

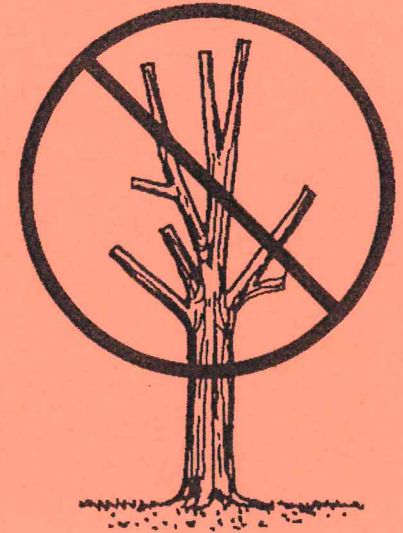
A Message from the Coldwater Tree Commission

Do Not Top Trees!

What is topping? Topping is the drastic removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees. The tree is sheared like a hedge and the main branches are cut to stubs.

Why are trees topped? Many homeowners have their trees topped, when their trees reach heights they consider unsafe. They fear a strong wind might blow these large trees over. This fear is a mistake and is largely unjustified, for the extensive root system of a healthy tree, left undisturbed, provides adequate support for the tree.

Alternative to Topping: Crown Reduction is the selective removal of live branches to decrease the height or spread of a tree's crown. Use of drop-crotch pruning cuts is required. A drop-crotch pruning cut removes the end of a branch by cutting back to a crotch created by a lateral branch. An ISA Certified Arborist will know this trimming practice. There are exemptions when topping is needed such as small over-grown landscape trees that need cut back because they are growing into the house or buildings. Large trees in the yard should not be topped.



8 Reasons Why You Should Not Top Your Trees

- 1. Cost:** The true cost of topping is often hidden – lower property values, expense of removal and replacement if the tree dies. The faster growth will lead to more frequent costly trimming in the future.
- 2. Shock:** By removing the protective cover of the tree's canopy, bark tissue is exposed to the direct rays of the sun. The resultant scalding can cause the tree's death. Roots also die back due to the canopy loss.
- 3. Insects and Disease:** The exposed ends of the topped limbs are highly vulnerable to insect invasion or decay fungi spores.
- 4. Weak Limbs:** New branches that grow from a stubbed limb are weakly attached and more liable to break from snow or ice weight.
- 5. Rapid New Growth:** Instead of controlling the height and spread of the tree, topping has the opposite effect. New branches are more numerous and often grow higher and faster than before.
- 6. Tree Death:** Some tree species can't tolerate major branch loss and still survive. At best, they remain weak, disease-prone and forever stunted.
- 7. Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with new growth it never regains the grace and character of its species.
- 8. Starvation:** Topping removes so much of the tree's leafy crown that it dangerously reduces the tree's food-making ability.

Village of Coldwater Approved Tree Care Companies

(Not Listed in Any Order)

Schmiesing Tree Service

07795 State Route 66
New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-4224
www.schmiesingtreeservice.com

Fitzwater Tree and Lawn Care

4617 Jaysville St. Johns Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-1705
www.fitzwatertreeandlawn.com

**To learn more about the dangers of topping
trees & ISA Certified Arborists, visit
treesaregood.org.**

These companies have provided proof of workers compensation coverage and have sufficient liability insurance. They employ ISA Certified Arborists and have agreed to not perform any tree topping or lions-tailing within the village limits.

Clause – The Village of Coldwater does not endorse any of these companies in any way nor are responsible for the work they perform on private property trees.