

PROBLEMSOLVER

LANDSCAPE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS » BY H. BRUCE HELLERICK



PROBLEM

I passed these trees on a residential lawn awhile back. I parked my car and took a closer look. The homeowner said he had the offending trees pruned because they were growing too tall and he did not want them to “fall over.” I asked,

“Are you happy with the result? Would you do it again?” He replied they seemed thin. He also said he would wait and see how much they grew before possibly pruning them again.



SOLUTION

“Tree topping” — is a common practice in some parts of the country. It’s usually performed by those uneducated about proper arborist or pruning practices.

Education is the best way to stop tree topping. Explain your stance in letters to the editor. Talk to homeowners who have had their trees topped to find out who did the work. Provide that company with pruning tips.

Here are links to three groups that can provide more information on tree care-related questions:

- › National Arbor Day Foundation: ArborDay.org
- › Plant Amnesty: PlantAmnesty.org
- › International Society of Arboriculture: ISA-Arbor.com

Every day you see horticultural problems. Sometimes the solution is obvious, but others are much more difficult to solve. Brickman Group Senior Horticulture Specialist H. Bruce Hellerick tackles these issues in Problem Solver. He can be reached at Hellerick@BrickmanGroup.com.

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