

Diseases

Blight

Knowing what to look for is the first step

There are different types of blight that can affect our trees. Proper treatment of what is affecting your tree is crucial to maintaining your assets. One of our common blights in Grande Prairie is Fireblight. It is a highly destructive disease affecting several members of the rose family. It is caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*. This bacterial organism is native to North America and is present throughout the continent where susceptible rose family hosts grow. In Alberta, this disease can affect many highly desirable hardy ornamentals and fruit-producing species in the rose family including apple, cotoneaster, hawthorn, pear, mountain ash, raspberry, saskatoon berry, plum and cherry. It is particularly destructive to species that are not native to Canada such as apple and pear.



Fireblight in an apple tree

Tree Preservation

Pests

Proper Tree Care is Less Expensive Than Removals



Sawfly

There are several pests that can affect your tree(s). It all depends on the type of tree, its environment and type of pest in the area, to know if it will be harmful or not. Some pests are

Rodents: Mice, voles and rabbits can eat away at the bark or your tree causing the tree to be more susceptible to disease and other pests. Bark is the skin and much like ours it helps keep us safe and protected from the elements.

Birds such as woodpeckers or sapsuckers can hurt your tree as well. By having these birds hunt for bugs and larvae yes, they may be removing one potential risk, only to be creating other problems. Such as portals for other pests to enter, and damage to the bark of the tree.

Sawfly: The female sawfly “saw” their larva into the leaves of trees and then leave them to hatch and eat off the tree. Some signs of sawfly could be rolled up leaves or some spin webs. A few species leave galls on the foliage

Bronze Birch Borer: This insect has become epidemic in Alberta. The larvae do the damage by feeding on the vascular tissue of the bark. All while unseen. They especially attack trees that are already stressed or in decline. Some evidence of these insects is having the top of your birch tree dead.

Well Intended Humans: Sometimes we ask friends, “professionals”, or people on different media pages for help and advice. These people do not mean any harm and sometimes they are helpful. Yet sometimes their well-intended advice can cause long term harm.

Why not call Alpha & Omega Tree Services Ltd and have the Certified Arborist point you in the right direction for you tree care.

Tip of the day

Water your trees, they’ll thank you for it. After watering if you stick your finger in the dirt, and dirt sticks to your finger when pulling it out, you know you have a good saturation level.

Why Hire a Certified Arborist

Would you take your beloved pet to some well-intended person who read some veterinarian journals or an actual veterinarian? It’s the same with your trees. Take them to someone who is trained and certified.

[Find an Arborist \(treesaregood.org\)](https://treesaregood.org)

Myths Busted

Homeowners are often told to get rid of their trees because they wreck foundations, pipes etcetera. This is not true. Trees will expose weaknesses and imperfections; they will not cause it.

Education

We are Growing a Great Team

Introducing our Crew

This year has seen many new and exciting changes for us at Alpha & Omega Tree Services Ltd. We have hired a new ISA Certified Arborist and acquired new apprentices. Our clients can rest assured, Darrin holds all his staff to the highest standard of tree care, and if he did not trust these young people, he would not let them touch nor remove your trees.

Bailey has been part of the Alpha & Omega Tree Services crew for 3.5 years. She works hard and has been eager to learn from Darrin as an Apprentice. She left in January to take the Arboriculture course at Olds Collage. All her hard work paid off, and in the beginning of June we had the honor of congratulating Bailey as she graduated with Honours of Distinction from her Arboriculture course. We have all confidence in her as she now

preps to write her ISA Certification exam later this year. New to our Crew are Trent and Patrick (Paddy). Trent wrote his ISA Certification earlier this year and has had glowing references from his past employers. Trent has become an invaluable member of our team and has shown a great work ethic as well as fun to have around.

Paddy joined us in February as an apprentice. He has been eager to learn and has shown great initiative when it comes to learning information while off the clock as well. He has been receptive to the different learning methods and takes time to ask questions and do the task to the fullest. We are very thankful that our crew works well together, guiding and sharing with each other as they go.



Having a great crew that works well together is the back bone of any business. We are very proud of our crew and all they bring to our team.



Information

Artificial Turf and Trees

With how busy our society has gotten low maintenance yards are becoming more and more popular. One of the more popular items now is artificial grass. Its aesthetically pleasing for yards especially ones that aren't an ideal environment for grass. Its low maintenance and if done right it looks like a normal lawn. However, when installing it around trees you need to take a few things into consideration and do your research on the product you're considering using. Considerations such as, is the material porous so air, nutrients, and moisture can get through. Does your tree require cooler roots, the artificial turf could hold in heat, which could cause stress.

We all know what it is like to wear a mask for long amounts of time. It didn't hurt us, but it was uncomfortable at times, and did cause stress on some individuals. Now imagine wearing one 24/7. This is how it would be for our trees. The ground covering may not cause a quick decline in our trees, but it could cause undue stress, and which could eventually cause decline in the tree's health in the end. Therefore, we stress the importance of consulting an Arborist, and really researching the product you wish to install in your yard. Like you, we know the benefit of a beautiful yard, so let us help you make the right decision for your yard and trees.

Summer care

Proper Watering Methods

Proper care of your trees during the warmer months will help prolong their life, beauty, and integrity. By watering trees regularly, it will help keep them healthy and strong. Much like a well hydrated human a well hydrated tree can ward off infection and disease like we can. A slow-release watering method is the way to go when watering trees. With slow release it gives your tree a better chance of absorbing the water vs catching what doesn't run off while watering with the hose. Some slow-release methods could be a five-gallon bucket with a hole punched in the bottom or slow-release ring watering bags. An added benefits of these items is that they do not add extra moisture to you tree trunk that could open your tree to added stress, and harm.



Slow-release water ring bags