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# CUSTOM TREE TIMES

FALL 2007

## SERVICES

Tree Pruning  
Tree Removal  
Stump Grinding  
Tree Planting  
Firewood Sales  
Emergency Service



**We employ certified arborists by ISA & KAA**

**Licensed & Insured**

**Member of NE Kansas Better Business Bureau**

## Topping trees causes irreversible damage

From time to time we are asked to “top” a tree, most commonly due to a tree’s size being larger than desirable for a given area. We’d like to take this opportunity to explain exactly what it means to top a tree, how it is harmful to the tree, and offer better alternatives. Topping often removes 50% (or more) of the leaf-bearing crown of a tree. It entails cutting back the tree’s branches to stubs. The tree gets its food from its leaves. By removing such a large portion of the leaves, it stresses the tree, and essentially starves it. As the tree is trying to support itself, it will sprout new “suckers.” These suckers are quick to grow, but are weakly attached, and may cause potential, long term, hazards. Topping often causes a wound too large for the tree to heal back. This open wound causes exposed wood tissue to decay, this decay will move down through the branches thereby rotting more of the tree, and posing hazards. The tree will be more prone to storm damage caused by wind, snow, or ice. Topping trees destroys their natural beauty. It often leaves ugly stubs, destroying the natural form of the tree. During the time the tree is dormant, without its leaves, it looks mutilated. When the tree does have all its leaves it looks like a dense ball of foliage. Once a tree has been topped, it can never fully regain its natural form. There are times when it is necessary to reduce the size of a tree, one example is to clear power lines. When practical, branches should be cut back to the parent branch. If a branch must be shortened it should be cut back to a lateral that is large enough to assume the terminal role. This method helps preserve the natural form of the tree. Sometimes the best solution is have the tree removed, and replaced with a smaller variety of tree, who’s mature height will not exceed the desired size.



**Trees that have been topped lose their natural beauty and form.**

## 2007 is almost a memory

Well, here it is in mid-November and I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. We have had another busy year here at CTC. We have added some new equipment recently and have also completed several out of town contracts. We have been operating two full time crews most of the year. Earlier in the year we added a second 60 foot bucket truck and just last week took delivery of a new chipper. This equipment will allow us to serve you better, safer, and faster. One of our crews completed a project in Colorado removing pine trees that were killed by the Mountain Pine Beetle. We also completed two projects in Iowa doing tree removal for the State of Iowa and Iowa City. Most recently our personnel removed and pruned over 90 trees in two national cemeteries in Leavenworth for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

When the leaves are off the trees is a great time to prune you trees due to the fact that you can see the trees’ structure better. And make sure your trees are pruned away from your powerlines and roofs before we get any ice storms. Thank you again for your business and support this past year and we look forward to serving you again in 2008.