

# Trees and Shrubs: How can I find a certified arborist?

Sometimes an on-site visit by a certified arborist is the best way to figure out what is really wrong with your tree, especially if the tree is very large or is a significant part of your landscape. Many local tree care companies employ one or more certified arborists. They can identify the type of service your tree needs and the best path for keeping your tree healthy. A certified arborist has passed tests sponsored by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and must continue to accumulate a required amount of continuing education to maintain that status.

We don't recommend any arborists in particular, but here are some guidelines on how to select a professional certified arborist:

- The Yellow Pages, either in the paper telephone book or online, will usually list certified arborists under the heading of **Arborists** or **Tree Service**.
- A company that employs a certified arborist will normally state so in their ad or will display a small, rectangular "Certified Arborist" logo. If you don't see either, ask the company directly if they have any certified arborists.
- Before hiring a company, make certain it is licensed, bonded, and insured.
- When contacting a tree care company, ask if they do free on-site evaluations or if they charge a fee. If a fee is charged, ask if they apply that fee to any work that may need to be done.
- It is recommended you obtain estimates from at least three companies for comparison.

By following these guidelines, you should be able to get the right certified arborist for the job and the right care for your tree.

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