



A Few Words on Tree Topping

Tree topping is the cutting back of branches on trees, leaving large stubs. Some say this is similar to a “bad haircut that could kill you.” This essentially leaves large exposed wounds which can lead to disease, decay, weak limbs, and insect damage. Once topped, the tree will send out fast growing shoots which are weaker than normal limbs and are more susceptible to storm and wind damage. A topped tree will end up requiring more pruning and cost more money to maintain in the long run. Once a tree is topped, its’ lifespan has been significantly reduced. You will have to endure the irregular shape for quite some time, until the tree fills back out.

Food For Thought:

If a tree is being topped for clearance under wires or other objects, it was planted in the wrong spot to begin with. Consider removing the tree and replant in a better location or use a species that will not grow so high.

Always use a competent tree service. If a tree service routinely tops trees, they make lack the expertise or understanding of how this will affect the tree. It doesn’t hurt to get a second opinion or bid.

Educate yourself before letting your tree be topped. There is plenty of information on the internet about proper tree pruning techniques. Or contact the Missouri Department of Conservation or the National Arbor Day Foundation. They can point you in the right direction.

**So remember...Plant the right tree in the right place. And EXPERTS AGREE...
“DON’T TOP YOUR TREE!**

If you have any questions or comments please call the Park Maintenance Division of the City of Crestwood @ 314-729-4875.

