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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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Storm Damage Care for Florida Trees

Recent storms have left many trees in disarray. As we approach the peak of hurricane season, it is important to address broken branches, structural weaknesses, or uprooted trees now to minimize further storm damage later.

Weak or damaged trees can pose safety hazards and impact the aesthetic appeal of your surroundings, as well as the overall vitality of the trees.

To restore them back to good health and improve their resilience against future storms, trees need proper care. Without pruning and fortifying treatments, trees may be more susceptible to breakage, strain, and even failure.

SavATree recommends:

- Corrective pruning to remove dead, dying, or loose branches
- ArborHealth® deep root fertilizer to provide micro and macro nutrients and increase tree growth and vigor
- ArborKelp® applications to encourage nutrient uptake from the soil, promote fine root growth, and heighten stress tolerance
- ArborBalance applications to restore the delicate balance of growth within trees through slowing the growth of shoots and promoting the growth of roots

Palm Trees, Photosynthesis, and Fall Care

We all remember those “photosynthesis” lessons in elementary school: trees and other plants absorb sunlight, ground water, and carbon dioxide, and in turn produce carbohydrates and oxygen. (The word, “photosynthesis,” comes from the Greek, “putting together with light.”) Chlorophyll, the molecule that allows trees to absorb sunlight during this process, is what produces the green pigment in foliage.

In the northern states, fall's shorter days and cooler weather signals trees to stop producing chlorophyll, resulting in brilliant red, orange, and yellow foliage displays.

Palm trees, however, do not stop producing chlorophyll, which is what causes them to keep their green pigment throughout the year.

Palm Tree Care: Best Practices for Feeding and Pruning

While palms generally require much less maintenance than deciduous trees, they will nonetheless benefit greatly from fertilization four times a year. The fall is an excellent time to use a blended, slow-release fertilizer to fortify the soil with essential micro and macro nutrients.

Palms will have a dormant period when temperatures begin to cool. During those periods, pruning should be avoided, since open wounds from dormant pruning can leave the palm tree vulnerable to insects and disease. Rather, the rule of thumb is to prune dead or dying palm fronds in the spring and early summer when the tree can better tolerate and recover from the trimming.

Contact your SavATree arborist for more recommendations on palm tree care.

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 the essential nutrients that promote robust plant growth and overall health.

Having the ideal pH level in your soil helps plants and lawns better absorb nutrients while keeping unwanted weeds at bay. Additionally, ideal pH levels increase the population of beneficial microbes while loosening the ground for proper water penetration and airflow to the root system.

The soil's pH level is often a result of geographic location and environmental conditions. Areas with heavy rainfall and poor drainage are likely to have acidic soil, while soils in drier climates tend to be alkaline.

The pH level in the soil is measured on a scale of 0 to 14 – extreme acidity at the low end of the scale and extreme alkalinity at the top. The proper balance for optimal



growth is usually somewhere between 6.0 and 7.5.

Soil pH levels near neutral – around 7.0 – allow the most mineral nutrients to be available to trees, shrubs, and lawns. Soils that are too acidic often lead to poor plant growth caused by aluminum or manganese toxicity or a deficiency in calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, or molybdenum. Soils that are too alkaline often lead to poor plant growth due to deficiencies in iron, manganese, zinc, boron, or copper.

Boosting soil fertility in the fall season sets the stage for strong root growth in trees and plants in the spring.

The first step is to have an expert arborist perform a soil analysis. Soil testing will help identify the most effective fertilization applications and soil amendments for the unique conditions of the landscape.

- **ArborKelp®** is SavATree's organic sea kelp-based biostimulant that promotes healthy root growth, improves soil structure, and augments soil microbial activity essential for nutrient absorption.
- **Organic Soil Enhancer** is a treatment that incorporates carbon-rich liquid organic matter designed to rebuild the organic profile of your soil. Resulting benefits include 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 landscape professional will then 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.



The Secret to Thriving Trees and Lush Landscapes: MULCHING

There are a wide variety of mulch materials, each with its unique set of characteristics and advantages. The choice of mulch depends on factors such as the specific landscape needs, aesthetic preferences, availability, and local climate. Beyond aesthetic appeal, mulching offers numerous benefits that contribute to a flourishing outdoor environment.

Retain Moisture and Prevent Drought Stress

Mulch acts as a natural moisture reservoir for trees and shrubs. By covering the soil's surface, it helps retain water, reducing the frequency of irrigation needed. During dry spells or droughts, the mulch layer slows water evaporation, providing more consistent moisture to plant roots.

Regulate Soil Temperature

Proper soil temperature is critical for plant health. Extreme temperatures can harm roots and impede nutrient absorption. Mulching plays a vital role in regulating soil temperature by acting as a protective barrier.

Control Weeds and Reduce Competition

Weeds compete with trees and shrubs for essential nutrients, water, and sunlight. Mulching suppresses weed growth by depriving them of the sunlight they need to germinate. As a result, desirable plants have less competition for the available resources required for optimal growth and vitality.

