

TOPPING TREES

Topping occurs when the vertical stem (leader) and upper primary limbs (scaffold branches) on mature trees are cut back to stubs at a uniform height. Topping is also referred to as heading, stubbing or dehorning.



Why Does Topping Damage Trees?

- Topping reduces a tree's food-making capacity.
- Topping stimulates undesirable water-spout growth.
- Topping creates a hazard.
- Topping causes injury to the bark.
- Topping disfigures trees.



SIDEWALK DAMAGE

It is a property owner's responsibility to maintain the public sidewalk bordering his or her property in a safe condition. This includes repairing any damage caused by street trees. For information regarding street trees, contact the City of Gahanna Arborist at 614-342-4261.

MULCHING TIPS

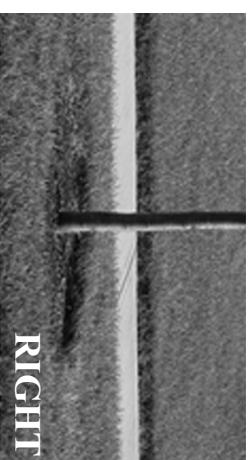
Wonder why you spend so much money mulching your plants? Listed below are some reasons why mulching is essential for plants, trees and shrubs.

Mulching

- Helps maintain moisture.
- Impedes weed growth.
- Controls soil erosion.
- Helps protect trees from mower and weed eater damage.
- Reduces soil compaction.
- Improves soil fertility.
- Moderates soil temperature.
- LOOKS GOOD!

For trees and shrubs, spread mulch evenly to a two-to-three inch depth. Never pile mulch around the trunk of a tree, always pull it back from the stem of the plants.

Reminder: Organic mulch will decompose after some time and will need to be replenished. Do not let the mulch get more than four inches deep.



YARD WASTE

Residents are urged to "Just Mow It" and leave grass clippings on their lawn. (Mulched clippings act as a natural fertilizer for lawns.) Yard waste is collected year-round on Wednesdays. It includes grass, leaves, small branches and weeds. The material will be taken to a SWACO contracted composting site.

- Yard waste must be in paper bags, not to exceed fifty pounds.



Limbs, branches, tree and shrub trimmings will be collected if they are tied with light twine in bundles no more than two feet by five feet. Tree trunks must be less than eight inches in diameter. Bundles must weigh less than fifty pounds.

- Sod, dirt and rocks are not yard waste. Follow the trash guidelines for disposal.
- Lumber, landscape timbers and railroad ties are construction debris. Follow trash guidelines for disposal.
- Holiday trees should be collected whole. Please remove all decorations, plastic bags and tree stands.

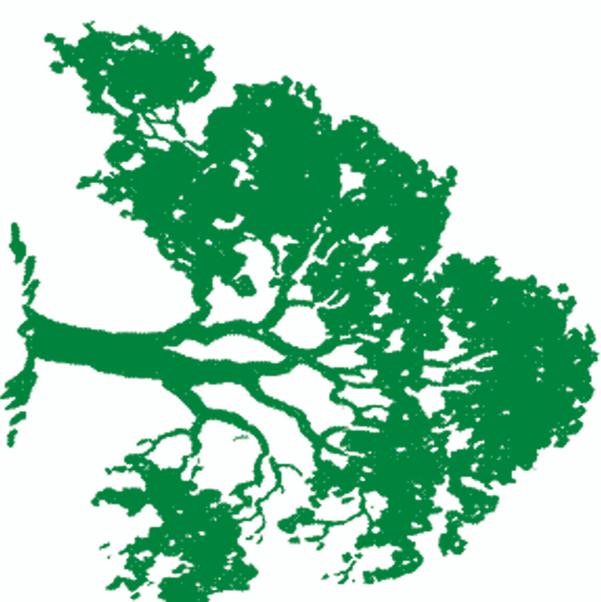


CITY OF GAHANNA

Department Phone: 614-342-4260
City Arborist Phone: 614-342-4261
City Arborist Fax: 614-342-4361
E-mail: parksandrec@gahanna.gov



CITY OF GAHANNA



STREET TREE CARE

A Property Owner's Guide
to Pruning, Mulching and
Yard Waste Disposal

City of Gahanna
Department of Parks and Recreation

GAHANNA STREET TREE GUIDELINES

Many Gahanna residents ask if they are allowed to help maintain and prune the street trees for their homes. In fact, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to do this.

