



To Trim a Tree Artistically

EDITORS NOTE: William Johnson, owner of Badger Tree Service, Phoenix, Ariz, said in a recent issue that it's time to "put the care back into tree care." It is necessary, he said, for a good tree trimmer to have an "innate sense of tree artistry." But he believes a tree trimmer can be trained also to do an artistic job. Here are Johnson's 10 suggestions:

- 1.** First study it for its own particular characteristics—or "personality." Observe the structural lines that bring out these traits in a way that enhances the home and property.
- 2.** Check for limbs that may have particular aesthetic value. Plan these limbs into your overall design.
- 3.** Determine which limbs might be lifted with proper cabling, rather than being removed because they appear too low.
- 4.** Trim out the deadwood, suckers, crossing limbs, and so on.
- 5.** Carefully thin the tree. Make all cuts neat and close to the branch so there is no stubbing, no rough knobs.
- 6.** Trim unsightly limb extensions so tree outlines will be natural and pleasant looking.
- 7.** Observe tree again from all angles. Is it lacy? Does it have the lines you intended? Is your client happy?
- 8.** Finish tree by sealing all cuts with a good commercial tree wound dressing, preferably one that is penetrating.
- 9.** Leave a clean yard.
- 10.** At all times THINK SAFETY . . . WORK SAFELY.