SAVATREE®
We Care For What You Love

FALL/WINTER 2023-2024 savatree.com

TIMELY TIPS

IN THIS ISSUE

Harnessing Green Technology for a Greener Planet

In the pursuit of a more environmentally conscious future, homeowners, property managers, and landscape professionals are embracing green industry standards and harnessing the potential of emerging green technology innovations.

Paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future

From smart irrigation to mulching and composting, these innovative solutions offer benefits to both residential and commercial properties.

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TIPS FROM THE TOP

by Carmine Schiavone, CEO

Corporate Environmental Responsibility at SavATree

Amid nationwide conversation around corporate environmental responsibility, I wanted to share with our valued customers that at SavATree, sustainability has been core to our mission for decades and continues to be a focus in how we run our operation. This article will outline a few ways we employ sustainable strategies to benefit the communities we serve.

The heart of our mission is improving the health of trees and green spaces. Their value as ecological and aesthetic benefactors cannot be overstated. From better air and water quality to energy conservation, noise reduction, and urban heat mitigation, trees offer advantages for our health, and local wildlife, too!

Healthy trees increase property values by making green spaces more beautiful and sustainable. In fact, the Arbor Day Foundation states that a tree adds over $40,000 of community benefits in its

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Winter Storm Preparation for California Trees

As we brace ourselves for winter in California, it is crucial to ensure that our trees are well-prepared to withstand the challenges that come with the season.

Last year's excessive precipitation had a significant impact on our trees, leading to potential vulnerabilities. To protect our forests and ensure their safety during winter storms, we must take measures to fortify these natural wonders against the elements.

Understanding the Impact of Excessive Precipitation

California experienced significant rainfall last year, nurturing our trees with much-needed water after periods of drought. While this moisture helped our trees thrive during the growing season, it may have led to increased end weight – the accumulation of foliage, branches, and water weight at the outer edges of tree limbs.

The Winter Storm Challenge

Winter storms in California can be severe, subjecting trees to strong winds, heavy rainfall, and even snow. Trees with excessive end weight are vulnerable to damage during these events. Snow and ice can accumulate on overburdened branches, causing them to sag or break under the pressure. Furthermore, strong winds can exploit weak spots, leading to limb failure or uprooting.

To minimize risks associated with winter storms, it is essential to reduce end weight through pruning. Proper pruning techniques, when performed by certified arborists, can create a well-balanced canopy, redistributing weight evenly throughout the tree. By selectively removing deadwood, crossing branches, and crowded foliage, we can reduce the chances of branch failure and ensure better tree health.

Proper nutrition in the fall also helps nourish tree root systems without causing excessive top growth.

We offer ArborHealth®, a slow-release fertilizer, to provide micro and macro nutrients to correct nutritional deficiencies and increase tree growth and vigor.

SavATree's professional arborists possess the expertise to identify hazards and perform appropriate pruning techniques that prioritize the tree's long-term health. Their knowledge ensures that pruning is done correctly, promoting tree resilience while preserving the natural beauty of California landscapes.

Other winter storm preparation tips include:

- Mulching the base of trees to conserve soil moisture and regulate temperature
- In the case of a dry winter, adequate watering before late March will equip trees to endure dry spells
- Inspecting trees for signs of pests, diseases, or structural issues
- Implementing cabling and bracing support systems to reinforce weak branches and prevent snapping

Proactive care is critical to increase tree longevity. Contact a local SavATree arborist today.

TIPS FROM THE TOP

(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

lifetime by removing about 48 pounds of carbon annually and retaining up to 100 gallons of ground water otherwise lost to runoff.

SavATree recognizes trees' crucial role in cooling and shading amid global heatwaves. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, trees have the remarkable ability to lower urban temperatures by 10°F by shading homes and releasing vapor into the air through their leaves. The International Society of Arboriculture further notes that deciduous trees "cool homes in the summer and allow the winter sun to heat homes when they lose their leaves," reducing the need for heating and cooling systems by up to 25%.

