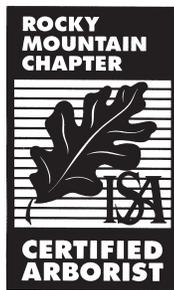


talk

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I.S.A. Certified Arborist

When you call Lam Tree Service to have tree problems diagnosed or to have a tree job priced, you will most likely have an I.S.A. Certified Arborist visit your property. What's the difference between an I.S.A. Certified Arborist and a guy who just cuts and trims trees? We're glad you asked that question.



The International Society of Arboriculture started a certification program about fifteen years ago. Applicants are required to pass a written test that covers a wide range of subjects in the field of arboriculture. Subjects such as tree biology, soils, nutrition, diagnosis, identification etc. are all covered in detail. Anyone who passes this test can be considered quite knowledgeable in tree care. In addition to passing the test all Certified Arborists are required to take continuing education in order to keep their status.

We currently have two I.S.A. Certified Arborists at Lam Tree, and three others who are studying to take the test. We encourage all full time employees to work toward the goal of becoming an I.S.A. Certified Arborist. At Lam Tree we strive to be very knowledgeable in all areas of

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How does this affect a tree service company and its' customers?

As fuel prices soared this fall before and especially after Hurricane Katrina, most of us were griping about the cost of gasoline. I was having a conversation with a friend about it, and my friend commented that it took \$55 to fill the tank on his S.U.V. and it only lasted 5 days. Just as the words came out of his mouth, he realized that I own 15 fuel hogs, which average maybe 8 miles per gallon, most of which are in service each day. "If I'm complaining about \$11 a day, what's it like for Lam Tree to absorb these fuel increases?" he asked.

The short (and clean) version of my answer was that it is very difficult to keep our prices from increasing when fuel costs rise dramatically. Instead of that \$55 fill up, we are faced with several hundred dollars each morning at the pump. That hurts, but it doesn't end there. Once we get to the jobsite, guess what we need to get the job done? More fuel. Diesel fuel for the chippers and skidsteer. Gasoline for the chainsaws, polesaws, blowers, A.T.V.'s and spray rigs. And oil to keep them running smoothly.

Many service companies such as Lam Tree are passing on these costs in the form of a fuel surcharge. I know I personally have received notice of these increases for trash pickup and yard maintenance at my home. At Lam we have not as yet chosen to go this route. Except for a small \$2 -\$5 increase to everyone on our snowplowing routes, which are especially fuel cost sensitive, we have held off.

How do you – our valued customers- feel about surcharges? Eventually these costs must be reckoned with. They can either be in the form of a surcharge or they can be imbedded in the prices at which we sell our services. Feel free to let me know personally.

We are looking into converting some of our fleet into trucks that can run on biodiesel, which is basically corn oil. We are also looking into other alternative fuels. For my personal vehicle I am looking into an electric/gasoline hybrid. I don't believe fuel prices are going to trend anywhere but upward in future, and I think we should all think about alternatives. In the meantime, we will try to provide your services at the most reasonable prices possible.



Mike Goldblatt, President

Wanted Dead or Alive

The critter pictured here has been thriving and reproducing quite well in the Evergreen/ Genesee area this past year. It is a small rodent known as a vole. This rodent often overwinters in tunnels underneath snowy areas in lawns and garden beds. It will often feed on juniper twigs and roots as well as other plants in winter when food is scarce. This girdles the plant causing dieback or death of the tree or shrub. In the warm season they have an abundance of food available and tend to not be found in their tunnels. We have had many requests this year to eliminate these pests. While it is sometimes possible to poison or trap the voles, at Lam we believe that poisoning or trapping is difficult at best. Extermination companies will come out and attempt to poison the voles, but we believe the success rate is low. Our vole damage prevention program consists of applying a rodent deterrent spray onto the stems of plants that we are trying to protect. We are doing two applications – one in fall and one in winter to keep the voles off desirable plants. This vole outbreak is the worst we've seen in the 27 years we've been in business, and it is the first time we've attempted to protect trees and shrubs from their damage. We would love to hear from you regarding your experiences with voles. Any input about any successes, or otherwise, you've had in treating them will help us serve you better. 🌲



We Serve Grand, Summit and Eagle Counties!

