

~ From Roots to Shoots ~

SHREINER

*Think
Trees!*



TREE CARE

FALL '25 / WINTER '26
NEWSLETTER



Beech Leaf Disease

The latest blight affecting our native beech trees.

- *More on Beech Leaf Disease*
- *Winter Dormant Pruning*
- *Cobb's Creek Golf Course*

A Note from Steve



Greetings,

Now that autumn is in the air, it's time to think about mums, cornstalks, hay bales, pumpkins and spectacular fall color around your home. It's ideal weather to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. I encourage you to visit one of our community's beautiful gardens or arboretums. These serene spaces offer inspiration for adding trees and native plants to your own landscape. Find a list of local gardens at the link below.

This summer brought intense heat and humidity, particularly from late June through July, placing significant stress on plants, trees, and lawns. Despite earlier rainfall, the landscape is now drying out, with many trees showing early color change and leaf drop. Our plant health care techs have been very busy this summer monitoring foliar diseases and damaging insects. Due to the drought conditions, many trees are turning color and shedding leaves early. Hopefully, we get additional rain as our trees and plants prepare for fall and winter.

Our team of arborists were kept busy addressing tree damage from the frequent storms that passed through our neighborhoods this summer. I'm proud of our teams' tireless efforts tending to our customers' needs, especially during the very hot weather this summer.

Sadly, our stately beech trees are under attack. We are seeing an alarming rise in Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), caused by a microscopic nematode affecting all species of beech trees along the Main Line. For more details on protecting your beech trees, please see the "Bugs and Blooms" section in the newsletter.

As the growing season ends, we shift to fall and winter tree maintenance. The dormant season allows our arborists to access hard-to-reach areas of your property and perform structural pruning on trees of all sizes. This is the ideal time to prune disease-prone species like American elms and oaks. Contact us to schedule a visit and learn how fall and winter care can benefit your trees and landscape.

**Thank you for your continued support and loyalty.
Wishing you a beautiful fall season!**

Sincerely,

Steve



History in the Making

Founded in 1916, Cobbs Creek Golf Course is one of Philadelphia's most historic public golf courses. For over a century, it has welcomed golfers of all ages and skill levels, including professionals, to its storied fairways.

In the early 2000s, Shreiner Tree Care assisted the Cobbs Creek's golf course superintendents with on-course tree safety concerns. However, the course faced significant challenges from 2010 to 2020, including a fire, flooding, and funding shortages.

In 2022, the City of Philadelphia leased the property to the Cobbs Creek Foundation, sparking a transformative revitalization effort. The ongoing renovations and upgrades promise to leave a lasting impact on Philadelphia and its surrounding communities. Shreiner Tree Care is proud to contribute to this vision, having provided consulting during the project's early stages. We continue to actively support the tree management program as the golf course and its facilities are restored to their full potential.



Newly Constructed

Smilow | Woodland TGR Learning Lab



Cobbs Creek Golf Course



Fall Plant Health Care

2025 Season Review

As the 2025 Plant Health Care season draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks for entrusting us with the care of your trees and landscapes. This year, the Main Line experienced another memorable season of weather. March brought typical seasonal swings, with significant temperature fluctuations and record-breaking rainfall early in the month. Spring progressed with steadily rising temperatures, giving way to a hot and humid summer marked by frequent afternoon thunderstorms. July was particularly intense, with daytime temperatures consistently in the 90s and unusually warm nights.

By August, conditions moderated with cooler nights and lower humidity, though occasional warm spells persisted early in the month. Spring's heavy rainfall transitioned into persistent summer heat and humidity, followed by a gradual shift to cooler, drier weather. Now, October mornings and evenings carry the crisp feel of fall, signaling autumn's arrival.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we conclude this growing season, we're reflecting on lessons learned and preparing for 2026. Plant Health Care renewals will be sent out in late winter, as in previous years. If you'd like to discuss your PHC program earlier, please contact us—we'd be delighted to assist.

Thank you again for relying on our arborists. We look forward to serving you in 2026!



Nate, Mike, Sean, Sam, Jameson, George

*Thank you,
Nate Heller and the PHC Team*

Beech Leaf Disease is Spreading

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) has become a growing concern in our region, with our arborists observing high concentrations of affected beech trees along the Main Line. Caused by the microscopic nematode *Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii*, BLD is a fatal disease impacting all beech species, including European cultivars.

The American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), known for its smooth, gray bark and dense green canopy, is a hallmark of native eastern forests. However, BLD threatens these iconic trees. Early symptoms include distinct dark green banding between leaf veins, followed by distorted, cupped, or curled leaves that shed prematurely. In severe cases, buds die, leading to branch dieback and tree death within 3–7 years, depending on the tree's vigor.

The good news? There's still time to protect your beech trees! Our team offers effective solutions to manage and mitigate BLD.



American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) with its smooth gray bark and dense green canopy, a hallmark of native eastern forests.



Distinct dark green banding between the veins of Beech leaves — a characteristic early symptom of Beech Leaf Disease.



Microscopic view of the foliar nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *mccannii*) responsible for Beech Leaf Disease in North American beech trees.

Additional Information

Click to Learn About Beech Leaf Disease

Scan QR Code to Learn More About Beech Leaf Disease



Storm Damage: WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

Storm damage often raises questions about responsibility, especially after a stressful event. Below, we outline common scenarios to clarify liability and next steps. Knowing your property line is essential—don't guess! A professional survey can confirm boundaries. Contact us for a referral to a qualified surveyor in your area.

