



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED PRUNING?

Before removing a mature tree, we ask you to consider the following - It pays to care for trees. Here are some examples.

Properly cared for, trees are valuable and growing assets worth three times the investment. Over the lifetime of a tree, measurable environmental and esthetic benefits are calculated to be an average of three times greater than tree care costs.

- Ask your kids - They can describe the priceless benefit of a place to hide, to make a tree-house, a patch of shade to rest in.
- Consider your health - One hundred trees remove 53 tons of carbon dioxide and 430 pounds of other air pollutants per year. Every tree makes a difference.
- Think about flooding - One hundred mature trees catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year.
- Calculate the energy savings - Strategically placed trees save up to 56% on annual air-conditioning costs. Evergreens that block winter winds can save 3% on heating.
- Compare property values - Each large front yard tree adds 1% to the house sales price. Large specimen trees can add 10% to property value.

These numbers come from the US Forest Service.

Costs analyzed: Tree purchase and planting, pruning, irrigation, pest and disease prevention and control, removal and disposal, sidewalk repair, leaf litter clean-up, liability, legal aspects, administration.

Benefits analyzed: Energy savings, air pollution reduction, runoff reduction, property values.

Methods: Benefits and costs were quantified for typical large, medium, and small deciduous trees (hackberry, red oak, and crabapple), for a 60% survival rate over 40 years.

More information:

Cornell Cooperative Extension at Westchester@cornell.edu

Cornell University's Urban Horticulture Institute at nlb2@cornell.edu

And the websites of the Arbor Day Foundation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Forest Service.