



# Lawler Park Landscape

July 2016

A Community Newsletter

\$Free

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## The Buzz on Wood Fence Maintenance



Along with the appearance of your yard, the condition of fencing can have an impact. It is important to maintain fencing so that it can stay strong and beautiful. Staining helps avoid some common problems, such as fading, splintering, mildew, and rotting.

A tree's bark is wood's natural protective skin, but during the lumbering process, fencing is stripped of this natural protection, and then the soft fibers inside the wood break down when exposed to outdoor elements. The stain on a wood fence makes a protective barrier to help protect it from the elements, but it only lasts a couple of years at most. Fencing is expensive, so to increase its lifespan and prevent early replacement, it is essential to stain every couple of years after the initial staining. A good linseed oil-based stain will supplement and replace the wood's natural protective oils, helping protect and care for your wood fence. *In Lawler Park, the stain color is Seal-Rite, Medium Brown.* Be sure to obtain approval through the HOA prior to staining. Some homeowners will choose to stain a fence themselves; others will hire it out. Professional fence companies can stain quickly and know how to contain the stain mist. If you do it yourself, do not stain on a windy day, and be sure to tell your neighbors so no vehicles are out in the general area. Once stained, your wood fence will not only appear new again, but will be protected for additional years.



## Tree Trimming Tips

Although our trees may still be young in this community, it is still important to maintain and trim your trees properly. Why should we prune? Pruning can help stimulate growth and/or maintain plant health, can remove dead or damaged limbs, help keep a nice shape to the tree, and remove lower branches that could be obstructing views. Best time to prune is in late winter/early spring. But if you missed it this season, it's never too late to tidy up your trees. Just be careful not to prune limbs immediately after new growth, as this may dwarf the plant. It is best to prune plants that are damaged by weather, vandalism or dead limbs as soon as possible as to avoid any disease problems. Per the City of Frisco, all trees that cover sidewalk shall have a minimum of 6 foot clearance for

pedestrians. And of course any limbs that obstruct stop signs shall be trimmed back as well.

The best tools for tidying up your plants are pruning shears, hedge shears and/or pruning saws.

These tools can be found

at Lowe's, Home Depot, or Calloway's. When pruning, it's best to make a 45 degree angle cut, and leave a little bit of the branch collar there instead of making the cut flush with the trunk. (see diagram for detail) And if you'd like to read up in more detail on all things pruning, there is great information at <http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>. HB/dsm

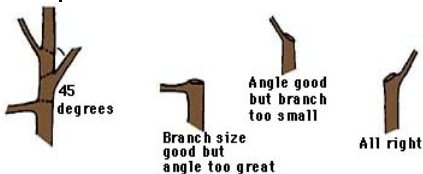
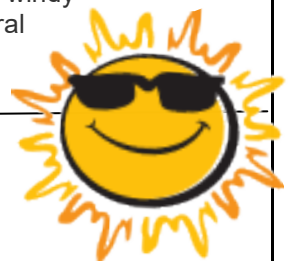


Figure 5. Pruning back to an intersecting lateral branch

## Temps are on the rise; Stay Hydrated!

Whether active or non-active, be sure to drink plenty fluids, especially while outdoors walking, exercising, playing sports, doing yard work, or just sitting in the sun. Know how much you need as you may need to drink more if you perspire heavily, have diabetes or heart disease. Water is best to drink. Fruit juices and sugary drinks can be harder on the stomach. Avoid caffeine and alcohol. If possible, avoid being outdoors when the sun is at its strongest, between noon to 3 p.m. While hydration is key, some warning signs of dehydration include thirst, dry or sticky mouth, dry or cool skin, headache, muscle cramps, little or dark urination. When dehydrated, get out of the heat, hydrate, and stay cool!



## July Yard of the Month!

Congratulations to the Messick family at 7480 Longmont Court! They've been working hard in their yard, and it shows. Beautiful job!



## ... now looking for an August winner!

To nominate a yard, please email us at: [LawlerParkLandscape@gmail.com](mailto:LawlerParkLandscape@gmail.com).

The winner will receive a \$25 gift to Calloway's Nursery!