



LEARNING CENTER

CROWN RESTORATION PRUNING

What is crown restoration pruning?

Crown restoration is usually the necessary type of pruning for trees that have sustained damage from storms or have been vandalized. Branches may be cut back to smaller than normal sized lateral branches, assisting the tree to retain, and eventually regain, its natural form and appearance.

- The crown is cleaned of broken and detached branches as soon as possible.
- Reduction and removal cuts are primarily used. Heading cuts are sometimes unavoidable.
- Restoration pruning helps lessen the time it takes for a tree to heal over crown damage and reduces the chances of decay and pest infestation.
- Restoration pruning usually removes dangers and hazards present in the tree's canopy after a storm.

Sprouts are good!

Sprouts usually begin growing from the place where the branches broke, where cuts were made after damage or on the trunk during the growing season; growth will be delayed following fall or winter storms.

- Sprouts become the new crown and build back energy reserves.
- Restoration pruning encourages roots to form a strong replacement crown.
- Delay pruning sprouts until the tree's canopy foliage volume is near it's pre-storm volume. Some older trees have less vigor, so sprout pruning won't be needed for some time.
- Remove and reduce the number of sprouts when the sprouts begin to enlarge to the size of normal branches. Then structural pruning begins.