In the effort to further reduce our carbon footprint, we've shifted to smaller truck engines for fuel-efficiency, cutting greenhouse gas emissions. We also offer eco-friendly plant health care programs that boost soil health and aid vital pollinators like bees and butterflies.

SavATree offers tree preservation solutions to municipalities such as mapping canopy change over time, which provides insights on how trees are succeeding in the landscape, health optimization, and tree planting strategies to support urban resilience.

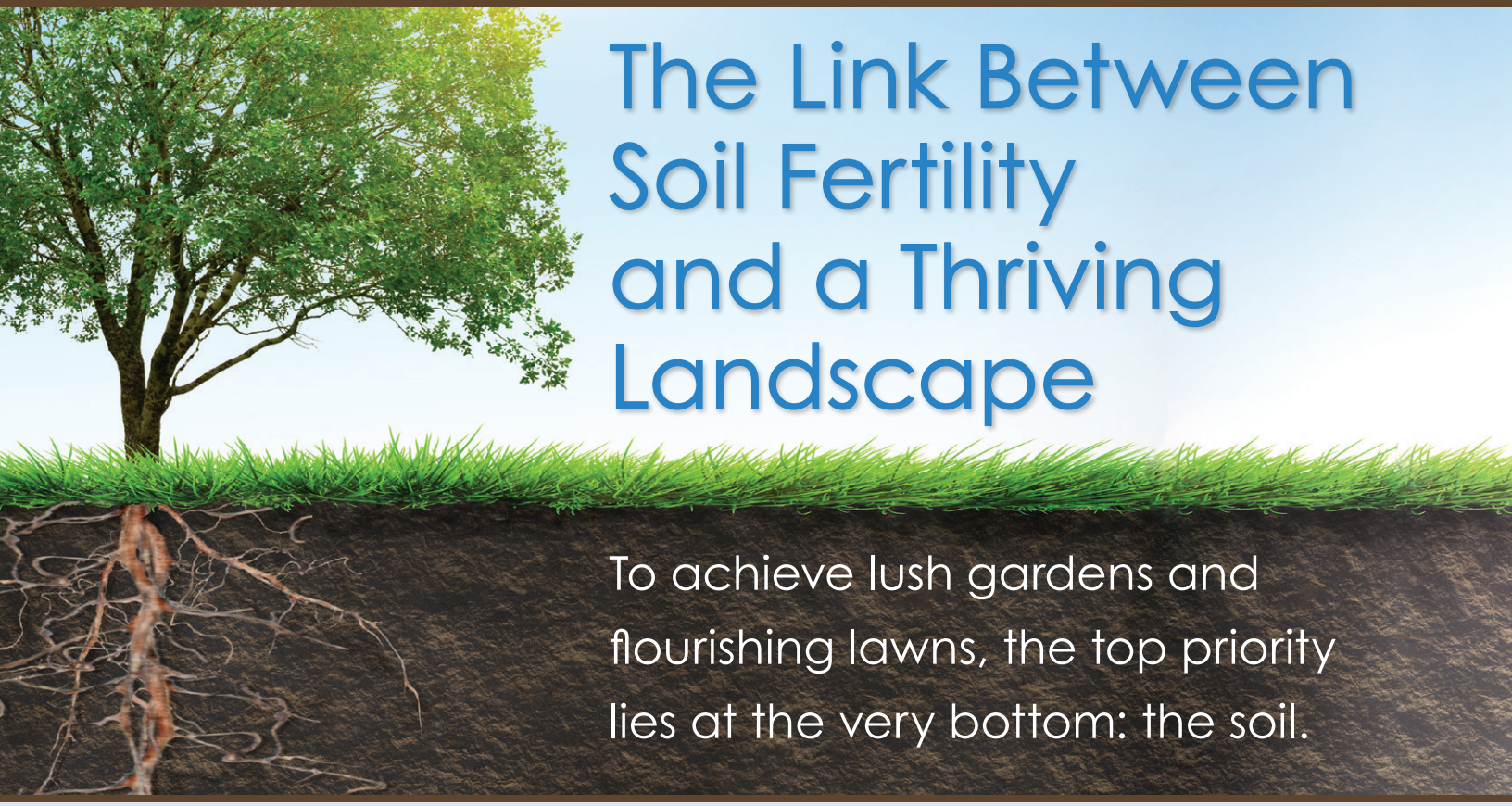
For example, SavATree completed an evaluation of trees along the High Line Canal, an astonishing 71-mile-long park that weaves through the Denver metropolitan area. We strove to attain balance between water infrastructure improvements and preservation of the green oasis that the High Line Canal offers the Denver community.

