

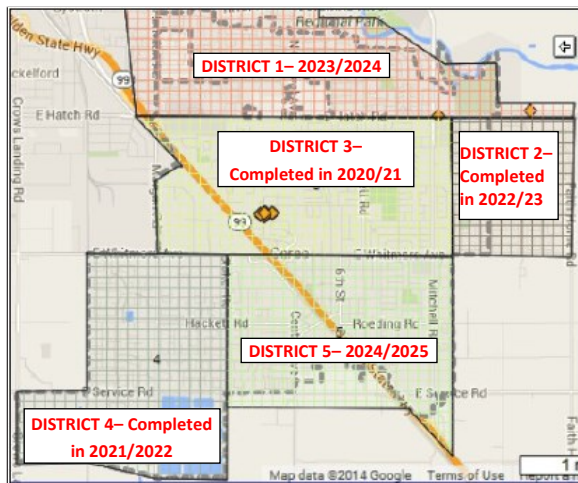
## CERES GRID PRUNE POLICY

Ceres City Council Study Sessions were held in 2012 and 2013 to consider an ongoing maintenance program for City Street Trees. Council directed staff to continue with current maintenance policies and to provide recommendations for cost effective services.

As part of a contract services agreement, West Coast Arborists, Inc., began working with the City of Ceres in 2013 to provide tree maintenance along with a complete inventory of the trees located in the City Right of Ways.

The survey data was collected for each address and includes tree species, parkway type, botanical and common name, and other information. The inventory was completed by the end of 2013.

The City Grid Prune Program began in 2014 starting with District One of its Five Districts. Each District will be pruned every five years. Trees considered "at risk" before its scheduled Grid Prune year will be done as needed.



## CERES INSECT TREATMENT POLICY

*Quick Facts on Aphids.....*

### TREE DROPPING SAP???

- Aphids are found on almost all types of plants and a few species can cause plant injury.
- Feeding aphids excrete honeydew, a sticky fluid that can cause nuisance problems.

- Some aphid species can curl the new leaves of some types of plant.
- Natural enemies of aphids include lady beetles, flower fly larvae, lacewing larvae, and parasitic wasps.
- Exposed aphids can be controlled by insecticides, insecticidal soaps and sometimes with a strong jet of water.

If you see evidence of aphids in your City tree, you can contact the Public Works Department to request that our Parks staff come and treat your tree with an insecticide to kill the aphids. This treatment generally works well and is best started in early Spring at first sign of insects or a sticky substance.

## CERES TREE PLANTING POLICY

As budget funds allow, the City of Ceres will replant approximately 80 trees each year in locations that have a vacant City tree site. A vacant site is where a tree was removed for reasons the City deemed necessary. If you have had a City tree removed and have not had a replacement, you may call the Public Works Department to request your address be added to the next scheduled Tree Plant List.

## HELPFUL TREE TIPS

- Young trees with yellow, curling or brown-edged leaves are in need of water.
- Young trees do NOT like weed whackers, blowers or mowers – so stay away!
- MULCH – 3 or 4 inches deep helps hold water and makes your trees healthier.

## SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL LEAF AND LIMB COLLECTION PROGRAM

Loose leaves and limbs (less than 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter) are collected every other week on a seasonal schedule, beginning October 1st through January 9th of each year. Leaf & limb piles are removed from the street the day after your scheduled recycling collection. The collection schedule is available on the City's website at [ci.ceres.ca.us](http://ci.ceres.ca.us). Residents living in homes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes may place piles in the street, one foot away from the gutter, prior to their collection day. Piles may not be placed longer than one week before the scheduled collection day. (NO GRASSCLIPPINGS OR BARK IN PILES)



## Beautiful Neighborhoods . . .

are more than only nice houses and buildings. They include a variety of healthy trees. Trees have more importance than just increasing your property values. Continue reading to discover the many benefits of trees in our neighborhoods and proper maintenance care so that we may keep our trees around for future generations.

