

February 5, 2010



## Tip of the Week

### Prime time



The snowstorms of spring are just around the corner. And the timing of those heavy, wet snows is often when trees are flowering and will hold much more snow than when they are completely dormant. Wet, heavy snow clinging onto limbs full of flowers results in serious breakage that not only damages trees--but anyone or anything that is underneath.

The good news in this scenario is that if you haven't yet pruned overgrown deciduous trees, February is a perfect time to catch up on pruning and have trees ready for spring.

### **There are other benefits to pruning before spring erupts:**

- There's less impact on the rest of your landscape if you prune in the dormant season. You, or the arborist you hire, won't have to dodge annuals and perennials blooming in the beds, for example.
- Flower pots and furniture that might be in the way during the growing season are probably in storage, so they won't need to be moved.
- Daytime activity in your yard won't be impacted as it's not yet outdoor season.
- When spring does arrive, your trees will already be looking great from the start.

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**Safety reminders:**

- Only prune what you can safely reach from the ground with a hand or pole pruner.
- Don't prune with a ladder--not even the pros do that.
- Especially for larger trees, consider hiring an arborist. Not only do they have the right kinds of equipment--but also the expertise in pruning technique and in spotting diseases and insect problems.

**Need help with your trees?** Go to [www.alcc.com](http://www.alcc.com) and click on *Find a Pro!*

*Technical information courtesy ALCC members.  
Photos courtesy Mountain High Tree, Lawn & Landscape Company.*