A close-up photograph of a tree trunk cross-section, showing distinct concentric growth rings in shades of light brown and tan. The rings are more densely packed in some areas and more widely spaced in others, indicating seasonal growth patterns. The texture is smooth and natural.

Grosse Pointe Farms
Beautification Advisory
Commission Presents
"Residential Tree Selection and
Proper Tree Maintenance"
With Guest Speaker Brian Colter
Urban Forester, GPF
Certified Arborist

Beautification Advisory Commission

Chairperson
Sierra Leone
Donovan

Kendra
Bickford

Michael
Brown

Elizabeth
Cleland

Carol Ferber

Brian Fromm

Holly Litton

Derrick
Kozicki (Staff
Liaison)

FOREST FACTS



Forest Facts

- Question: How many 18th century rare Mission Pear trees can be found within Grosse Pointe?



Alan Marschke

In 2009, Alan Marschke contacted the Champion Tree Project, a program that clones heritage trees, preserving historic trees through new technology. These magnificent French pear trees of Grosse Pointe and the vicinity are found nowhere else in America. The origin of these famous old trees is obscure. The prevailing opinion is that the trees came from seeds brought from France, then were tended to lovingly by the Jesuit missionaries. Hence, they are sometimes called "the Mission Pears." A number of these pear trees can still be found in Grosse Pointe, including three giant pear trees, possibly more than 200 years old, near the corner of Lake Shore Drive and Oxford Road.

ACTUALLY MORE LIKE 300 YEARS OLD.

Alan Marschke



Forest Facts

- Answer: 3
(2 GP Park,
1 GP
Shores)

FOREST FACTS



Forest Facts

- Question: What street in Grosse Pointe Farms are the "Pine Woods" located?

Forest Facts Answer: Charlevoix at Stephens Road



Forest Facts

THE PINE WOODS

These majestic pines were planted
in the mid 1800's
by Grosse Pointe Farms resident
and Michigan Attorney General,
George Van Ness Lothrop,
US Ambassador to Russia, 1885-1888.

The pines
represent the backbone
of Grosse Pointe's historic Pine Woods,
seen here,
and on the three wooded lots to your right.
Enjoy the green view of Pine Woods
and help us preserve it
for the future.



Residential Tree Selection and Proper Tree Maintenance

Brian Colter
Urban Forester, GPF
Certified Arborist

How do I choose the right tree?

RIGHT TREE - RIGHT PLACE



WRONG TREE - WRONG PLACE



A close-up photograph of a tree trunk showing the natural wood grain pattern, with concentric growth rings and varying shades of tan and brown. A dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing the title text.

Criteria to Consider

- **Size of Tree at Maturity** – it will grow
- **Utility Wires** – plan for tree height at maturity!
- **Tree Species** – consider a native species
- **Species to Avoid**
- **Light Requirement** – sun or shade
- **Soil and Moisture Conditions**

These examples represent typical mature heights in city conditions. Check the Arboday.org Tree Guide for expected mature height and crown spread of trees you are considering.

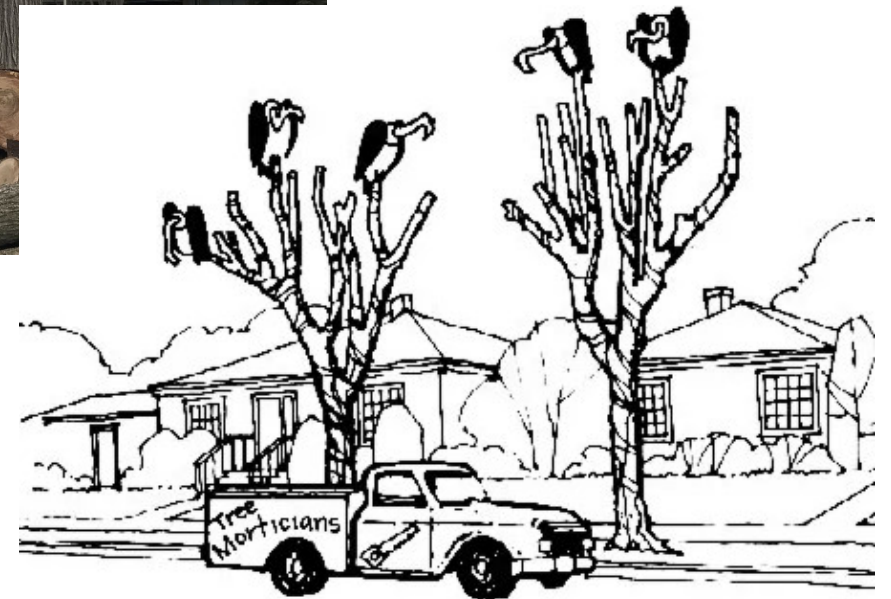


TREE HEIGHT AT MATURITY

Arbor Day Foundation

UTILITIES - Plan Before You Dig!

- Tree height at maturity
- Miss Dig 811



Tree Species – Go Native!

