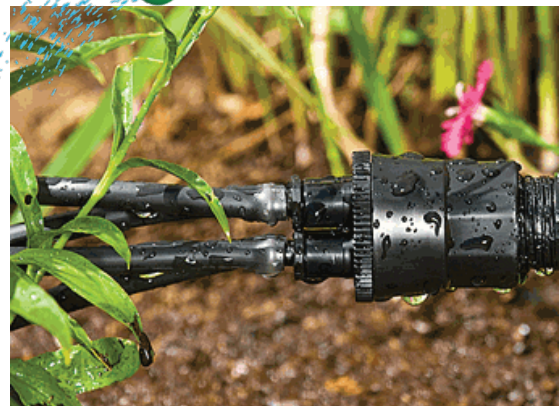
# IRRIGATION UPGRADES?



With the temperatures beginning to go up, so will the need for water for your trees and plants! Ensuring that your irrigation system is in good running order will help to keep your trees and plants from being stressed as the weather heats up. An upgrade, adjustment, or new install may be needed if your needs have increased? Or maybe some areas aren't putting out enough coverage? Maybe you'd like to be water wise and upgrade to a drip system? These are all good reasons to upgrade! "Smart" controllers are available which can be programmed with climate-based or soil moisture sensors to automatically adjust a base schedule and modify irrigation output! Technology is always advancing!

In terms of upgrading, there are many options that can be done, and this can be determined based on needs and observations. Upgrading your

irrigation doesn't have to be a full overhaul, it can be something as simple as replacing your current, old sprinkler heads, or portions of your line that may have a leak. As a general rule of thumb, most irrigation systems five years or older should be evaluated.



Thinking about upgrading your irrigation system? Or even curious on how its handling itself? Give us a call for a consultation with our irrigation experts to help you make this important decision. While the season is cool and trees are dormant, irrigation upgrades at this time would be most beneficial without compromising the health of your plants.



**HAVING THESE PROBLEMS? - CALL GRUETT TODAY!**



**\$25 OFF**

**ANY GRUETT  
TREE SERVICE OVER \$350**

expires 03/15/20

not to be combined with any other offer

**\$55 OFF**

**TREE SERVICE OVER \$610  
AND DOUBLE YOUR COUPON  
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER \$1,100**

expires 03/15/20

not to be combined with any other offer

**\*AERATION SPECIAL\***

**GET A TWO HOUR  
AERATION FOR ONLY \$350**

GOOD THRU 03/15/20 not to be combined with any other offer

\*All coupons are valid one time only. One coupon per customer per job. Not to be combined with any other offer. Coupons discounts are subject to change at any time.

**TOLL FREE 1(877) 447-8388**

**E-MAIL US @ INFO@GRUETT.COM**