

Taking Some Off The Top Is Great For Haircuts, But Bad For Trees

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Getting a bad haircut is just a temporary condition in which the hair grows back none the worse for wear. But removing the entire canopy of a tree — a practice called "topping" — has much more lasting and sometimes fatal consequences, according to an arborist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Topping trees is not pruning," said Bill Elmendorf, instructor and coordinator of the urban and community forest program in the School of Forest Resources. "It is indiscriminate, drastic cutting and a reduction in the tree's energy-producing factory — the canopy."

Elmendorf says cutting the central trunk and tops of main branches severely weakens a tree by removing both leaves and stored carbohydrates. Topping reduces a tree's ability to generate food and energy by photosynthesis.

"Topping is really the ultimate in tree abuse," Elmendorf said. "It's usually done by unqualified and unknowledgeable tree cutters. In some cases, qualified arborist top trees at the insistence of homeowners who don't understand the damage they are paying to have done to their tree."

Elmendorf lists several conditions caused by topping trees.

- Unsafe structure. Elmendorf said topping trees leaves large wounds that are open to decay and insects, ultimately weakening the tree's structure. "The tree also will develop 'water sprouts' which are weakly attached branches," he said.

- Decline in health. In addition to losing the leaves' ability to produce food, topping causes the tree to use valuable food store in the trunk to regrow limbs. Limb removal causes sunscald of the remaining limbs as well.

- Ugliness. "Topping destroys the tree's form and symmetry," Elmendorf said.

- Decline in value. Altering the shape, structure and health of the tree by topping means a large ornamental tree can lose thousands of dollars in value.

- More frequent utility pruning. "Water sprouts grow faster and more thickly," Elmendorf said. "That makes utility line clearance more difficult, more frequent, and more expensive."

According to Elmendorf, most homeowners top trees because

they see other trees that have been topped, or they fear a large tree may blow over onto a house or garage." A topped tree with damaged and weakened structure is much more likely to blow over than a healthy tree," he said.

Elmendorf offers a few tips on avoiding the decision to top trees.

- Plant the right tree in the right place. "Don't plant large trees like oaks, tulip, poplars, and sycamores under power lines or near buildings and signs," Elmendorf said. "Choose smaller tree species for small area or sidewalk planting areas."

- Buy quality nursery stock. Choose a tree that is healthy and has good structure.

- Prune trees when they are young. "Trees should be pruned when they are three to five years old," Elmendorf recommends. "It promotes good structure, saves

money, and causes small pruning wounds."

- Prune correctly. Elmendorf says all tree pruning should be in accordance with the maintenance guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture. For more information about the society and its recommendations, call (217) 355-9411.

- Hire a qualified arborist. Elmendorf suggests getting three bids from local tree services. Be sure to contact references from the arborist's past work. Ask to see proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance.

"Why pay for an inferior service that destroys your tree?" Elmendorf said. "Find a qualified arborist who knows proper and safe tree care techniques. In tree work, taking the lowest price isn't necessarily good. In some cases, you get what you pay for — destroyed trees."

Adding Value To Farm Products Field Day Topic

MENCH (Bedford Co.) — Adding value to pasture-raised sheep and poultry products will be highlighted at an Aug. 14 field day at the Willow Springs Farm of Kate and Dale Thomsen in Bedford County.

The field is sponsored by Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) and will begin at 1 p.m.

Willow Springs Farm is a grass-based sheep, dairy, market lamb, and pastured poultry family farm outside of Everett. Kate and Dale began farming on this 83-acre farm in 1988 and began the sheep dairy in 1996. They raise 85 ewes, 30 feeding only pasture and hay. The Thomsens also grow 500-700 chickens totally on pasture. Chicken manure is the sole source of pasture fertilization.

The field day will look at the integration of this diversified, holistic system which features value-added direct market strategies. They have the sheep milk processed into cheese which is sold locally, in Pittsburgh, and on the Internet. The poultry and lamb is processed at a local butcher and sold locally along with the eggs

produced.

The field day will also focus on the pasture system, including fencing and low-cost watering equipment. There will also be an opportunity tour the milking parlor and observe the afternoon milking.

The Thomsens are a fine example of integrating agriculture and community, according to PASA Executive Director Tim Bowser: "They put meaning into local agriculture by emphasizing local sales and community connections. They insist on supporting local businesses such as their butcher, and invite their customers to come to the farm anytime to see how they produce their animals. It is a great alternative for people who want to know where their food comes from."

Directions to Willow Springs Farm: Everett is located on Rt. 30 and Rt. 26 adjacent to the turnpike. From downtown Everett, head south on Rt. 26. Take the first left, soon after passing under the turnpike, at sign stating Mench "3 miles." In Mench turn left at the four-way. Farm lane is two miles on left. Look for signs.

81 Mack. New, 9' Dump, 350 8spd. New Caps, Rear, New Front. Equipped to Tow Tag-Trailer. New Paint. Centre-Co. (814)422-8267.

933 Cat loader 11A1764, trans. has crack on bottom, runs, operates, very good parts machine. 717/834-9861.

AC New-Matic Fork-Lift. Gasoline, 2,000lbs. Capacity. Good Condition. \$2,000. (215)723-0540.

BOBCAT SKID LOADER 943, 1,879/hrs. 74hp Perkins Diesel, w/Root Rake & Cab Enclosure. Solid Rubber Industrial Wheels. \$12,800. (814)793-9369.

