

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 12, 2013  
**TO:** Trees and Views Committee  
**FROM:** Lilly Schinsing, Administrative Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** September/October Tree Tip of the Month

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Discussion:

At the July 8, 2013 TVC meeting draft language for the September Tree Tip was discussed. Prior to the August 12 meeting Committee Member Elliott submitted the draft October Tree Tip.

Recommendation:

1-Review the draft language for September Tree Tip, make appropriate modifications and approve the Tip for publication; and  
2-Review the draft language for the October Tree Tip and make appropriate modifications and direct staff to return at the September meeting with a final draft for the TVC review.

Attachments:

1-Draft September Tree Tip for approval  
2-Draft October Tree Tip for review

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***Draft- for review and approval***

**September Tree Tip of the Month (Rosenstein)**

Do you have California native oak trees on your property? Here are a few tips for keeping them healthy:

- Avoid frequent irrigation during the dry season (June-October)
- Do not disturb the soil in the root zone (the area beneath the tree's canopy).
- Make sure water drains away from the tree.
- Avoid compacting soil or laying pavement beneath the tree.
- Prune only during the dry season, and don't remove more than 20% of the foliage during any one year.

For more information, consult with a certified arborist.

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# **When to prune trees and shrubs? Wait till after the leaves fall.**

**Mild fall weather may have you thinking about pruning shrubs and trees. But it's better to wait till late winter, or, at least, after leaves have fallen.**

Fall isn't the right time to prune trees and shrubs. There are good reasons to wait till late winter or after the plants' leaves have fallen.

## **Reasons to procrastinate**

Why delay? Consider these points:

- In early fall, pruning wounds close more slowly and plants are more at risk for fungal diseases than at other times of year. For most trees, the best time for major pruning is late winter to early spring because wounds close faster.
- Pruning in late summer and early fall may also stimulate new growth, which has little time to harden before cold weather comes. The cold can harm this tender new growth, and the tree may need more pruning in spring to remove the damage.
- If you want to prune in fall, wait until trees drop their leaves and are dormant—usually October or November. After leaf drop, you can see the tree's structure and identify disease and insect problems more easily. Dormancy (especially late winter to early spring) is also a good time to prune evergreens because vigorous spring growth will hide pruning wounds.
- If you want to transplant a small tree the next spring, late fall (October/November) is a good time for root pruning. This pruning technique stimulates new root growth at the cuts and helps a newly transplanted tree get established in its new location.
- One exception to the no-fall-pruning advice is that you should remove dead, diseased, and damaged wood as soon as possible -- for tree health and your safety. Take proper safety precautions at all times. Hire a professional arborist to remove big limbs, high branches, and any other tree job that you're not prepared to do.