

Gruettville Gazette

all the news that's fit to prune

That cow that thinks she produces almond milk?
She must be nuts....



**CALL A CERTIFIED
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FIRE SAFE PRACTICES

With the fire season approaching later this year, it is beneficial to begin the conversation about fire safe practices regarding your trees and landscaping. By properly maintaining both, you can greatly improve the fire safety of your property or site. Here are some tips to help you prepare:

**STAY
SAFE**

For Landscapes

- Remove dead plants, grasses, and weeds that act as “fuel”
- Make sure there is an adequate amount of spacing between all trees and plants. Not only will this keep the fire from spreading but will ensure the roots of your trees and plants are not competing with each other for essential water and nutrients.

For Trees

- Keep an eye out for and remove dead or hazardous trees that would be susceptible to fire. Characteristics to look for include excessive leaf loss, an abundance of bare branches, bark flaking off, and any rot or fungus growth. (Always consult an ISA Certified Arborist before removal - your tree may be able to be saved!)
- Keep your pruning up to date! Healthy trees stand up to fire better. All trees benefit from the effects of corrective pruning, but more importantly the removal of highly flammable deadwood.
- For taller trees, remove the lower limbs to ensure at least 6 feet between the ground and the lowest branches.
- Power lines on your property? Make sure your nearby trees are properly trimmed to provide an adequate and safe amount of space between them and the power line. This can also be applied to branches in contact with houses, large vehicles, etc. that could spread fire to structures.

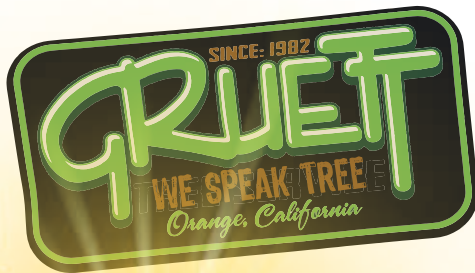


For more information regarding what you can do to prepare your property or site better against fires, or to schedule a bid for corrective tree trimming/removal, contact your favorite “Tree Geeks” at Gruett Tree Company for assistance.

