# Columbia Tree Co. Publishes Neighborhood Tree Care Guides Ahead of Storm Season

*ISA-certified arborists detail the tree failures specific to 10 Columbia neighborhoods, from East Campus silver maples to splitting pears in Thornbrook.*



For all of your tree service needs in the Columbia area

COLUMBIA, MO, UNITED STATES, September 10, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Columbia Tree Co. has published a set of neighborhood-by-neighborhood tree care guides for Columbia, Missouri, covering ten areas of the city ahead of the fall and winter weather that causes most of mid-Missouri's tree failures.

The guides start from a point many homeowners discover the hard way: tree risk in Columbia is not uniform. What threatens a house near the University of Missouri campus has little in common with what threatens one in a subdivision built in the 1990s, and the right response is different in each case.

> A tree that has stood for eighty years can still be the most dangerous thing on your property. What matters is knowing which one it is, and in Columbia the answer changes by neighborhood."
>
> *Phillipe Bozon*

In East Campus, Benton-Stephens and Southridge, the recurring hazard is the overmature silver maple — a fast-growing shade tree planted heavily in earlier decades, with soft wood and a tendency to form weak unions where two trunks meet. In Thornbrook and other neighborhoods built out in the 1990s, it is the ornamental Bradford and callery pear, which commonly begins splitting apart at around twenty to twenty-five years of age. In the wooded lots around Rock Bridge and Bearfield, it is forest-grown timber rooted in thin soil over limestone, suddenly exposed to wind after the land around it was cleared for a house. In Old Hawthorne, it is root damage done during construction, which can take a decade or more to

show in the canopy.

Across all of them, emerald ash borer remains the largest single change to Columbia's tree population. The insect, confirmed in Boone County, has taken a heavy toll on untreated ash throughout mid-Missouri. Dead ash goes brittle quickly, and a standing dead ash grows more dangerous — and more expensive — to remove the longer it is left.

The guides also address a practice the company declines to perform. Topping, which means cutting a tree's main limbs back to stubs, is still sold in some markets as storm-proofing. Columbia Tree Co. does not top trees, and the guides explain why: topping removes the structure a tree spent decades building, forces weakly attached regrowth, and opens large wounds to decay, leaving a tree more likely to fail within five to ten years, not less.



Tree Trimming, Tree Removal, and Stump Grinding in Columbia, MO.

For homeowners wanting to reduce risk before winter, the company recommends taking deadwood out of large trees on a planned schedule rather than after it comes down. Dead limbs are the first thing to fail under ice loading. Late fall through early spring is generally the right window for structural work in mid-Missouri, with one exception: oaks should not receive large pruning cuts in spring or early summer, when oak wilt spreads most readily.

Columbia Tree Co. provides tree service in Columbia, MO and across Boone County. Its work includes tree trimming in Columbia, tree removal in Columbia and the surrounding towns, arborist-guided pruning, stump grinding, land clearing, brush removal, cabling and bracing, storm cleanup, commercial and HOA tree care, and seasoned firewood and bulk mulch delivery. Crews are led by ISA-certified arborists. The company is a member of the Tree Care Industry Association and the American Society of Consulting Arborists and carries both liability and workers' compensation insurance.

Emergency service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Estimates are free and provided in writing before any work begins.

The neighborhood guides are available at columbiatreeco.com. Columbia Tree Co. also serves Ashland, Jefferson City, Fulton, Boonville, Centralia, Hallsville, Rocheport, Holts Summit, Harrisburg and Millersburg.

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