

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021 | Issue No. 8 | January 14th, 2021

WELCOME BACK

2020 was a year we will never forget. Everything we've endured will be the past, the new will eventually arrive.

We are happy to announce Arbutus Tree Service has seen staff additions and Dylan has been promoted to foreman. Congratulations! In September, we hired Maxime Raiche as a climber. In October, we hired apprentice arborist/office Joey Zhang, a recent grad from UBC Urban Forestry and climber Samuel Harris. Our expanded crews were seen around many households on the west side these past few months, delivering high quality tree and plant preservation services.

Starting from this issue, we introduce a new section in our newsletter, a "Get to Know Us" for you to meet our crew and know more about us.



Welcome back to the 8th edition of our seasonal newsletter. At Arbutus Tree, our mission is to preserve trees for the benefit of our community, wildlife, and our environment. We pride ourselves on high quality tree care and friendly service. We are a team of qualified arborists who are climbers, groundsman, registered consultants, tree risk assessors, and court appointed expert witness.

WINTER SPRAY FOR FRUIT TREES

In the last century, colonizers reshaped the landscape of the Pacific Northwest with orchards. Fruit trees past their maturity can be commonly seen in the region. Some common fruit trees seen in Vancouver today include: *Malus* spp. (apple), *Pyrus* spp. (pear), *Prunus* spp. (cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, plum). Many of these old fruit trees suffer from pest attacks.

We apply dormant oil and lime sulphur to fruit trees to prevent attack and infection from insects and diseases. Dormant oil is a horticultural oil (mineral oil) that is a low impact pesticide and is applied when a plant is dormant. The oil suffocates insects by blocking the spiracles through which insects breathe. The oil is sprayed when the buds are dormant, hence the name dormant oil. Excess oil evaporates and dissipates quickly and is considered safe to use around humans and pets. Lime sulphur is a fungicide used on trees and shrubs. It is a mixture of Calcium hydroxide and Sulphur. It treats fungal disease spores and is usually mixed with a horticultural oil.



Contents

Winter Spray for Fruit Trees.....	1
Welcome Back.....	1
Get to Know Us.....	2
Upcoming Events.....	2
All About the Apple.....	3
Is My Tree Mine?.....	4
Treasured Trees.....	5
Christmas Tree Chipping.....	5
Did You Know?.....	5
Client's Corner.....	5
Tree VS. Building.....	6

Upcoming Events

Arbutus Tree Service:
Winter spraying - Jan, Feb, Mar

Arbutus Tree Service:
Fruit tree pruning - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr

Our website tree talks:
"Repurpose your Christmas Tree" - Jan 20
"Naomi's tree inspired a book and numerous grafts" - Feb 9
"Prune your trees and bushes in the right place" - Mar 3
"How much is your tree worth" - Mar 23

ISA-PNW: COVID-19 &
Arboriculture - February 12th, 2021

Get to Know Us



Samuel Harris
Arborist Climber

Maxime Raiche
Arborist Climber

Birthplace: Kingston upon Thames, United Kingdom

Years in the Industry: 2

Favorite Tree: Deodar cedar, for the smell. (but painful to climb)

Hobbies: Archery, fishing, community building

Tips for the public: Soil health will be a currency one day

Anything else you want in your bio: I lived all over the world, speak 3 languages, and looking for a hunting mentor!

Birthplace: Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada

Years in the Industry: 5

Favorite Tree: maple trees, they produce maple syrup!

Hobbies: photography, hiking

Tips for the public: 2 + 2 = 4 ... ☺

Anything else you want in your bio: Ummm... No ☹

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @arbutustreeservice to receive the latest tips and news from our tree experts.

Visit our website at arbutustree.ca for more information.

tel 604 | 737 | 2643

All About the Apple

Scientific Name: *Malus domestica*

Common Name: Apple

Family: *Rosaceae*

Type: Tree – Deciduous

Origin: central Asia

Leaf Arrangement and Description: oval leaves, 3-10cm long, finely toothed, bottom of leaf a little hairy, alternate leaf pattern, simple leaf, serrated margin, green.

Fall Color: green

Mature Height: 4-12m

Mature Spread: 4-8m

Form: single trunk with wide canopy

Flowers: 5 petals, can be white, pink, or red. Flowers in spring.

Fruit/cones: more than 7500 kinds of apples worldwide, edible, sphere shaped

Water Use: moist

Soil Requirements: well-drained

Solar exposure: full sun to partial shade

USDA Zone: 3-8

Limitations: prone to many pests and diseases, need to be cross-pollinated, attracts wildlife

Suitable Use: edible fruit, medicinal uses, wood is hard and compact, excellent for fuel

Notes: seeds contain hydrogen cyanide which is a toxin, can be beneficial but overdose can lead to respiratory failure and death



tel 604 | 737 | 2643

Is My Tree Mine?

