

Expert Says It's Time To Prune

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Winter and early spring are ideal times for pruning trees to remove dead or damaged wood because the branching patterns are seen more easily than at other times of the year. And storms often cause tree limbs to break, making their removal necessary.

Limbs already down are easy to round up and cart off to the dump.

And utility companies will help remove downed limbs, especially in the roads where they can pose a safety threat. But torn limbs still hanging on trees need to be cut correctly to ensure the continued health of the trees.

"Torn limbs should be cut as soon as possible after the damage has occurred to prevent further injury to trees from insects, dis-

eases or the weight of the limbs," said Ray Bosmans, horticulturist at the Home and Garden Information Center of the Cooperative Extension Service—University of Maryland at College Park.

Three cuts need to be made to properly prune limbs with a diameter of two inches or more. The first is an undercut made to prevent the bark from ripping. Then

an overcut is executed to remove the limb entirely. This cut is beyond the first cut to remove the weight. A last cut is used to remove the stub. This last cut needs to be close to — but not into — the branch collar, a visible ring of tissue or bark that is close to where the branch attaches to the tree. Cutting close to the collar, but not removing it, provides for

quicker healing.

Tools used for pruning need to be sharp. This makes for a smoother cut. Pruning shears and saws work best. Limbs that are up to 3/4 inch thick can be cut with loppers, Bosmans said. Again, be sure not to cut into the trunk. After pruning a branch, a wound will remain and some decay is possible. This is okay; it will heal. If the fallen limb is diseased, disinfect the pruning tools between cuts with bleach to prevent other parts of the tree from becoming infected.

When pruning damaged limbs after a storm, it's a good idea to check other limbs to see if any additional pruning is needed or if any limbs look like they may not make it through the next storm, said Sandy Pierson, an extension master gardener on the Eastern Shore. Branches that rub against each other and cause abrasions and branches with weak crotch angles should be removed to prevent later damage. Also, inspect the trunks for damage.

Old wounds should be left alone. Trees protect themselves by developing callus tissue around the wounds. Scraping away this tissue decreases the trees' defense mechanisms. Wound dressing, shellac, or paint should not be used.

Watch For Tetanus

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — "Mothers warn children about the dangers of stepping on a rusty nail. Adults should recall mother's warning, too. Without the right immunization, people can get a hazardous tetanus infection from such an injury," said Neil Lesitsky, MD, president of the 4,000-member Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP).

"Tetanus results when bacteria enter a wound or injury. Then the bacteria form a poison which can cause powerful, painful and potentially fatal muscle spasms," said Lesitsky. Tetanus is called "lock jaw" because infected patients often can't use their muscles to open their mouths or to swallow.

"Tetanus and teen-agers comprise the vast majority of tetanus

victims because they aren't immunized or don't receive booster shots. Even if you had all of your childhood tetanus vaccinations, you still need to be reimmunized every 10 years to maintain protection," Lesitsky said.

The shot may be covered under your health insurance policy. State law (Act 35 of 1992) requires many insurers to cover tetanus immunizations for children under age 21 and, in some cases, older dependents.

"Talk to your physician about tetanus immunization. If you are ill or had a reaction to a previous immunization, your doctor may not recommend a tetanus shot right now. Report any reaction to the vaccination (beyond the normal redness or soreness at the vaccination site, the thigh) to your

doctor, too," said Lesitsky. "Keep a record of your immunization — it's especially important if you are injured in an accident to know when you had your last tetanus shot."

Although there now are less than 50 cases of tetanus reported in the U.S. each year, about half the victims will die from the infection, and they usually are adults. Immunization has virtually wiped out tetanus in children — the childhood immunization schedule calls for four vaccinations between ages two months and 15 months, with a fifth at ages four to six (before entering first grade). Tetanus vaccinations often are given in conjunction with diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines as a DTP, a DTaP or a Td.

Weight Management

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension announces the start of the weight management class, MY NEW WEIGH OF LIFE. Classes will be held at the Chester County Cooperative Extension office in the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, Suite 370, beginning Wednesday, March 29 - June 14 from 10 a.m. - noon OR

from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

To register for either class (please be sure to indicate which class you will attend), send your name, address and daytime phone number along with a check for \$60 registration fee to Chester County Cooperative Extension, Government Services Center Suite 370, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382-4546.