We are continuing our work with ever more communities around the country as we know that maximizing tree canopy substantially improves air quality, removes particulate matter, and makes our communities better places to live.

At SavATree, sustainability is more than just a goal – it is core to who we are as a company. We will continue to seek ways to propel our organization to the forefront of corporate environmental responsibility in the green industry, and I look forward to sharing updates on our progress.

Sincerely,

Carmine



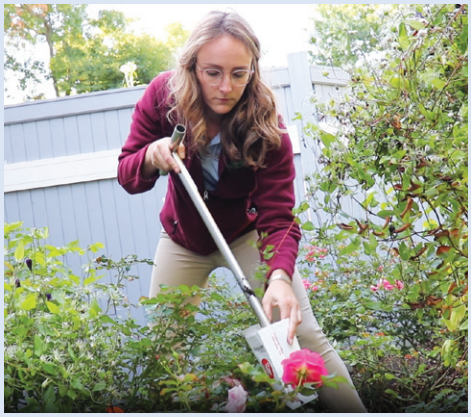
The Link Between Soil Fertility and a Thriving Landscape

To achieve lush gardens and flourishing lawns, the top priority lies at the very bottom: the soil.

Soil fertility serves as the backbone of any successful landscape. It is the soil's ability to provide essential nutrients that promote robust plant growth and overall health.

The first step to help plant life thrive is a soil test.

Through comprehensive soil tests, we assess four important components to identify imbalances in soil health and ascertain the most suitable treatment plan to encourage healthy soil biology and create a fertile environment for plant life.



1 Basics
We review the observations and measurements of nutrients, moisture, and pH level, all of which are equally important to the overall soil conditions. This analysis allows us to determine what we can influence, and what we can't.

2 Soil Structure
Soil mineral balance is critical to the overall soil function. By assessing and improving the soil structure, we can help plants build resilience and reach optimal health.

3 Soil Nutrition
Trees need access to an adequate level of nutrients in the soil during their growing stages. Think of the soil as a healthy buffet of nutrients and minerals. Analyzing the existing nutrition levels helps identify missing (or excess) components in the soil, which we can then develop a plan to fix.

4 Soil Biology
We look at the soil assessment holistically to identify how best to stimulate and balance it for each unique species.

Soil Treatment Options:

- **ArborHealth®** is a slow-release organic blend fertilizer that includes essential micro and macro nutrients.
- **ArborKelp®** is SavATree's organic sea kelp-based biostimulant that promotes healthy root growth, improves soil structure, and augments soil microbial activity to help facilitate nutrient uptake.
- **Organic Soil Enhancer** incorporates carbon-rich liquid organic matter designed to rebuild the organic profile of the soil, enhancing soil texture and drainage while fostering the growth of beneficial soil microorganisms.
- **Mycorrhizae** are essential fungi that form symbiotic relationships with plant roots to increase nutrient and water availability, increase disease resistance to soil-borne pathogens, and protect vulnerable root tips during drought.

To have the soil on your property tested, contact your local SavATree branch today.
Your arborist can provide a full report of your soil's pH levels and what steps (if any) are necessary to help improve the overall soil makeup.

