



Did you know...? Ninety percent of Ontario's urban forests are comprised of trees on private residential and commercial properties.



Commonly Asked Questions

Why is mulching so beneficial to tree health? Are there any negative effects of mulching?

Mulching is the simple process of adding a layer of loose organic material around the base of your trees. The organic material used as mulch is typically chipped bark, compost or wood chips. Using such organic material emulates what would be found beneath trees in their natural forest environment.

The benefits of mulching are many. When placed around the base of trees, mulch improves growth and survival by preventing other plants from germinating or growing. It also conserves soil moisture, is a source of nutrients, regulates soil temperatures, improves soil structure and improves the appearance of the overall landscape.

In urban landscapes, mulch applied around trees has the added benefit of reducing damage caused by lawn mowers and string trimmers.

A mulch layer of 2 – 4 inches in thickness is adequate; any deeper than this can do more harm than good. Some of the negative effects of mulching too deeply can be a delay in growth as soil will warm too slowly in

the spring and increase the incidence of disease, especially Phytophthora and Armillaria. Importantly, and regardless of the material used, mulch should be composted for one full year in order to ensure any diseases are killed.

Other possible negative effects of mulch are nitrogen deficiencies that may develop if non-composted mulch with a high carbon to nitrogen ratio is applied, higher incidence of rodent damage to trunks and root collars, a reduction in surface water evaporation (which may not be desirable in poorly drained, fine-textured soils) and temperature extremes above a layer of mulch which can lead to problems for temperature-sensitive tree species.

Overall, when done properly, mulching has far more positive than negative effects on tree health. Composting and keeping in mind that it is always more beneficial to make a ring of mulch *wider*, not higher, will ensure all of the benefits of mulching are realized.

What is Apple Scab and why has it been so prevalent the last few seasons?

Apple Scab (*Venturia inaequalis*) is a fungus that attacks the leaves, blos-

soms and fruit of its hosts. Host species are mainly apple and crab apple, and occasionally hawthorn, mountain-ash and pear trees.

The incidence of Apple Scab, like many diseases, is cyclical. Springs with high humidity levels followed by moderate temperatures create conditions favourable to the spread of this disease. Apple Scab is not as severe in very dry years as in wet years.

The identifying features of infections are the development of circular, brownish to grey spots on leaves, which change to olive green or almost black as the fungus develops. Early leaf drop and holes in the leaves where dead material has fallen out are also symptoms of infections. Although continued heavy defoliation can sometimes be fatal, twig dieback is more common.

Disease control can be achieved through raking and destroying the leaves in late fall and applications of organic oil in the early spring. Both measures are aimed at reducing overwintering spores of the disease.

Chemical fungicides are also effective in the control of Apple Scab. However, in certain areas, the fungus has developed resistance to fungicides and, given the probable future ban on chemical spraying in Ottawa, it is best to seek out organic alternatives.

TREEVIA

In recent years, an important drug called Taxol has been derived from the Yew tree. What disease is this drug used to treat?

Taxol is used to treat cancer.



Integrated Forestry Services Inc.

is a full-service forestry firm offering tree care and forest management contracting. We are a fully Canadian-owned and operated company. On staff, we have a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F.), Certified Arborists and forestry technicians. We are the only tree care firm in Ottawa to offer the services of a Registered Professional Forester. We also guarantee that all of our working arborists have college-level training in either Arboriculture or in Forestry, or both.

Integrated Forestry Services Inc.: About Us

Just as with trees in forests, those in our urban forest provide many benefits including producing the oxygen we breathe and reducing carbon dioxide. However, because of their proximity to buildings, roads, sidewalks and the property of others, trees in urban areas need to be maintained to ensure that they don't cause conflicts, or worse, catastrophes. This is where **Integrated Forestry Services Inc.** can help. We provide a complete line of tree services including:

Tree Maintenance Programs

- ✓ Tree and shrub pruning
- ✓ Tree and stump removal
- ✓ Hedge trimming
- ✓ Tree planting
- ✓ Cabling, bracing and propping (including storm damage repairs)
- ✓ Deep-root fertilizing
- ✓ Installation of root barriers
- ✓ Root pruning
- ✓ Disease and insect control
- ✓ Systemic injections

Commercial & Residential Inventory Management

- ✓ Tree evaluation and hazard assessment
- ✓ Tree inventories and maintenance scheduling
- ✓ Tree preservation during construction
- ✓ Soil testing (for macro- and micro-nutrients, pH, texture, etc.)
- ✓ Disease and insect diagnostic services
- ✓ Tree appraisals
- ✓ Property assessments and consultations for individual trees and those in woodland settings

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We are members of:



New for 2003...

As an extension to the courses he teaches at Algonquin College, our President, Andrew Boyd, R.P.F., is offering tree maintenance seminars for property management companies, condominium boards and other interested commercial groups. Typically, courses are tai-

lored to the interests of the group, but generally they centre on tree identification and general tree lifecycle management.

In the past year, training courses have been delivered to all of Minto Management Ltd.'s Property Managers and several condominium boards,

both self-managed and those managed professionally.

Seminars can take the form of informal "walkarounds" to in-class lectures involving slide shows, overheads and Power-Point presentations.

Give us a call to find out more about our tree seminars.