



# MOUNTAIN HIGH

Tree Care & Consulting

*In Harmony with Nature. In Partnership with You.*

*Superior expertise and the Mountain High satisfaction guarantee since 1974*

## 2011 Plant Health Care Proposal IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### TREE CARE IN COLORADO -

Growing up in Minnesota, I was in awe of the trees that withstood long, cold, and harsh winters. After moving to Colorado in 1982, I discovered a whole new environment in which trees have to grow and survive.

Each year since my arrival has been different from every other. I have seen 70 degrees in January and snow in May. I witnessed the wettest year in Colorado Springs and blizzards that dropped several feet of snow. I have experienced one of the driest years on record, the Hayman Fire burning in our “backyard” and the eerie sound of dry Chinook winds that reach 90 miles per hour.

Colorado Springs has a semi-arid climate. It is dry but not a desert, and it can be cold, reaching temperatures as low as 20 below zero. We are at the edge of the Great Plains where, historically, native trees only grew along waterways. This all means we need to plant and tend our Colorado trees with extra care.

Colorado’s extremes and subsequent insect, disease and abiotic (environmental) problems keep Mountain High working hard caring for your trees. If you would like a yard check, an estimate for winter pruning or other tree care, please call or e-mail us.

Your business is appreciated and your referrals are invaluable. Thank you.

Colorado, a Wonderful Place to Live,



*Al Wegner*  
Al Wegner and the MHT Team

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PHOTO: STEVE RYAN

Winter is one of the best times to prune trees.



**WINTER SPECIAL  
10% OFF**

**ON WINTER PRUNING  
OR TREE REMOVALS**

Authorize work to be done before  
March 1st and receive a 10%  
discount.

### THE ADVANTAGES OF PRUNING YOUR TREES IN WINTER -

In Colorado a major obstacle for trees is to overcome harsh winter storms that can bring dry Chinook winds of “hurricane” force or heavy, wet snows that damage tree structure. During the winter we have a unique opportunity to examine branch structure and identify problematic issues. Potential structural issues include broken/hanging branches, cracks or seams in branches, crossing and rubbing branches, and co-dominant branch growth. These issues can lead to costly and dangerous situations as trees grow larger. Pruning trees in winter, while leaves are off, is the best time to improve tree structure. It is also very helpful to begin working on tree structure while trees are young. Small amounts of pruning while trees are young can create a long-lived and healthy tree.

Besides getting a good look at the structure and form of a tree there are other advantages to pruning in winter, such as minimizing the impact to the rest of your landscape. American Elms should definitely be pruned during the winter months when disease carrying beetles are inactive. Crab-apple trees, apple trees and certain other flowering trees should also be pruned when dormant to avoid fire blight or other bacterial contamination.

## Colorado Springs: The Ups & Downs of Weather -

The past decade (2001-2010) had many weather extremes. 2002 was one of the driest years on record for Colorado Springs with just over 7 inches of precipitation. Just two years later, the summer of 2004 set some different records. It was the coolest in Colorado Springs history and the second wettest with almost 15 inches of rainfall in June, July, and August. In 2006, there was almost no precipitation between January 1 and July 1. Then over 8 inches came in July and August followed by heavy wet snows in October and blizzards in December. This past year (2010) was no less surprising. The total precipitation of 9.37 inches was over 8 inches below normal.

Drought is never very far away in Colorado and it is always affecting trees and landscapes. The result of drought is a loss of absorptive roots and a reduced resistance to insects and diseases in all our plants. Die-back is a response in deciduous trees and conifers tend to shed more needles and have a thin appearance.

### WHY WINTER WATER?

Most of our landscapes need over 20 inches per year of consistent moisture to sustain them. Normal annual precipitation in Colorado Springs is around 16 inches. Most of that is received in the summer months. Winter months are the driest.



Trees are efficient water users. However, maintaining proper watering is a task that never ends, because water is so important for growth, delivery of nutrients, photosynthesis and temperature regulation.

Supplementing moisture to the root system of the trees will help to promote optimal nutrient uptake and growth. **Watering your trees and shrubs is an important part of plant health care.** Mountain High can help by watering your trees, especially in dry winter months.

## YOUR ANNUAL PROPOSAL FOR 2011 IS ENCLOSED

Our recommendations are based on several factors including:

- Our knowledge of the plant material on your property and potential pests that could impact your landscape.
- History of past services and appropriate services for the upcoming season.
- Conditions of landscape plants as observed by our technicians throughout the year.

## INSECT ALERT

*European elm flea weevil (Orchestes alni)* is the newest damaging insect to establish in Colorado. In late spring, the adults chew holes in the leaves producing a lacy appearance in foliage when they are abundant. They lay their eggs along the leaf veins. The larvae then mine between the leaf surfaces, meandering in a serpentine form until terminating in a leaf blotch along the edge of the leaf. Adults emerge again in mid summer and can do more damage until overwintering. Because of the extended period of damage this insect requires two applications for control.



*Mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus ponderosae)* has devastated mountain forests and has been moving into urban areas, hitting Scotch, Austrian and Ponderosa pines. A single trunk application in the spring or early summer will give good control. As an option to spraying, Mountain High can install Verbenone (pheromone) packets on your trees to repel mountain pine beetles.



*Eriophyid mites* In the last few years we have noticed an increase in damage to trees from eriophyid mites. These mites are very tiny and observation requires a microscope. They have been especially damaging to evergreen (pfitzer) shrubs causing a deformed and tight "broccoli" appearance. In response to the mite's attack on the host plant, a localized growth reaction occurs, creating visible damage or other plant abnormality.



Eriophyid mites can induce galls, twig elongation, excessive bud production, or other forms of "brooming" as a result of their growth regulating saliva. Because of the extended period of damage (June-September) these mites require two or three applications for control.

### What Mountain High Does –

- Complete Tree & Shrub Care
- Quality Pruning & Shearing
- Removals & Stump Grinding
- Insect & Disease Controls & Sprays
- Consulting
- Organic wood mulch
- Lightning Protection
- Fertilization
- Deep Root Watering
- Forest Management
- Fire Mitigation
- Construction Mitigation
- Holiday Lighting

Please call us at 719.444.8800 for information and estimates or e-mail [becky@mhtree.com](mailto:becky@mhtree.com).