Harnessing Green Technology

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Smart irrigation systems adjust watering schedules based on weather conditions and soil moisture levels, which ensures that plants receive the optimal amount of water, preventing overwatering and waste.

Rainwater harvesting involves collecting rainwater from rooftops and storing it for later use in irrigation. You can capture rainwater by installing rain barrels or larger cisterns, reducing the reliance on potable water for landscape irrigation.

Soil moisture sensors enable more efficient irrigation practices by providing real-time data on soil moisture levels. The sensors help to avoid overwatering or underwatering and promote water conservation by ensuring plants receive the right amount of water at the right time.

Mulching helps conserve soil moisture by reducing evaporation, which reduces the watering needs of your plants and suppresses weed growth. Additionally, organic mulches enrich the soil with valuable nutrients and improve overall soil and plant health.

Composting is a great way to enrich soil with added nutrients and organic matter. Recycling organic materials like kitchen scraps and yard waste will help improve soil structure naturally and promote healthy plant growth.

Drought-resistant landscaping involves using native and drought-tolerant plants that require minimal watering. This approach is especially valuable in regions prone to frequent droughts, and offers several benefits, such as water conservation, stronger resistance for plants during dry conditions, less maintenance, and reduced water runoff.

Renewable energy advancements such as wind and solar panels provide clean and sustainable sources of electricity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution.

Organic fertilizers and pest control solutions that are derived from natural sources provide environmentally sensible options for plant care. Organic fertilizers nourish the soil and promote long-term fertility, while organic pest control methods target pests without harming beneficial organisms and minimize environmental impact.

Green technology is revolutionizing landscape care, empowering homeowners and property managers to create beautiful, thriving outdoor spaces while embracing environmentally sensible practices.

Sustainable solutions are becoming more accessible than ever before. You can have a picturesque landscape that enhances the property's aesthetic appeal and also supports a healthier planet.

For expert guidance on smart and sustainable landscape care, SavATree stands ready to provide recommendations tailored to your specific needs. We can help your outdoor spaces flourish while contributing to a greener, more sustainable future.





Getting to the Root of Tree Problems – Girdling Roots

Diagnosing girdling roots

Girdling roots are a serious and often misdiagnosed problem in urban trees. When roots cross over or wrap around tree trunks, it limits nutrient and water uptake which can adversely impact the tree. This strangling effect on trunks also restricts the flow of photosynthates downwards resulting in the decline and death of foliage. If not identified and removed, girdling roots will slowly choke the life out of a tree.

Some common causes of girdling roots include poor quality nursery stock, soil added in the nursery that can hide circling roots, and excess soil above the root collar after planting.

Signs of Girdling Roots

- Absence of a well-defined trunk flare (if the trunk disappears into the soil like a cliff into a lake, it indicates excess soil above the root collar)
- Growth of small surface roots around the base of the tree
- Tree instability

Identifying and Removing Girdling Roots

Air Excavation is performed using an air spade to examine tree root systems quickly with minimal damage to roots or underground utilities. Air excavation directs a controlled, high-pressure stream of air into the soil in order to displace it and expose a full view of the root collar. Problems with roots and soil often lead to plant failure. This powerful handheld device safely exposes root systems, allowing for more effective treatments and diagnoses than were available in the past. These tools are also important for developing more precise long term care plans. If girdling roots or other problems are detected, they can be dealt with immediately with proper root pruning. The excavated soil is simply replaced to the proper depth when the work is done.

There is nothing as fun and rewarding as finding and removing girdling roots. Taking trees off death row by removing roots that are slowly strangling them is arboriculture at its best!

Contact an arborist today to learn more.