Memories In Premier Performance

HERSHEY, (Dauphin Co.) — Storyteller Janice Henry weaves the experiences and memories of women who have worked in the Hershey chocolate factory from as early as 1919 into a thoroughly enjoyable performance which premieres at the Hershey Museum on March 12, 1995 at 2 p.m. Through the words and stories of workers whom Janice interviewed emerges a wonderfully graphic picture of life in the chocolate factory from the early days of its existence through to the present. The stories are related to the audience through the words of a fictional 14 year-old chocolate worker.

Through her voice, the collective memories of many actual women workers are told. "You don't have to be famous for your life to be history" is the underlying premise of the Hershey Museum's Hershey worker project.

The program is free with museum admission (\$4 adults, \$1.75 youth ages 3-15, \$3.50 senior citizens.) A special half-price discount is being offered to Hershey chocolate factory workers who show their Hershey Employee Picture ID and to Hershey Chocolate factory Retirees who show their Hershey Medical Insurance Cards to Hershey Museum admissions staff. For more information, please call (717) 534-3439.



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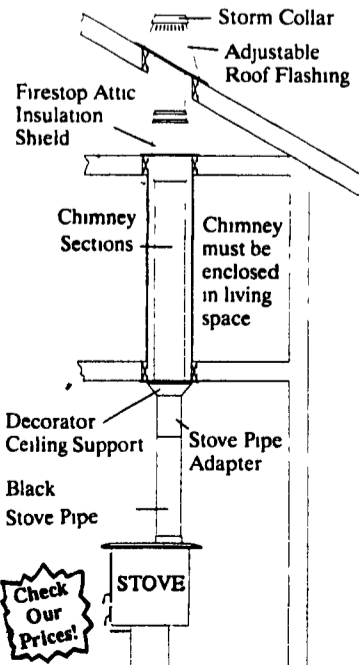
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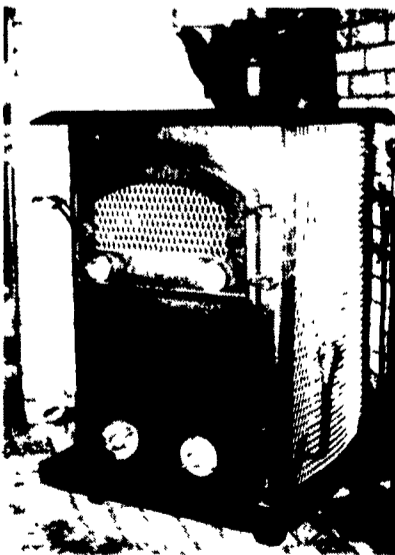
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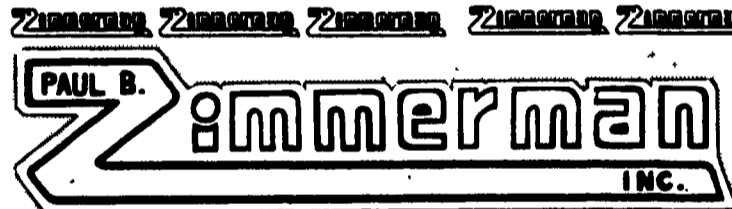
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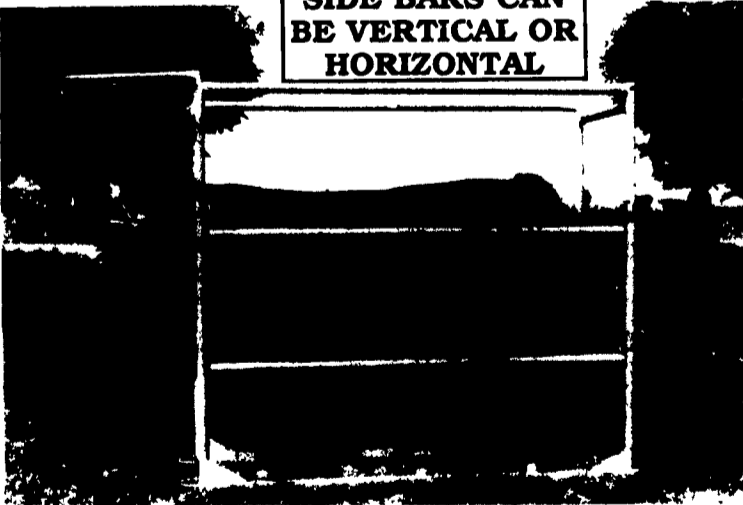
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