

TREE TIPS FROM THE TREE TOPS

Assessing Tree Risk

Signs of Health		Signs of Decay	
KNOW YOUR SITE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	There has been proper tree maintenance in the past.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There has been recent damage-causing construction. <i>(Ex: A new sidewalk near the tree)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	At first glance, the tree has vigor <i>(appears healthy.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There has been a storm/the tree has visible damage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The tree is not in a high- risk area. <i>(Ex: Near pedestrians or playgrounds)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The tree is in a high-risk area. <i>(Ex: Near pedestrians or playgrounds)</i>
ASSESS TREE HEALTH			
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a full, green canopy. <i>(Only possible to tell in the summer)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The tree does not have a full canopy. <i>(Only possible to tell in the summer)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no sprouting on tree roots.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is sprouting on tree roots.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no large vertical cracks in the stem.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are large vertical cracks in the stem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no large cavities or signs of animal activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are large cavities, or other signs of animal activity.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no Carpenter Ants present.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are Carpenter Ants present.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no fungal growth along the stem or in the soil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is fungal growth along the stem and soil.
USE TOOLS TO ASSIST YOU			
<input type="checkbox"/>	When using a rubber mallet to sound the tree, the tree sounds solid.	<input type="checkbox"/>	When using a rubber mallet to sound the tree, the tree does not sound solid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	When using a Resistograph to measure tree density, the tree has correct density levels and does not show signs of decay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	When using a Resistograph to measure tree density, the tree has low density levels and shows signs of decay. <i>(In this case, use the Resistograph to map the decay)</i>

Deciding the Fate of the Tree

It is good practice to assess and maintain the health of trees in your town. When considering whether or not to cut down a tree, there are two main factors (aside from tree health) that impact this decision:

Is the tree in a high-risk area? If it is close to a high-traffic area, it may be cut down in an effort to be risk-averse.

What does the public think? Public opinion often decides the fate of the tree, whether or not the tree is in good health.

***If you need assistance, call your local tree professional**