

7

**Reasons
You
Should
Get Rid Of
Unwanted
Trees And
Brush**



WOLFE

Forestry Mulching



DANGER TO PETS, PEOPLE, PROPERTY

The old saying is “what goes up, must come down.” Sometimes that includes trees that have grown up in places that aren’t ideal. Proximity to structures, vehicles, play areas, and so on can pose an increased risk if the trees fall down. Falling trees can be caused by disease, insects, animals, storms, erosion, construction, and other factors both man-made and natural. Being proactive and removing them before they pose a serious threat is the smart thing to do, preventing future disasters. 🌳

One of the best things you can do when planting trees is to think about how big that tree will be when fully grown, and how close it will be to existing structures. However, for existing trees and brush, removing them before they become a problem is often the wisest solution.



#2

REPLACE TREES WITH BETTER ONES

Sometimes you just have the wrong tree in the right place. Replacing a grove of less desirable trees with some beautiful hardwoods or fruit trees might just be the ticket to turning a nice place into a wonderful place that you've dreamed about for years. Trees with shallow root systems, trees that tend to drop branches or unwanted blossoms or nuts, and trees with pesky root systems that wreak havoc with your underground plumbing are all candidates to be replaced with something beautiful that doesn't create a mess for you at the same time. Consult a local nursery if you're wondering what trees might be good candidates for replacing your current problem trees. 🍎



Instead of a tree that drops prickly things that torture bare feet, why not plant something your children and grandchildren can climb, or swing from, or eat fruit from?





HELP ERADICATE INVASIVE PLANTS

What are invasive species? And why do we want to get rid of them? Everybody in the southeast knows kudzu, “the vine that ate the south.” Kudzu is the poster child of invasive plants, first introduced in 1876 from Japan as a way to control erosion. Invasive plants are any trees, shrubs, vines, and various ground and water plants that are not indigenous to our area. They’ve been introduced either intentionally or accidentally, but over time, the results are disastrous.

Invasive plants kill off local plants that ordinarily thrive and help make up our indigenous ecosystem. This hurts not only our environment, but our economy as well, and can even lead to human health issues. It is estimated that the US spends close to \$35 billion a year battling invasive plants. When invasive plants displace native vegetation like the Longleaf pine, fire regimes are interrupted and soil characteristics are changed dramatically for the worse. Additionally, other species are impacted because of the loss of the Longleaf pine. The endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker makes its home in the Longleaf pine. When the pines are pushed out by invasive species, they lose their habitat. And so do several other species that live in empty woodpecker nests, such as frogs, other bird species, and many insects. This is just one example.

Eliminating invasive trees and brush promotes a health ecosystem where local plants and animals can thrive. 🍏



Red-cockaded woodpeckers depend on Longleaf pine trees to live and survive, but invasive trees push out the Longleaf and destroy the soil.

Bradford pears, while beautiful, are a terribly damaging invasive tree that wreaks havoc in our ecosystem.



A few examples of INVASIVE PLANTS found in the Piedmont Triad.

Trees

Ailanthus altissima (Tree-of-Heaven)
Albizia julibrissin (Mimosa)
Melia azedarach (Chinaberry)
Paulownia tomentosa (Princess Tree)
Pyrus calleryana (Bradford Pear)
Triadica sebifera (Chinese Tallow Tree)

Shrubs

Berberis (Mahonia) *bealei* (Leatherleaf Mahonia)
Berberis thunbergii (Japanese Barberry)
Buddleja davidii (Butterfly bush)
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian Olive)
Elaeagnus pungens (Thorny Olive)
Elaeagnus umbellata (Autumn Olive)
Euonymus alata (Burning Bush)
Ligustrum japonicum (Japanese Privet)
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese Privet)
Lonicera fragrantissima (Fragrant Honeysuckle)
Lonicera maackii (Bush Honeysuckle)
Nandina domestica (Heavenly Bamboo)
Poncirus trifoliata (Trifoliolate Orange)
Rosa multiflora (Multiflora Rose)
Tamarix ramosissima (Salt Cedar)

Herbaceous Plants

Alliaria petiolata (Garlic Mustard)
Arthraxon hispidus (Small Carpetgrass)
Arundo donax (Giant Reed)
Cyperus entrerianus (Deep-rooted Sedge)
Ficaria verna (Fig Buttercup)
Glechoma hederacea (Ground Ivy)
Heracleum mantegazzianum (Giant Hogweed)