SITUATION 1 (NEIGHBOR'S TREE FALLS IN YOUR YARD [NO PROPERTY DAMAGE]): If a tree from your neighbor's property falls into your yard without causing structural damage, cleanup costs are typically shared between neighbors. However, if relations are strained, the impacted homeowner may need to clear debris up to the property line. Most insurance policies don't cover cleanup costs in these cases, as no structural damage occurred, and your deductible may exceed the cleanup expense.

SITUATION 2 (NEIGHBOR'S TREE CAUSES PROPERTY DAMAGE): If a neighbor's tree falls and damages your property (e.g., your home or structures), your homeowner's insurance typically covers some removal costs and repairs, minus your deductible. Coverage varies by policy, so review yours in advance to understand what's included. In some cases, cooperative neighbors may offer to cover the deductible or contribute to cleanup costs.

SITUATION 3 (TREE STRADDLES THE PROPERTY LINE): If a tree's trunk shares the property line, both neighbors share legal responsibility. Either party can decide on pruning or removal, but written permission is strongly recommended before any work begins. Excessive pruning back to the property line may make you liable if it harms the tree's health or stability. In a storm event, property damage determines which insurance policy applies.

PROACTIVE STEPS: ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT A NEIGHBOR'S TREE

If a neighbor's tree appears unsafe or threatens your property, politely inform them. They may be unaware of the issue, and a friendly conversation often prompts action. Our arborists can assist by inspecting the tree, mediating discussions, and providing written documentation of concerns. This documentation is critical for protecting you financially if the issue is ignored.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Be Neighborly:** Start by discussing concerns with your neighbor and request a tree inspection.
- **Document Everything:** Follow up verbal agreements with written confirmation.
- **Review Your Insurance:** Consult your homeowner's insurance agent to clarify coverage for tree-related damage.
- **Seek Expert Help:** Our arborists are available to assess trees, mediate neighbor discussions, and provide professional guidance.



Winter Tree Care: Dormant Pruning

Winter is an ideal time for tree care, offering unique advantages for pruning and maintenance. Even during the dormant season, our arborists are actively caring for trees. Here's why dormant season pruning benefits your trees and landscape:

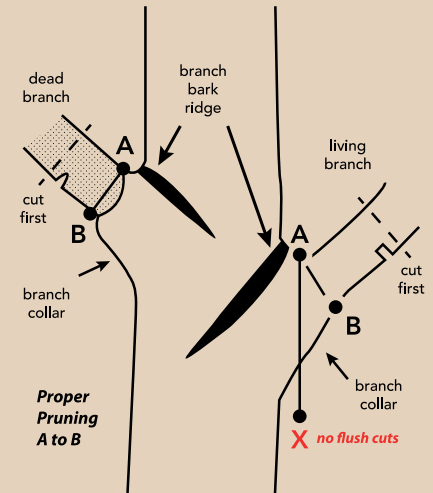
Enhanced Visibility and Precision: Without leaves, our arborists can clearly assess and access the tree's canopy, identifying deadwood by the absence of healthy buds. This allows for precise pruning to improve structure, enhance appearance, and maintain the tree's natural growth habit. Strategic cuts can shape the tree, reduce its overall size, or remove low-hanging branches to increase sunlight to lawns and clear walkways, streets, or structures.

Reduced Stress and Disease Risk: Winter pruning minimizes stress on trees, as it doesn't stimulate new growth. For species prone to diseases, such as oaks, elms, and orchard trees (e.g., apple, peach, cherry), winter is the safest time to prune, reducing the spread of pathogens. Pruning cuts made in winter seal over more quickly in the spring, promoting long-term health.

Storm Damage Prevention: By removing select branches, we can reduce a tree's weight and vulnerability to wind and storm damage. This proactive approach strengthens trees and enhances safety for your property.

Artistic Pruning: Our arborists combine scientific knowledge of tree biology with an artistic approach to pruning, revealing the natural beauty of your trees and shrubs while maintaining their health and form.

Improved Property Access: Winter's frozen or dry ground allows our team to bring heavy equipment into areas that may be inaccessible during wetter seasons. This ensures efficient work with minimal impact on your landscape.



Local Municipalities are Enforcing Tree Preservation

Trees, dynamic living organisms thriving for over 300 million years, naturally regenerate and sustain growth. However, along the Main Line, our aging tree canopy is declining. Urban expansion limits space for natural tree replacement, reducing canopy density. Shreiner Tree Care is committed to reversing this trend through planting new trees for clients, supporting community planting events, and advocating for greater tree protection and expansion.

Trees enhance beauty, provide shade, and increase property values, making their preservation critical. Local municipalities have enacted ordinances to prevent unwarranted tree removal, ensuring sustainable landscapes. Shreiner Tree Care educates clients on these regulations and collaborates with municipalities to ensure compliance while achieving optimal outcomes for your property.

Together, we can help preserve and expand the Main Line's vibrant tree canopy.

Think Trees!

Scan the QR code below to learn about your township's tree preservation regulations.



RADNOR



LOWER MERION



TREDYFFRIN



HAVERFORD

For 39 years, Shreiner Tree Care has proudly served Main Line families with a dedicated team of professional arborists. Our friendly, knowledgeable, and skilled staff is the foundation of our enduring reputation. Thank you for allowing us to care for your trees.



Leading the Way in Arboriculture

Our team is committed to excellence through ongoing training and industry-leading certifications:

13 ISA Certified Arborists
2 ISA Board Certified Master Arborists
TCIA-Accredited Tree Care company

Safety Never Takes a Vacation

Our team undergoes weekly training to ensure the highest standards of safety, expertise, and customer care on every project.



Call, Text or Email

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Make an Appointment with your Arborist



Scan to Contact