Case 1737 Unloader gas, \$3,695. Hough loaders: (1) w/Wainroy backhoe (1) 30R, good shape, new tires (1) parts machine- all three \$4,995. 580CK parts machine, extend-ahoe, diesel, whole or parts. (301)416-2544.

Cat D6 bulldozer w/hyd. blade & Cat double drum cable control; Cat 60 scraper. All in good working condition. \$7500 OBO. 717/938-2241.

Cat V50 Pneumatic tire forklift, 2-stage mast, 5000lb cap., LP, hydro, PS, full cab, dual drive, \$3800. 717/949-3582.

D66 76A5681, 12' manual angle dual hyd. tilt, ROPS, pins, bushings turned, pads 85%, good running machine, \$14,500. 717/834-9861.

DISMANTLING FOR PARTS: IH 3514 Backhoe. Gear Drive w/Forward & Reverser. Good Engine & Backhoe Parts Available. Call For Parts, Prices & Availability. BALANDA EQUIPMENT RT 29, Palm, PA (800)322-8030.

Ditch Witch w/all attachments, excellent condition, \$4,000. (609)697-2004.

Drott 50 Excavator Good Tight Machine, Ready for Work, \$9,500 (610)847-8704.

Ingersol Rand 100CFM compressor, Deutz diesel, \$1800. 717/336-7375 No Sunday Calls.

JD 300 Backhoe good Condition \$8,900; CAT 933 F-Loader w/Wench, Good Condition- \$8,500. (610)469-9445.

Economy Polecat Scissors Lift, 10' working height, 2 to choose from, \$900/each. 717/336-7375 No Sunday Calls.

Forklift Wholesalers 2000 to 92000 Lb. Lifts Available. 70 in Stock. Sale-Rental-Finance w/ Warranty. Chalk Equipment. (410)686-6800.

Hydroseeder Reinco 10EG, 1000 gallon, Wisconsin engine, good condition, \$12,500/offer. (301)384-4846.

Parting out IHC TD6 T-9 TD9, 150 loader, 2500 backhoe, Weaver 9000lb truck lift twin post, elec., hyd. Som. Co., NJ 908/658-3414.

Portable tow-behind air compressor, roter type, diesel powered. A&C Diefenbach Auction Inc. (717)335-7253.

Titan Airless Paint Sprayer. Epic 660EX Slightly Used. Sells New For \$1799. Will Sell For \$1100. (717)626-3333. Ask For Rental.

FORKLIFT

Yale, Propane Powered, Good Operating Condition. \$1500 717/533-7377

Mark Supply Company

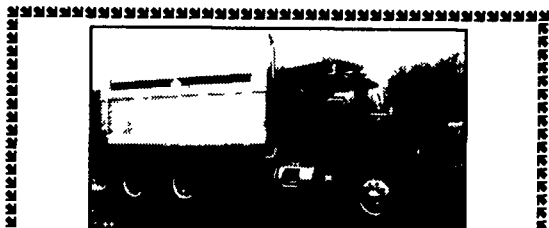
Construction Equipment For Sale

Rosco Mod #BH8 Mobil Broom w/Cab \$7,500
1988 MEC Mod #220TMI, 22' Scissor Lift \$4,500
1995 Stratolift Mod #KRX20 20' Scissor Lift \$7,500
1995 Dig-It Tractor Loader Backhoe, 18 HP \$8,995
1994 Terramite Tractor Loader Backhoe, 20 HP \$9,500
1989 Mod #10-10 Ditch Witch 3' Boom \$2,600
Smith 160 CFM Air Compressor, Gas \$2,995
(814) 658-3066



Scissors Lift, Grove, 45', Gas \$2,400

717/529-2512
No Sunday Calls



1988 MACK RD688SX 350 - 8 Speed LL Very, Very Good Condition \$45,000 OBO No Calls After 9:00 pm 410-557-9559



Int Tractor Loader Backhoe Diesel, Full Cab

717/529-2512 No Sunday Calls

BUY, SELL, TRADE OR RENT THROUGH THE CLASSIFIED ADS

PHONE: 717-626-1164 or 717-394-3047
FAX 717-733-6058

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8 AM to 5 PM; Thurs. 7 AM to 5 PM

1a CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

1976 Mack Tri-Axle Dump Truck. 18' Alum. Box EM6-300 Engine, 66spd./Trans. 20,000/Front 44,000/Rears Just PA-Inspected! All New Injectors & Injector Pump Just Gone Over! Excellent Tires! Also, Complete Plow System Can Go/With! \$15,000/OBO. (717)246-8955

1961 Euclid R-22; 743 CI Cummins, new clutch, seals, recent vavle job, good tires, runs good \$12,500. (717)872-8888.

1989 Clark Forklift 5000lbs. Newmatic Tires, Uses Propane or Un-leaded MINT CONDITION! \$8,200/OBO. (717)367-0848

555 JD crawler loader, bucket open, good shape, \$19,500 OBO. 717-755-6062

1980 953 Cat loader, over-all condition, very good tracks 75%, \$45,000. 18 ton tag-a-long trailer, very good condition, \$4000. 717-875-2558

1989 410-CTLB Clean! \$16,500. (717)684-5895. After 4 00PM

1990 CAT 953 loader, LGP, excellent condition, \$56,000. (301)371-5500.
450 JD Loader w/Back-hoe Attachment, New Bottom. (610)856-1213.

'71 Eager Beaver 18-ton tandem tag-a-long trailer, ramps, good tires, \$3800. 410-893-2405

73 IH Deisel, Single Axle Dump Truck. 10' Box. \$4,500/OBO.; Case 580 Super E Backhoe, Cab. \$18,000. (717)433-4518.