Native trees and plants are the ecological base needed for our wildlife to survive. Native oaks provide food and shelter for over 2300 species of native birds, animals and insects.

- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
 - Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
*State Tree of Michigan
 - Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
-



Species to Avoid

- Silver Maple
 - Tree of Heaven
 - Weeping Willow
 - Callery Pear
 - Black Locust
-

Tree of Heaven

*Favored host of the spotted lanternfly



Photo Michigan DNR

Silver Maple

Silver maples are not rot resistant. Large trees often have trunks and large branches that are hollow due to decay, making them prone to failure.



Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

NON-NATIVE
SPREADS QUICKLY



SPOTTED
LANTERNFLY
(*LYCORMA DELICATULA*)



INVASIVE PEST
THREAT
LEAFHOPPER



Callery Pear

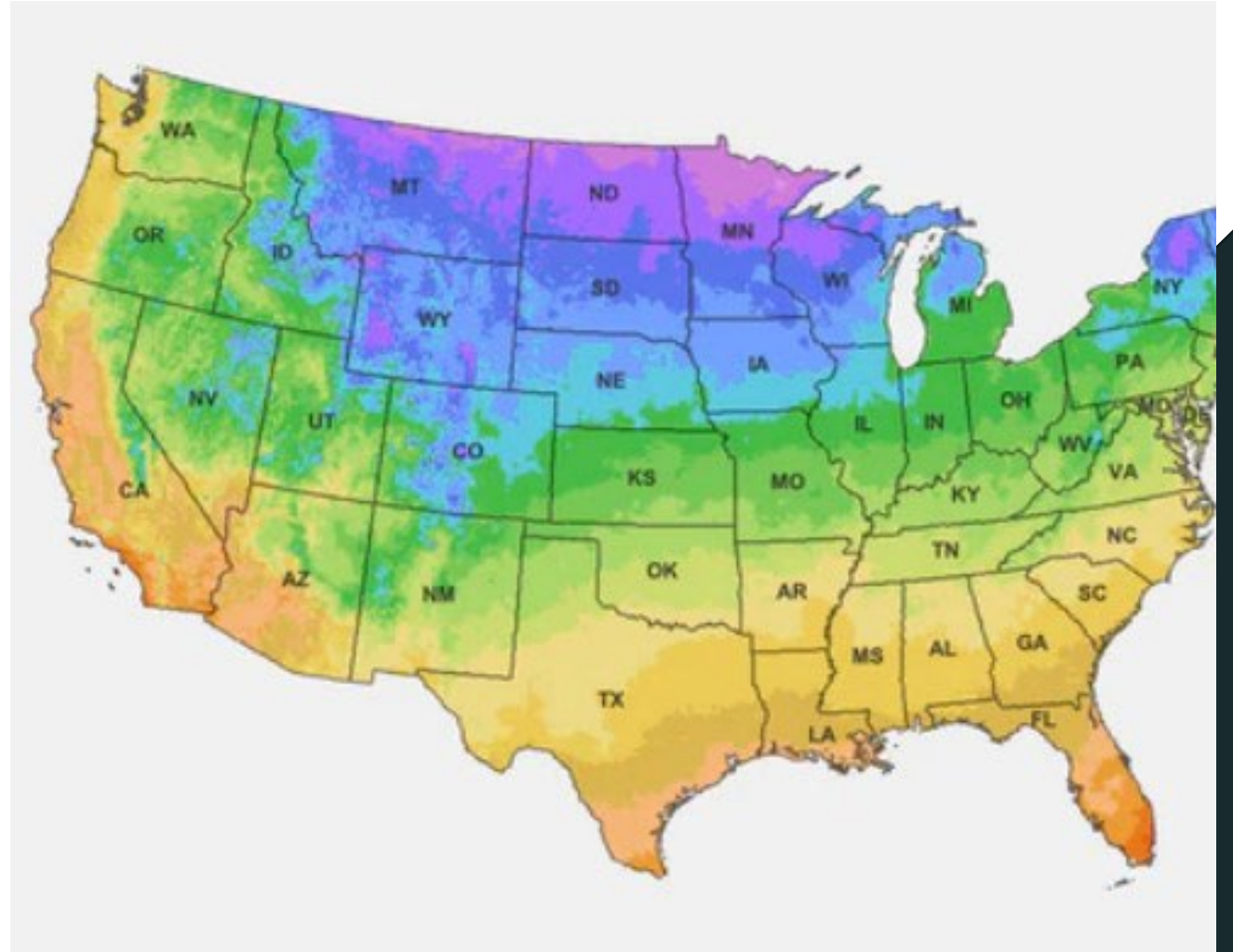
- Inferior branching structure
 - Invasive & non-native
 - Spreads aggressively
 - Pear trellis rust
-



Growth Requirements

Know your planting site and what the tree needs to thrive:

- Hardiness Zone (USDA 2023 Map)
- Light – Sun or Shade
- Soil – GP has heavy clay
- Water Availability



How to Plant a Tree

- Hole – How Deep?
- Ball & Burlap
- Bare Root
- Staking
- Watering
- Mulching



Staking & Mulching



DO NOT VOLCANO MULCH!