Ownership of Trees and Some Relevant Rules

Trees are a vital part of the Vancouver landscape. In our city, trees are generally separated into two categories, trees on public land and trees on private property. The city and park board arborists take care of all trees on public land, performing pruning, pest and disease prevention and management. On private property, trees are the property of the homeowner, who must abide by the rules and regulations of the City of Vancouver Tree Bylaw. Specifically, the Protection of Trees Bylaw 9958 affects all private property owners wanting to remove a tree.

Ownership of trees can be described as follows:

- **Covenant trees** – number of trees that are supposed to be retained on a property per a signed agreement between the municipality and landowner
- **Straddling trees** – trees that are on the property line, shared between neighbors
- **Off-site trees** – trees on neighboring sites
- **City trees** – trees on city property, which usually extend 6m from the center of the road

Some Rules of the Game include:

- “DBH” means the diameter of a tree at breast height, measured from base of the tree to a height of 140 cm above natural grade of the ground. For multi-stemmed trees, the DBH is equal to the cumulative total of the DBH of each stem.
- “Permit Tree” means a tree that is 20 cm DBH or greater and any size tree in a Conservation Area or on City owned property.
- “Critical Root Zone” means the area of land surrounding the trunk of a tree contained within a circle of radius equal to the DBH of the tree multiplied by 18; or equal to the “dripline” of the tree, whichever is greater.

It is the owner’s responsibility to preserve and maintain trees on their property. Any intentional harm to trees, even on private property, could be penalized. In 2018, the owner of a Georgetown mansion was fined more than \$53,000 for “excessive pruning” of two of his own trees by the Washington, D.C. Department of Transportation, even when the pruning was done to preserve a historic building.

Straddling trees are the most problematic to deal with in private tree cases. Sometimes it is not as simple as dividing up responsibility based on where the property line is. The point at which tree is measured affects ownership. Some common terms used in this type of cases are negligence, care, and nuisance. It is important to consult professionals and obtain written reports when dealing with potential legal matters.

At the end of the day, a harmonious neighbor relationship benefits both sides. It is advised that you always inform your neighbour of any potential major tree work, even if the tree is well on your side of the property line. Pruning or removing trees will always affect the visual landscape to some degree.



Christmas Tree Chipping

On January 3, 2021, Arbutus Tree Service participated in the annual Christmas tree chipping fundraiser event. All proceeds go towards creating a Mobile Makers Space in Mount Pleasant Elementary. The Mobile Makers Space is a collaborative space for making, learning, exploring, and sharing to support STEM activities. This year, we chipped 292 trees, and raised a record breaking \$3325.55.



Treasured Trees

At the west edge of UBC stand one of the two remaining old-growth forests immediately adjacent to Vancouver. In this forest stand a 400-year-old Douglas-fir and champion grand fir. The Douglas-fir, standing at 46m tall, is nicknamed the “CBC fork tree”. The champion grand fir is 64.5 m in height and is the third tallest grand fir recorded in BC. The scraggly leaders on the “Totem Giant” are due to an attack of balsam woolly adelgid, small wingless insects that infest and kill firs. Both treasured trees can be found on the unmaintained and rough trail along Wreck Beach. Note that wreck beach is clothing optional. More info about the trees here can be found at vancouverbigtrees.com

Did You Know?

On a residential lot in Vancouver, trees have to be planted at least 1m away from any side boundary and accessory building.

Client's Corner

If you wish to submit an article to be published on our newsletter, please call Norm at (604)737-2643 or email info@arbutustree.ca

tel 604 | 737 | 2643



Trees vs Buildings

It's very common that we see issues with trees against buildings. Whether it's roots uplifting walkways, branches hanging over roofs, or leaves clogging gutters, conflicts may arise if a tree is planted too close to infrastructure.

A tree, like a person, needs its space. The underground root system of a mature tree can be three times bigger than its canopy above ground. Often due to development, trees are forced to give way for infrastructure, losing a branch, a stem, or even removed. As a tree service company prioritizing tree preservation, it warms our hearts when we see the reverse - infrastructure being compromised for a tree. A few months ago, we came across a Japanese sawara cypress that had been planted right next to a house. The tree stands right outside the window and one of its stems came in contact with the gutter, eventually crushing it. The homeowner decided to replace and box off ends of gutters to accommodate for tree growth. A small 6" section was cut out of the overhanging roof to accommodate future expansion of the tree.

Trees can provide many ecosystem services. Some of the notable ones include shading our houses in the summer from the heat, preventing soil erosion by "grabbing tight" onto the soil, and of course, produce oxygen by photosynthesis.

tel 604 | 737 | 2643

101 - 2161 W. 12th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6K 4S7 www.arbutustree.ca