



Tips for Selecting an Arborist

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Hiring a tree care provider deserves careful consideration and caution. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, while the right choice can assure health, beauty and longer life for your trees and landscape. The following suggestions will help a board select an arborist:

- Look for professional membership affiliations.
- Request that the arborist or tree worker be certified through a program of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This program is the standard of performance for appropriate training, experience and knowledge about tree care. Additionally, it is best to use an arborist who is familiar with native trees.
- Require certificate insurance.
- Ask for local references.
- A good arborist will offer a wide range of services, including removal, pruning, fertilizing, pest control, etc.
- A good arborist will not recommend topping.
- A knowledgeable arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape.

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