Because residents frequently ask for guidance on how to properly perform this task, we have prepared this informative guide. The City's Parks Department and the City Arborist are always available for guidance and can be reached by calling or e-mailing us. Thank you for helping keep our city street trees looking great!

What Are Street Trees?

Street trees are the trees located on the lawn or right-of-way area also known as an easement (usually the area between the street and the sidewalk of your lawn). Right-of-way is the area dedicated to the City (usually when a home is built) and the area where utility lines are typically placed. Because the City must have access to these utilities, the City retains ownership of right-of-way areas, including the trees. Like sidewalks, curbs and driveways, street trees are the maintenance responsibility of the homeowner.

The Importance of Street Trees

Trees are a vital asset to any urban environment. Trees add beauty, are a source of oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, absorb noise and usually increase property values. Gahanna residents enjoy a colorful variety of street trees and their planting is now required for all new residential and most commercial developments. Gahanna has been designated a Tree City USA for more than ten consecutive years, and believes the street tree program is a contributing factor in this recognition.

PRUNING PRINCIPLES

Proper Pruning Cuts

In order to make a proper pruning cut, first locate the branch collar. The branch collar is an extension of the main stem of the tree where the branch joins the main trunk. Cutting into the branch collar allows decay to expand into the tree's main trunk.



- Make cuts on the outside of branch collar.
- Do not leave branch stub, living or dead.
- Use sharp, clean pruning tools.
- Wear safety glasses.
- Do not use pruning paint.
- Never climb a tree to prune.
- Do not prune limbs near power lines.

Never remove more than one-third of the live crown in a single pruning.

PRUNING TIPS

Proper tree pruning should be done on a regular basis to ensure tree health, control growth and enhance a tree's overall appearance.

Trees should be pruned for the first time two-to-five years after planting and then every five-to-seven years thereafter. Extensive pruning is best done from winter to early spring (generally before new growth starts). Light pruning to remove or cut back branches, however, can and should be done any time of year.

Sometimes, trees require immediate pruning after storms, accidents and/or disease. After a limb falls, the remaining stub needs corrective pruning. Removing broken stubs by making clean cuts will ensure the tree's health and recovery.

Street Tree Guidelines

To help maintain our City trees and their many benefits, Gahanna City Code reads:

- Street tree limbs must be at least eight feet above the sidewalk.
- Street tree limbs must be at least fifteen feet above the street.
- The tree location should be at least twenty feet from street intersections and ten feet from fire hydrants and utility poles. Cul-de-sac street trees will be located at the appropriate discretion of the City Landscape Board.
- A street tree shall be planted one-half the distance between the curb and sidewalk.
- The maximum spacing for large trees shall be fifty feet for medium trees and thirty-to-forty feet for small trees.

For detailed information, copies of Gahanna's

Landscape Ordinance are available at the

Parks & Recreation Department

City Hall, 200 S. Hamilton Rd

Gahanna, OH 43230.

PRUNING HAZARDS

Prune out weak or narrow-angled tree branches that overhang home, sidewalk or other areas where falling limbs could injure people or property.

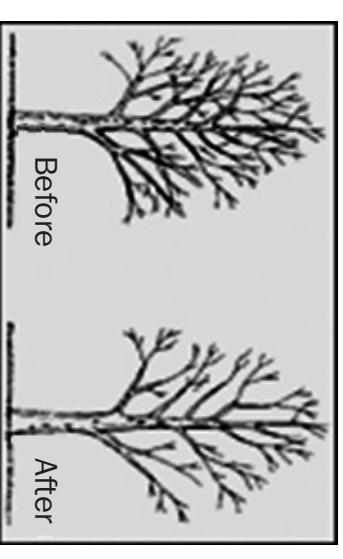
It's the responsibility of the homeowner to eliminate branches that interfere with street light signals and overhead wires. **Remember, DO NOT attempt to prune trees near electrical and utility wires yourself. Contact utility companies or Gahanna's maintenance workers to handle it.**

American Electric Power: 1-800-277-2177

Ohio Utilities Protection Service: 1-800-362-2764

Tree Maintenance

Proper tree maintenance is an ongoing process and should be considered part of a homeowner's overall yard care. Maintenance includes pruning, watering, and removing fallen leaves, branches and other debris. The City will remove leaves, branches and tree debris free of charge if it is properly cut, bundled and/or bagged and set out on the curb on the designated day of the week. Please refer to trash pickup guidelines for information on this service.



A properly pruned tree should look like nothing drastic has been done to it. Good pruning should not be determined by how many branches are on the ground, but rather by what remains on the tree.