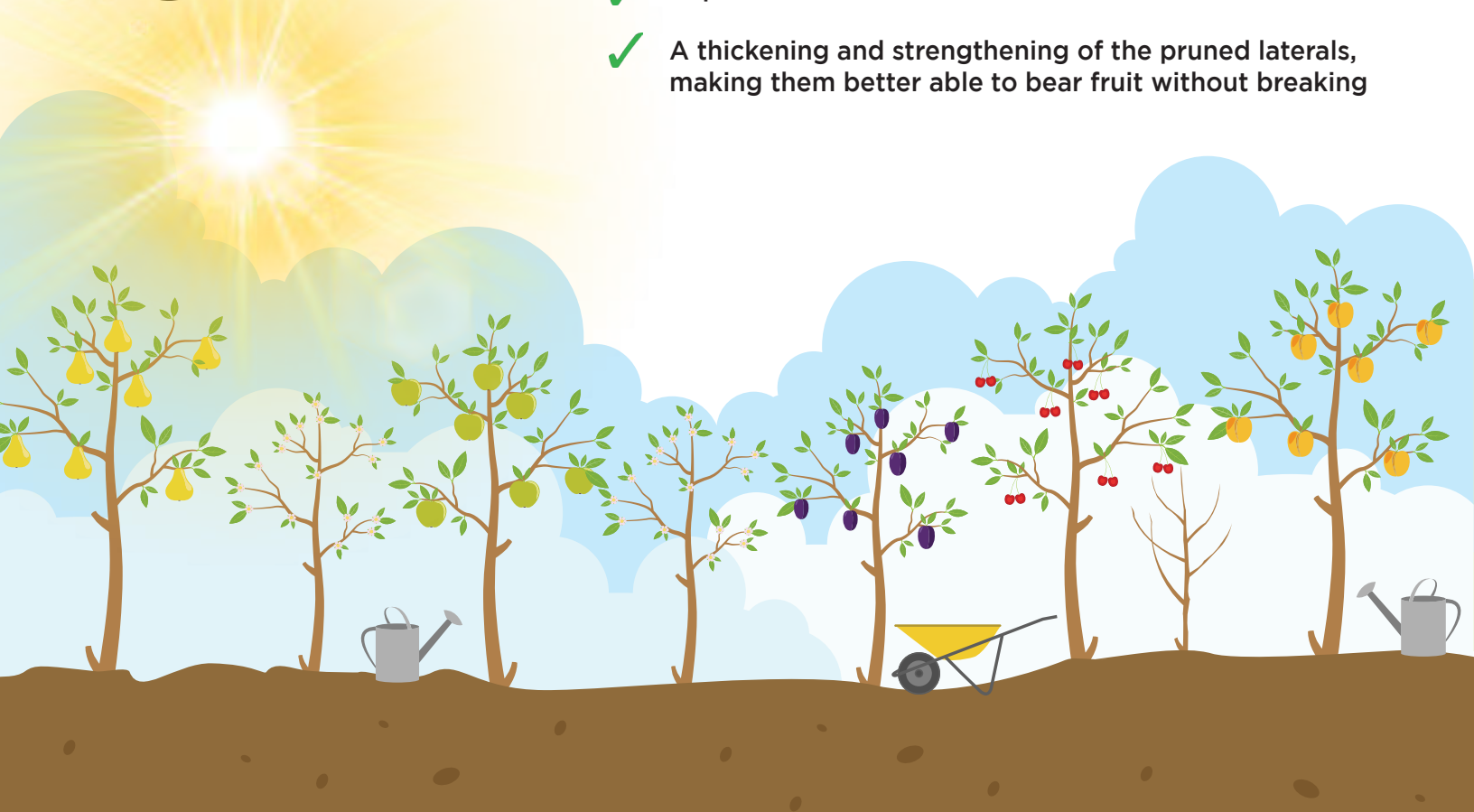
SUMMER FRUIT TREE PRUNING

Some trees shouldn't be trimmed in the summer, the heat can cause stress and even major decline depending on the species. There are, however, exceptions. Pome fruit trees for instance should always be pruned during the summer. Summer pruning of a pome fruit's (Apple or Pear) lateral branches – the shoots growing off the primary scaffold branches that emerge from the central trunk – induces rapid formation of the fruit buds that will become next year's fruit crop. These fruit buds are in fact perennial organs, bearing fruit for a number of years. Summer pruning induces fruit bud development on lateral branches and can actually hasten the time to fruit production on these laterals. Normally, a lateral branch will form and grow in Year 1. In years 2 and 3 it forms fruit buds, eventually fruiting in years 3- 4. With well-timed summer pruning, sometimes year 1 lateral shoots can form fruit buds and even flower and fruit, and although the fruit won't mature that late in the season, you have formed a perennial fruit-bearing organ that will be productive for a number of years. At the very least, 1-year laterals can be induced to form fruit buds that will bear by the following summer or the one after that.

Trimming during the winter is invigorating, in that it induces rapid extension growth in the following growing season. Stored carbohydrates and other resources stored in the woody branches are mobilized the following season and pruning during the winter does not diminish these stored resources. The harder you cut back a shoot in winter, the longer it grows in the summer. Pruning in the summer when the leaves are actively engaged in photosynthesis, removes a resource point and thus reduce energy for overall tree growth or regrowth. So, the dividends of summer pruning include:



- ✓ Tree height reduction and more sunlight in interior of the canopy, which promotes fruit growth and ripening
- ✓ Minimal regrowth of pruned branches (controlling overall size of the tree)
- ✓ Rapid induction of fruit buds
- ✓ A thickening and strengthening of the pruned laterals, making them better able to bear fruit without breaking



**TIME 2
TRIM YOUR
PINES!**



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Tree Care Specialist On Staff
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This Month's TREE - Crape Myrtle



It being summertime, surely you've seen these multi-trunked trees with large, beautiful blooms lately - Crape Myrtles! Crape Myrtles are some of the most aesthetically-pleasing flowering trees in Southern California with flower color ranging from shades of white, red, and purple. They are also highly revered for their bark which flakes off to reveal beautiful colored, mottled bark. Crape Myrtles are great for natural privacy solutions and are excellent adapters to a variety of soil environments.