Imperata cylindrica (Cogongrass)
Iris pseudacorus (Yellowflag Iris)
Lespedeza bicolor (Bicolor/Shrub Lespedeza)
Lespedeza cuneata (Chinese Lespedeza)
Lygodium microphyllum (Old World Climbing Fern)
Lythrum salicaria (Purple Loosestrife)
Microstegium vimineum (Japanese Stilt Grass)
Miscanthus sinensis (Chinese Silvergrass)
Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. undulatifolius (Wavyleaf Basketgrass)
Perilla frutescens (Beefsteak Plant)
Phalaris arundinacea (Reed Canarygrass)
Phragmites australis (Common Reed)
Phyllostachys aurea (Golden Bamboo)
Reynoutria japonica (Japanese Knotweed)
Solanum viarum (Tropical Soda Apple)
Sorghum halepense (Johnson Grass)
Stellaria media (Common Chickweed)
Youngia japonica (Asiatic Hawsbeard)

Vines

Akebia quinata (Chocolate Vine)
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Porcelain Berry)
Cayratia japonica (Bushkiller)
Celastrus orbiculatus (Oriental Bittersweet)
Clematis terniflora (Sweet Autumn Virgin's Bower)
Euonymus fortunei var. radicans (Winter Creeper)
Hedera helix (English Ivy)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese Honeysuckle)
Persicaria perfoliata (Mile-A-Minute Vine)
Pueraria montana (Kudzu)
Tribulus terrestris (Puncturevine)
Wisteria floribunda (Japanese Wisteria)
Wisteria sinensis (Chinese Wisteria)

#4

RECLAIM YOUR OWN SPACE

Recently acquired property or a lot you've lived on for years all have one thing in common: they need maintenance. And while that's often as simple as mowing the grass and pruning a few bushes, sometimes the plant life can get away from you. Areas that were once grassy pastures can become choked with scrub growth, and a beautiful grove of trees left unchecked can become overrun with thorns, poison ivy, kudzu, and many undesirable bushes and trees thanks to the efforts of mother nature.

Clearing out neglected areas allows you to take full advantage of your property, enjoy more sunshine, and make grooming much more manageable. Create a new play area for the kids; cultivate a vegetable garden; plant some fruit trees; build a gazebo or a campfire pit. The possibilities are endless when you reclaim space you thought you'd lost. 🍎

Re-imagine your property if you got rid of undesirable trees and brush and reclaimed it for a new purpose.



#5

GET RID OF PESTS AND VARMINTS

Snakes. Termites. Fire ants. Bees, wasps, and hornets. Mosquitoes. Possums. Ticks. Racoons. Mice. Rats.

Sure, these all have their place in nature, as long as that place isn't right next to your place. Clearing out areas of undesirable vegetation and eliminating their habitats ensures your family can safely and comfortably co-exist with nature from a very safe distance. 🍷



They're great to admire on a National Geographic show, but a lot less fascinating when they're trying to move into your garage.



#6

KEEP NATURE FROM ENCROACHING

You may have a lovely piece of property surrounded by trees and woods, and it's lovely just as long as the trees and woods stay on their side of the line. But once they start creeping over into your fields, your lawn, or your pond, well, there goes your natural border and lovely view. Now it's a war.

Regularly defining the property line not only looks more attractive, it also prevents you from gradually losing valuable land that can serve a much better purpose when kept in check. Think of it like cutting your grass and edging along your driveway, just with really, really big grass made out of wood. 🚫



Fences are fine, but nothing looks better than a natural, well-groomed border between your space and nature. Keeping unwanted growth at bay is a long-term endeavor that needs period, planned pruning.



INCREASE YOUR CURB APPEAL

Let's face it: sometimes you just need a haircut. Sure, there were a couple of weeks there when you really thought you were rocking the shaggy hair, until sometime when you crossed a line and just started looking like a hot mess. It creeps up on you, even when you're looking at it every day.

Trees and brush do the same thing. They may grow a little slower than your hair, but sooner or later you'll look out the window and think, "good grief, when did we start living next to a jungle?" And chances are, you'll notice it long after your neighbors have. So do yourself a favor and keep the unwanted growth at bay, and it will keep your neighbors happy and put a little extra coin in your pocket when you're ready to sell. 🍷



More open air, more grass, and more deliberate choices of greenery around your home and property makes your home more attractive to you, your neighbors, and prospective buyers.



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