



City of Kerrville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee
Quarterly “Kerrville Beautification Day” to be held
January 18, 2014

Kerrville, Texas (January 9, 2014) – The Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee (KBAC) is pleased to announce the next “Kerrville Beautification Day” will be held Saturday, January 18, 2014. The theme for this month is “Tree Health and Maintenance.” “Kerrville residents are encouraged to trim trees and shrubs, remove dead or diseased trees, and prepare for spring,” stated Brandon Douglass, KBAC Chair. “Now is a great time to prune, but be sure to research your tree to know how to properly care for it.”

There are numerous resources around town that can assist with tree questions such as the Kerr County Extension office, which is great for oak wilt related questions, the Riverside Nature Center, and other landscaping and service companies like Texas Tree Service. Remember, if you decide to hire a company for tree maintenance, always make sure they are properly insured.

Pruning during dormancy is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring and should be used if that is the desired effect. Here are some good pruning tips by the Arbor Day Foundation:

1. Prune early in the life of the tree so pruning wounds are small and so growth goes where you want it.
2. Begin your visual inspection at the top of the tree and work downward.
3. Identify the best leader and lateral branches (scaffold limbs) before you begin pruning and remove defective parts before pruning for form.
4. Don't worry about protecting pruning cuts. For aesthetics, you may feel better painting larger wounds with neutral color tree paint, but the evidence is that it does not prevent or reduce decay.
5. Keep your tools sharp. One-hand pruning shears with curved blades (secateurs) work best on young trees.
6. Make safety a number one priority. For high branches use a pole pruner. Some have both a saw and shears on the same tool. A major job on a big tree should be done by a professional.
7. Leave the collar –
 - i. When you prune back to the trunk or a larger limb, leave any swollen area at the branch base (the branch collar).
 - ii. For larger limbs, cut just outside the branch ridge and collar and at a slight down-and-outward angle (so as not to injure the collar). Do not leave a protruding stub.
 - iii. Such cuts should not be made on larger branches. This is called topping and leads to decay, profuse sprouting, and dieback.

8. When simply shortening a small branch, make the cut at a lateral bud or another lateral branch (referred to as "head" or "headback pruning"). Choose a bud that will produce a branch that will grow in a desired direction (usually outward). The cut should be sharp and clean, and made at a slight angle about 1/4 inch beyond the bud.

Now that you have pruned, what will you do with the brush? The yard waste collection will conveniently be held the week following the "Beautification Day" - January 20-24, 2014. Republic Services collects yard waste once a month on the same day as household trash collection. Yard waste consists of bagged leaves or grass clippings (25 bag limit), cut brush and limbs, stumps, roots, or shrubs with no dirt, limited to 6-inch diameter and 6-foot length with a limit of two cubic yards. Please do not tie or twine brush together and stack neatly with cut ends facing the curb.

The Kerrville City Council created the Kerrville Beautification Advisory Committee to increase community awareness and foster proactive citizen participation in efforts to beautify Kerrville. "Kerrville Beautification Days" are held the third Saturday of January, April, July and October of each year. Each quarter will have a different theme designated to encourage awareness and participation to beautify Kerrville.

A pleasant community appearance adds to home values, helps attract business investment, and improves the overall quality of life. Research shows that beauty is one of the top three factors in creating community attachment, or loyalty, to a particular city.

The KBAC meets the first Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall located at 701 Main Street. Meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Ashlea Boyle, Special Projects Manager at (830) 258-1153, via e-mail to ashlea.boyle@kerrvilletx.gov or visit our website at www.kerrvilletx.gov.

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