



TREE NEWS

JULY 2020

YOU CAN USE

PRUNING WITH A PURPOSE



With summer upon us, you have likely noticed that many of our early spring-flowering trees have since lost their colorful blooms in order to make way for a canopy full of green leaves. Each leaf on a tree acts as a mini production factory, working tirelessly each day to turn light energy (i.e., sunlight) into chemical energy (i.e., carbohydrates). These newly synthesized compounds will ultimately be used for the tree's own

growth, maintenance, repair, and reproduction.

Early summer can be a great time for us to prune these early spring-flowering trees. For those species that have already flowered (such as: *Cornus* spp., *Prunus* spp., *Malus* spp., *Cercis* spp., *Crataegus* spp., *Amelanchier* spp., *Magnolia* spp., *Acer* spp., and *Halesia* spp. to name a few), pruning now can encourage new growth and helps to keep us from reducing those magnificent floral displays. Also, by July, dead limbs throughout a tree's canopy can more easily be identified, and trees that are exhibiting stress will certainly stand out against a backdrop of other nearby healthy trees.

Pruning with a purpose allows us to quickly identify and remove these dead limbs, crossing branches that rub against one another, and any low-hanging limbs that could potentially cause problems later in life. These basic housekeeping pruning cuts are also a great way to help us better develop overall tree structure. This, in turn, leads to healthier, more resilient, and longer-lived trees!



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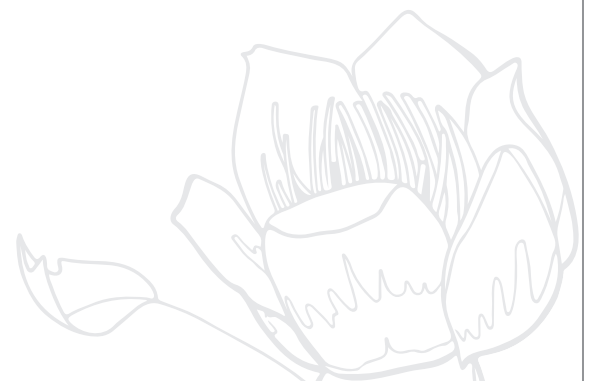
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