Other important benefits of mulching include:

- Enhances soil health and fertility by enriching the soil with valuable nutrients
- Prevents soil erosion by acting as a protective layer against heavy rain and strong winds
- Encourages root development by creating a loose and porous environment, allowing roots to penetrate deeper into the soil and access more water and nutrients

Mulch Types

ORGANIC MULCH

Wood Chips: Chipped tree branches that decompose slowly, enriching the soil with nutrients over time.

Bark Mulch: Made from tree bark; durable, and available in many sizes and colors.

Pine Straw: Pine needles commonly used for acidic-loving plants like azaleas and rhododendrons.

Cocoa Hulls: Dark-colored mulch with a pleasant chocolate aroma. Caution is needed as it can be harmful to pets if ingested.

INORGANIC MULCH

Gravel and Stone: Non-organic mulches ideal for weed suppression and used in low-water areas.

Rubber Mulch: Made from recycled rubber, long-lasting but does not improve soil health.

LIVING MULCH

Groundcover Plants: Low-growing plants that act as living mulch, covering the soil and suppressing weed growth.

STRAW AND HAY

Straw: Used in vegetable gardens to retain moisture and prevent soil erosion.

Hay: Can be used as mulch but may contain weed seeds, leading to unintended weed growth.

COMPOST

Can be used as mulch or mixed with other types to enhance soil fertility and overall plant health.

Mulching is a powerful tool in ensuring the vitality of any landscape.



LANDSCAPE CALENDAR

September

- Plant new evergreen trees and shrubs
- Treat trees and shrubs for late season insects and mites
- Arrange a post storm damage audit
- Continue to water trees and shrubs suffering from summer stress

October

- Nourish your trees and shrubs with a deep root fertilization
- Mulch beds of plants and flowering shrubs

November

- Prune all hardwoods – primarily oaks
- Prune palm trees and perennials
- Fertilize all palm species
- Review and confirm your plant health care program for the coming year

December / January / February

- Take down dead or hazardous trees
- Prune fruit trees to enhance fruit production
- Perform maintenance pruning of shade trees and ornamentals
- Schedule inspection of your tree cables and lightning protection systems



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Ambrosia beetle infestations pose a significant threat to Florida's trees.

One of the most apparent signs of an infestation is the dust accumulating at the tree's base, which results from beetles boring into the wood.



Dust visible on bark

Ambrosia beetles prefer most ornamental and fruit trees, particularly trees in distress. Attracted by the tree's natural chemical emissions, these tiny insects bore into the wood and introduce symbiotic fungi, which weaken the tree's defenses and obstruct its vascular system. While they are considered part of the wood borer family, ambrosia beetles feed on the fungus rather than on the wood itself.

They typically have multiple generations per year, with adult beetles attacking trees in the spring and fall. Ambrosia beetles are known to attack freshly cut lumber and undried lumber used for decking, which often causes pinhole defects in the wood.

There is severe economic damage to wood products in some regions and aggressive control programs are required to minimize the impact. Removing wood and processing it quickly is the best way to avoid beetle damage.

Tree care and maintenance is also essential to deter ambrosia beetle attacks. By removing dead trees and limbs, and making sure trees are healthy and strong, you can reduce the risk of infestations.

Proactive care is key.

Every tree in the urban forest is experiencing stress due to environmental concerns, making fertilization and nutrient programs even more critical. During fall and spring, SavATree's ArborHealth® organic blend fertilizer offers micro and macro nutrients to the soil that are essential for overall plant hardiness, helping trees build resistance against various insects and diseases.

Your arborist may also recommend our borer treatment program to mitigate existing infestations.



Contact your local arborist today to assess your trees for signs of infestation.

Safeguarding Trees with SavATree's Lightning Protection Systems

SavATree provides lightning protection system installations to reduce the risk of lightning strikes that can damage trees on any landscape. Don't wait for disaster to strike. Take proactive measures now to shield your trees from lightning damage, and avoid costly repairs and tree removal in the future.

The system includes a copper cable conductor that runs down the tree trunk to the ground, and an underground rod buried approximately ten feet away from the tree. If lightning should strike nearby, the system redirects the electrical current along the cable and away from the tree, where it will safely disperse underground.



You can witness the installation process up close by watching our video!

We can help protect your trees from lightning strikes and provide you with peace of mind for years to come.



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

1-800-341-8733



savatree.com

SavATree has local offices throughout the country.

For a complete list of locations visit savatree.com

Our services include:

Tree and Shrub Pruning

Cabling and Bracing / Takedowns

Custom Blend Fertilization

Insect, Mite and Disease Treatments

Soil Amendments

Organic and Hybrid Options

Consulting services:

Tree Protection & Preservation

Canopy Management

Tree Inventory / Risk Assessment

Tree & Landscape Appraisal