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LANDSCAPE CALENDAR

September/October

- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Check for drought stress problems and provide additional water and recovery aids
- Look for bark beetles, trunk diseases and spider mites and treat if needed
- Adjust watering schedules to accommodate the cooler temperatures and rainfall, when it arrives
- Look for needle diseases on evergreens and treat if needed
- Amend soil to correct nutrient and pH problems
- Preventive treatments for summer insects like aphids, bronze birch borer, mealybugs, adelgids and soft scales can be started now
- Have a storm damage prevention audit performed

November/December

- Plant bare root trees when available
- Plan and renew plant health care programs for next year
- Amend soil to correct nutrient and pH problems if not done already
- Prune or cable trees to reduce winter limb damage
- Preventive treatments for summer insects like aphids, mealybugs, adelgids and soft scales can be performed until trees go dormant
- Make sure landscape areas drain properly and leaves are removed from drainage basins

January/February

- Prune deciduous fruit trees
- Make dormant applications on fruit trees and flowering fruit trees to reduce summer insects and diseases
- Maintenance pruning of most shrubs can be performed now
- Fruit reducing preventive treatments on plums, liquidambars and other trees can start now
- Take down hazardous or dead trees

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Threats of Infestation and Disease Endanger Monterey Pines

The Monterey pine is native to the California coast and named for the Monterey Peninsula where large populations of the species were first observed. Regrettably, improper conservation of Monterey pines has caused them to become endangered.

One of the greatest threats comes from the pine tip moth.

In California's mild climate, the adult moths emerge in January, laying their eggs on the pine's newly growing tips, where the larvae settle on or inside the newly emerging buds.

The larvae's insatiable appetite devours pine buds, needles, and terminals (new growth) – covering the area they infest with a fine silk mesh. They also bore into the shoots of the pine tree, which causes pitch (tree sap) to ooze from the open wounds. Infestations damage the central growing terminal of the tree and can significantly alter the tree's shape, causing regrowth to appear crooked and forked.

While the pine tip moth will not kill the tree, the stress from its feeding can weaken the tree's vitality and ability to endure extreme heat conditions and drought, and cause unsightly deformities.

Signs of pine tip moth infestation are dead brown or reddish shoots that can be seen at a distance, and silk mesh and pitch visible on close inspection of new growth.

Pine pitch canker, a disease caused by the fungus Fusarium circinatum, also poses a risk to Monterey pines and can lead to resinous cankers, dieback, and potential tree mortality.

It is best to treat infested or diseased trees as soon as possible and maintain overall tree health through adequate nutrients and watering.

Contact your arborist for recommendations on preserving your Monterey pines.

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death is caused by a fungus-like invasive plant pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, and most commonly affects live oak, black oak, and canyon oak trees. This waterborne mold pathogen spreads through contaminated irrigation water, wind-blown rain, infected plants, and contaminated pots and soil mixes.

Signs of Sudden Oak Death:

- Foliage discoloration
- Leaf spots
- Twig/shoot dieback
- Tree dieback
- Trunk cankers
- Seeping black/reddish ooze on bark

Trunk cankers most commonly lead to oak death, especially when compounded with bark beetle infestations.

Arborists can:

- Identify infected trees. Healthy trees nearby and/or in the same watershed may need preventive treatments to suppress the spread.
- Proactively treat trees for health and disease-resistance.
- Prevent infection of healthy oak trees by inspecting neighboring plants that may be alternate hosts of the disease. *P. ramorum* can manifest itself as a non-fatal leaf or twig blight on more than 40 known plants – including California bay laurel, poison oak, red tip photinia, and rhododendron – and facilitate the spread of the pathogen.

SavATree offers bark disease treatments to help induce immune response to the disease. Arborists assess the condition of an infected tree and recommend one or two applications in spring and fall depending on the severity of the disease.

Reach out today.

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Contact us for a complimentary consultation via the link below or call

1-800-341-8733

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SavATree has local offices throughout the country.

For a complete list of locations visit savatree.com

Our services include:

- Artistic & maintenance pruning
- Custom blend fertilization
- Soil analysis
- Insect, mite & disease treatments
- Tree removals
- Cabling & bracing

Consulting services:

- Tree Protection & Preservation
- Canopy Management
- Tree Inventory / Risk Assessment
- Tree & Landscape Appraisal