Many of our Jefferson, Park, and Clear Creek County customers are surprised to hear that we serve the high country counties as well. There is a huge Pine Beetle outbreak in the mountains right now, and we are doing a lot of preventive Pine Beetle spraying up there. We do tree removal jobs in those areas as well. So if you have a vacation home in Dillon, Silverthorne, Vail, Winter Park, Fraser, or anywhere else in the high country within a few hours of Evergreen, give us a call, and we can take care of all your tree care needs. 🌲

Before and After

This customer had an artificial putting green installed at his house and wanted to grow turfgrass around it. The soil around the green was poor and rocky, but as you can see from the before and after pictures below, we were able to produce a very healthy turf area to surround the green. At Lam we offer lawn fertilization and herbicide programs. So give us a call if you want a beautiful, healthy area of turfgrass.





EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

Lucas Hill

Lucas has been with Lam Tree since April of this year. He was born and raised in Wisconsin. He graduated from The University of Wisconsin last December with a bachelors degree in forestry. He plans to take his I.S.A. Certified Arborist test in December. Luke works on the tree trimming and removal crew. He enjoys backpacking and camping all over Colorado. We are glad to have someone with Luke's knowledge of trees on our staff. 🌲



Tussock Moth Outbreak



Douglas Fir Tussock Moth

This past May we started receiving calls from the Doubleheader Ranch and Homestead area along Highway 285 about caterpillars feeding on Douglas Fir trees. We diagnosed these insects as Douglas Fir Tussock Moths. The caterpillar stage of this insect severely defoliates Douglas Fir trees. It then turns into a moth and lays eggs which hatch the following spring. When the caterpillars were fully exposed in early June, we began spraying the foliage of the trees to kill the caterpillars. It was very successful, and on follow-up visits we could plainly see the properties we sprayed had lush new green growth, and the properties that weren't sprayed looked brown and defoliated. We expect 2006 to bring another large crop of Tussock Moths, and we'll be ready to deal with it in a timely manner.

A similar insect the Spruce Budworm is affecting Douglas Fir trees on Bear Mountain in Evergreen, and in the town of Critchell, south of Conifer. Timing the spray properly is critical. If you live in these areas, be assured we are monitoring the situation and will be ready to spray there in early June, 2006. 🌲



This Austrian Pine was killed by a wire that was left wrapped around the trunk when it was planted. When a tree is staked and wired, the wire should only be left on for one or two growing seasons. After a few seasons the wires should be removed so the roots can move in the wind and therefore become good anchor roots. The other reason to remove the wires is to prevent the girdling of the trunk as pictured here. As this Austrian Pine grew over the years, it grew into the wires and choked itself to death. The homeowner at this site should have removed the wires many years earlier. We see this quite often and it's a shame to see healthy trees die from something so easily preventable. 🌲



Spruce Budworm

2005 Lam Tree Scholarship Awarded

We are proud to announce that the 2005 Lam Tree Service Scholarship has been awarded to Andrew Murray of Evergreen. Andrew graduated from Evergreen High School last May. He is attending the University of Utah. Andrew looks forward to achieving a B.S. in Meteorology. He then hopes to receive an internship and continue in graduate school. The Lam Tree Service Scholarship is awarded annually to a local high school graduate who seeks higher education in the outdoor sciences. It is awarded based on academic excellence and financial need. We congratulate Andrew and wish him the best of luck in the future. 🌲



Cert. Arborist (con't. from pg 1)

tree care, and we hope it shows when have a representative visit your property.

There is not a lot of regulation in the tree care industry. Most anyone can buy an old pickup truck and a chain saw and call themselves a tree company. At Lam we voluntarily strive to be professionals. In addition to I.S.A. certification, we have three Colorado State Licensed Qualified Supervisors to oversee pesticide applications, and we are members of the Tree Care Industry Association, The International Society of Arboriculture, The Society of Commercial Arborists, and the Colorado Tree Coalition among other groups. These affiliations keep us up to date on everything in the industry, and allow us to provide you with the best, and most up to date tree care possible.

To find out more about I.S.A. certification and to find a Certified Arborist in your area go to isa-arbor.com 🌲

New Pesticide Available

Beginning in spring of 2006 we will be using a different pesticide for many of our insect and mite control programs. We previously used permethrin (Astro) for the common sprays such as Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid, Aspen Aphid, and Tussock Moth. We will now be using bifenthrin (Onyx) for most of these sprays. Onyx will provide better overall control of insects. It also is able to control mites, which Astro is not labeled for. Previously we had to use a separate miticide for mite control. We will continue to use Astro for our bark beetle sprays—i.e. Pine Beetle, Ips Beetle—for at least one more season. We are considering switching to Onyx for bark beetle spraying as well, but we are waiting for more efficacy data for bark beetles before we switch. We will keep you informed. If you ever have any concerns or questions about any pesticide we use on your property, call our office anytime and ask to speak to a State Qualified Supervisor. 🌲



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