

Gruettville Gazette

all the news that's fit to prune

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



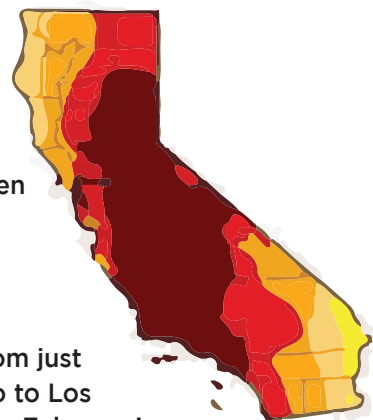
**CALL A CERTIFIED
TREE WHISPERER**

(877) 447-8388

DROUGHT ON THE HORIZON?

On Thursday February 13, 2020, nearly 10% of the state of California's land area was classified as being in drought conditions, according to federal scientists, as the state has seen little rain in the recent weeks. This is the first time since last year that it's been classified as such. The areas classified as being in moderate drought Thursday was in the Central Valley, covering roughly 10 million acres from Tuolumne County to Kern County.

U.S. Drought Monitor classified nearly half the state (46%) as being "abnormally dry", up from just 3% a month ago. These areas include large portions of coastal regions from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles county. Rain totals for January was half of the norm, and February we've gone 0-for-February!



So what does this mean for us here in Orange County? Well, if conditions like this continue we can expect the strict water regulations again, which can translate into drought stress for our trees. You may want to look into switching to drip irrigation systems, these provide a deep watering without excess water being wasted and evaporating. Being sure to re-mineralize your plants and trees prior to drought setting in can help keep the trees healthy when water is low. Call Gruett's ISA Certified Arborists today to find out how you can prepare your plants and trees for drought stresses.



DON'T THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND

These unseasonable Santa Ana winds can wreak havoc on our trees, and sometimes make them a hazard. We can prevent storm damage and hazards by proper care of our trees. The best defense against strong winds is strong roots! Be sure to protect the roots within the canopy of your trees when doing construction to make sure they are not crushed or cut. An arborist can also advise the proper watering, nutrients, and pruning to keep your tree's roots strong so it doesn't feel wobbly in the wind.

After the Santa Ana's, check your trees for broken branches, called "widow makers", these need immediate attention! Also, look for leaning and heaving or lifted roots to see if the tree may have lost its footing. You may see bare spots after a storm where leaves have blown right off. The tree can usually grow back these leaves if the branch is still alive. Call Gruett's ISA Certified Arborist today to assess tree hazards before the next crazy windstorm hits!



CLAY BAY BAY!

Clay soils are great for pottery, but not for gardening! Here in Southern California we have predominately heavy clay soil. This makes it hard to dig, and even harder for roots and water to penetrate. How can you tell if you have clay soil on your property?

- Does water pool and run off instead of soaking into your yard? Because of clay's densely packed particles, and electromagnetic charge, water absorbs slowly but, it is also held longer than sandy soils.
- Check its color and stickiness. Clay soils are usually red, orange, or tan. If it's sticky when wet and easily balls up in your hand you probably have a high percentage of clay.
- Jar test: Add a scoop of soil from 8-10" down to a jar and fill it with water with some air space, and shake, shake, shake! When it settles you will see layers, sand on bottom, silt in the middle, and clay on top.

How to work with clay soil. Use plants suited to the area like some California natives, or have Gruett's ISA Certified Arborists and TCIA Certified Plant Healthcare Practitioners pneumatically restructure your clay soil. Call us today to see how we can help!

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 - Pacific Dogwood



Like many of us in this beautiful state, Pacific Dogwood is native to California but stretches as far west as Idaho and as far north as British Columbia. From its name, you would probably assume it would be found in coastal areas, however in California these trees are more of a high-altitude, mountain dwelling species. They can be most easily identified by their smooth dark bark and beautiful greenish-white flowers. It played an important role in the lives of indigenous people for its many uses including fashioning the wood into tools, weapons, and medicine for upset stomachs.

This Month's PEST - Mealybugs



in Southern California we love our tropics! If you have a tropical plant or tree in your home you've probably seen the white, fuzzy mealybug cotton on the new growth. These pests not only look nasty, but they are quick to suck the juices out of new leaves and reproduce quickly. The waxy cottony substance over them is a defense against predators. If you see some moving, that's not a mealybug! It's the Mealybug Destroyer in its hungry larval stage. They disguise themselves as a mealybug and infiltrate the colony. A real "wolf in sheep's clothing." If you see these guys crawling up a tree, let nature take its course. Otherwise, the best control is to wash them off the plant or use a diluted alcohol to kill and clean them from prized indoor plants.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT YOUR ARBORIST

Signs of tree failure? If your tree exhibits any of these warning signs, it's time to call your arborist:



Your tree is leaning. Many trees don't grow completely straight, but a tree that leans suddenly indicates a problem.

The canopy looks bald, unbalanced or has dead or hanging branches.

Spots on the foliage.

The trunk has cavities, cracks or decay. Large pockets of decay can mean root rot and structural problems.

Sap staining the trunk or branches of the tree.

There are multiple trunks. Trees with multiple trunks are prone to breaking if one or more trunk is weakly attached.

The soil at the base of the tree is lifting, cracking or heaving. This could mean it's losing footing.

Fungi (mushrooms) are growing at the base of the tree. This is a sign of root decay.



DEAD OR DORMANT?

Sometimes it may be difficult to be able to tell whether your tree is dying, dead, or just dormant. Dormancy, or the state of being alive while not actively growing, occurs with deciduous trees – or trees that lose their leaves annually. Some examples include trees such as oak, box elders, and ash. Unsure if your tree is dead or just “sleeping”? Here are some physical properties to look for to help you find out:

DECIDUOUS

- Old bark renews and repairs itself, no smooth bark should be visible
- Twigs should be flexible and bend easily with green, moist material underneath
- Taking your fingernail or knife, scratch a small area of the bark. Layer underneath outer bark should be green and moist

DEAD OR DYING

- Bark does not renew nor repair itself, tends to peel and fall off revealing inner smooth wood
- Twigs snap instead of bend and are dry, brittle, and brown on the inside
- Layer underneath outer bark is dry, brown, and brittle

Regardless of being dead or dormant, it is important to prune your trees for their health or for the safety of yourself and others. Dead branches can be a serious safety issue that can lead to injury or even death. By removing these limbs from your tree, it resolves the hazard and allows the tree to send much-needed resources to other branches. If the branch is infected, it can also stop the infection from spreading to the rest of the tree. Pruning can help to improve the overall shape of a tree and allow for more sunlight and air to reach its leaves promoting growth.

HAVING THESE PROBLEMS? - CALL GRUETT TODAY!



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