When to Prune

PRUNE ONLY WHEN DORMANT

- Elm – Dutch Elm Disease
- Oak – Oak Wilt Disease

OAK WILT RISK METER



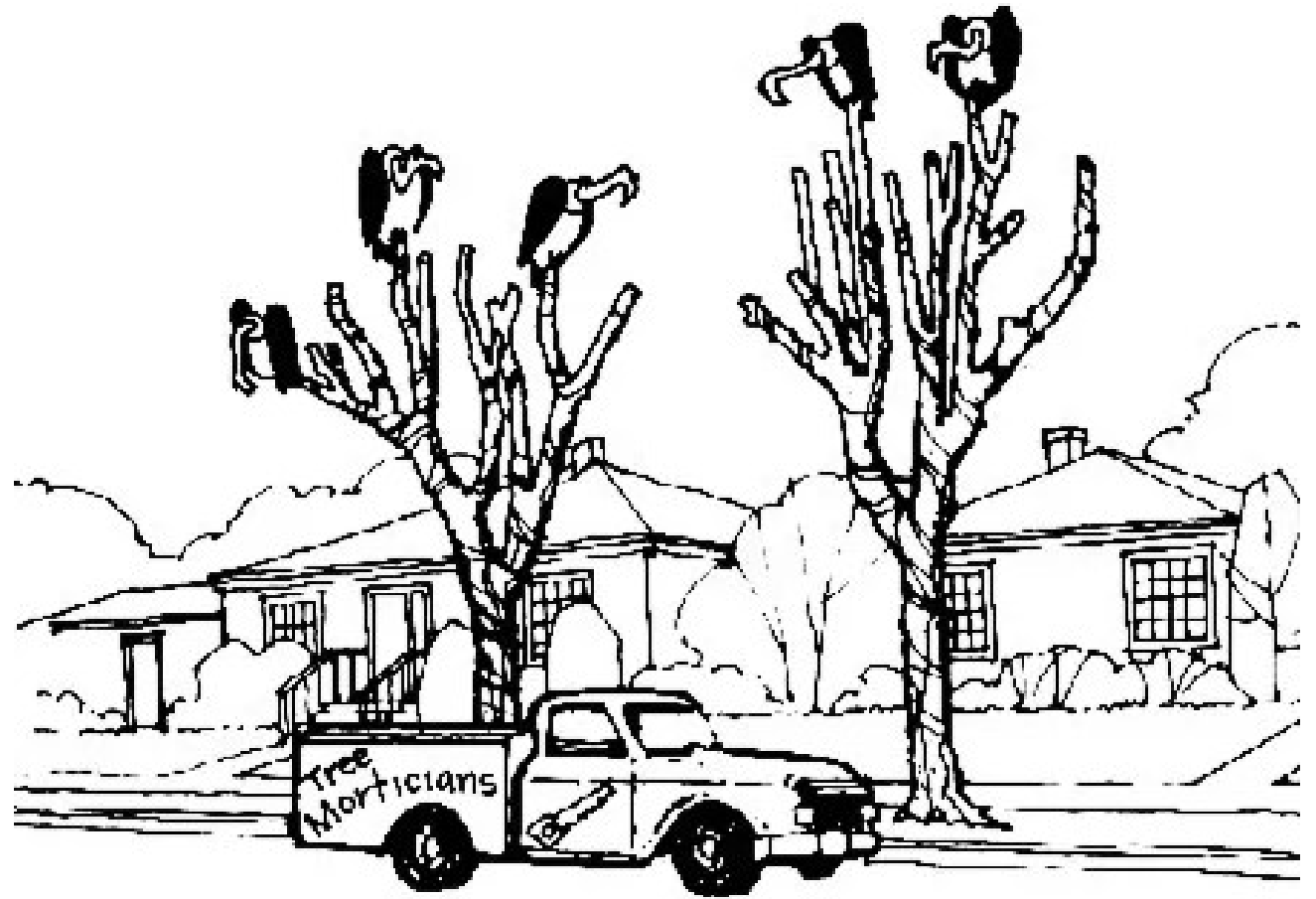
Pruning Dos & Don'ts

Don'ts

- Don't remove more than 25% of foliage in a growing season
- Never top the tree!
- Don't prune within 10 feet of a utility conductor
- Don't use wound paint

Do's

- Prune when the tree is dormant
- Leave the branch collar intact
- Consult a certified arborist for advice if unsure



REMEMBER:

- Water
- Soil
- Light
- Pests & Disease
- Pruning

**When in doubt –
consult a certified
arborist (ISA Certified)**





Q&A

Thank you!

Brian Colter

Grosse Pointe Farms

City Arborist

ISA Certified Arborist