**CERES PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Landscape and Parks Division**  
2220 Hackett Road, Ceres, CA 95307  
(209) 538-5732

*Ceres has been proclaimed a "Tree City USA" since 1993. The City of Ceres does its best to keep our established trees healthy.*

## DID YOU KNOW THAT TREES...

### Increase the VALUE of your home

- The City of Ceres has a tree inventory valued at \$24,677,050.00 making the average tree valued at \$2,163.00. This does not include privately owned residential or commercial trees.
- Houses with mature trees in the front yard sell for more money than houses without trees, often by up to 20%.<sup>1</sup>

### Save you MONEY on your energy bills

- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.<sup>2</sup>

### Have Physical and Mental ADVANTAGES

- One average sized tree makes enough oxygen for a family of four for a whole year.
- Streets lined with trees are quieter due to traffic noise reduction.
- During one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange.

### Benefit WILDLIFE

- Trees provide vital wildlife habitat.<sup>2</sup>

HEALTHY TREE



TOPPED TREE



## WHAT IS TOPPING A TREE?

*The diagram below and pictures above shows why topping is so damaging to a tree.*



- **Topping can lead to sunburn** of the tissues beneath the bark. This can lead to cankers, bark splitting, and death of some branches.
- **Topping can create hazards.** New shoots that grow below the cuts are weakly attached and often become a hazard. During windy conditions, the shoots are very prone to breaking.
- **Topping makes trees unattractive.** A topped tree looks disfigured and mutilated.
- **Topping is expensive.** If the tree survives, it will require pruning within a few years. Topped trees are prone to breaking, making them a potential liability. Anyone damaging City trees, through topping or other measures, can be fined. Please contact the Ceres Public Works Department at 538-5732 if you see anything that may be a concern.

## MISTLETOE CAN BE A KILLER FOR OUR TREES

Broadleaf mistletoe (*Phoradendron macrophyllum*) is an evergreen parasitic plant that grows on a number of landscape tree species in California.

## IDENTIFICATION



Leafy mistletoes have green stems with thick leaves that are nearly oval in shape. Plants often develop a rounded form up to 2 feet or more in diameter. The small, sticky, whitish berries are produced from October to December. Evergreen clumps of mistletoe are readily observed on deciduous trees in winter when leaves are off the trees.

## DAMAGE

Broadleaf mistletoe absorbs both water and mineral nutrients from its host trees. Healthy trees can tolerate a few mistletoe branch infections, but individual branches may be weakened or sometimes killed if heavily infested.

## MANAGEMENT

Controlling mistletoe in any infected trees will reduce the infection of other trees. For existing trees it is important to remove mistletoe before it produces seed and spreads to other limbs or trees. Control through pruning is the most effective method for removal. Severely infested trees should be removed and replaced with less susceptible species to protect surrounding trees.

**When you notice a Mistletoe infestation, please contact the Public Works Department (538-5732) to have the tree trimmed and the mistletoe removed before it causes permanent damage.**

## TOPPING OR DAMAGING CITY TREES CAN RESULT IN FINES (ORD. 12.16.050 1995)

No person shall cut, carve, mutilate or otherwise do harm to any tree in any park, planting strip, or public place or prune or top any tree except as provided in this Chapter, or apply any substance harmful to the tree. Section 12.16.120 states any and every violation of the provisions of this Chapter is a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, or by imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months.

<sup>1</sup> Management Information Services/CMA

<sup>2</sup> USDA Forest Service

## PROPERTY OWNERS MAINTENANCE GUIDE (ORDINANCE 12.16.050 1995)

It is the responsibility of homeowners or occupants to keep trees from extending over any street or alley trimmed to a height of not less than twelve feet (12'), except that a height of not less than seven feet (7') shall be permitted over the sidewalk area. It is also the duty of every person to keep said space clear of debris. All provisions of Section 12.12.090 shall also apply to these guidelines.

It is also the responsibility of homeowners to water and fertilize any tree located in a planting strip or public right of way abutting his or her property as necessary to promote healthy growth of the tree.