This Month's PEST - Mealybugs



Notice small yellow and brown spotting on Avocado tree leaves? You may have had a new neighbor move in - the pesky Persea mite! These tiny bugs nestle themselves on the underside of avocado leaves in silvery protective webbing, their feeding habits leaving varied coloring of yellow and brown necrotic speckles throughout the vein-like lining. These pests pose a problem to the overall health of your tree by limiting the amount of healthy leaves that are capable of absorbing sunlight.

WATER INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUMMER

Many species native to our Southern Californian environment have adapted well to drought, a period of less than average rainfall; this enables them to be drought-resistant, or not in need of as much water as other trees and plants do.

For mature native trees, less water is more! Many species, like Coast Live and Southern Live oak trees, require only 1-2 deep waterings over the course of the summer months. They also prefer the soil around them to be completely dry before another watering may be needed.

Newly planted trees, like newly born babies, will need a lot more attention as they get thirsty much more often. It is recommended to water newly planted trees 2-4 times a week during the summer months.

As a rule of thumb:

- Water the area 1-2 feet away from the trunk of your tree.
- Irrigate your trees either in the evening or early morning.
- Five gallons per square yard of water a week (1 inch of water), don't drown your tree, she can't swim!
- Clear plants and shrubs away from the tree base so they don't have to compete for water
- Drip irrigation is best, if sprinklers are used ensure the water is not hitting the tree bark

Many species require different water requirements. Call your experts at Gruett Tree Company so we can help you meet their requirements.



PALM TREE DISEASES



Palm trees have always been a staple of Southern California, and recently an increasing popularity has put many palm varieties in high demand. Whether we like them or not palms are here to stay and their presence in the landscape can be quite formidable. While pathogens and fungal issues can be the cause of decline, more often than not it's not that complicated! Abiotic issues like nutrient deficiencies or site conditions cause decline rapidly as well. Mistakes while planting a palm, continued maintenance or treatment of palms in landscapes can often lead to decline and failure of the said palm tree. These issues are very common as there are many misconceptions of how palms should be cared for. Extremes of water, light, temperature or the chemical environment surrounding the roots of palms can cause Abiotic diseases. Notice palm trees in many shopping plazas; they are often planted too deep! We should always be able to visually see the root flare, this is the point where the trunk ends and the root zone begins, if you can not see this, then the grade level is too high. This soil change results in an anaerobic breakdown of the amendments and release of hydrogen cyanide and other gases cause death of palm roots and eventually death of the tree.

Incorrect pruning practices can also lead to palm death through depletion of carbohydrates in the stem of the palm. As more fronds are removed, the palm runs out of photosynthetic machinery to make its food, stored starch reserves are used up and the palm eventually dies. As a rule of thumb, only brown fronds should be removed. Lack of compartmentalization capabilities also means that if green fronds are removed, the cut location remains an open "sore" leaving the palm vulnerable to disease and pest attack.

Nutrient deficiencies like manganese, iron, magnesium and boron can cause frond dieback, stunted growth, browned and "frizzled" leaflets eventually causing palm failure. So if your palm tree looks dead, don't be disheartened, it may very well just be hungry and throwing a fit to get your attention! Palm trees need to be fed often, they are essentially a grass, and like your front lawn, need lots of food! Call your palm experts at Gruett Tree Company to help properly diagnose your palm trees, let's get them healthy again, together!



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