Economic Benefits

Property values of landscaped homes are 5 to 20 percent higher than those of non-landscaped homes.

Individual trees and shrubs have value, but the variability of species, size, condition, and function makes determining their economic value difficult. The economic benefits of trees are both direct and indirect.

Direct economic benefits are usually associated with energy costs. Air-conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home. Heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak.

Trees increase in value as they grow. Trees, as part of a well-maintained landscape, can add value to your home.

The indirect economic benefits of trees within a community are even greater. Customers pay lower electricity bills when power companies build fewer new facilities to meet peak demands, use reduced amounts of fossil fuel in their furnaces, and use fewer measures to control air pollution. Communities can also save money if fewer facilities must be built to control stormwater in the region. To the individual, these savings may seem small, but to the community as a whole, reductions in these expenses are often substantial.

Trees Require an Investment

Trees provide numerous aesthetic and economic benefits, but also incur some costs. Investing in a tree's maintenance will help to return the benefits you desire. The costs associated with large tree removal and replacement can be significant. In addition, the economic and environmental benefits produced by a young replacement tree are minimal when compared to those of a mature specimen. Extending the functional lifespan of large, mature trees with routine maintenance can delay these expenses and maximize returns.

An informed homeowner can be responsible for tree maintenance practices. Corrective pruning and mulching gives young trees a good start. Shade trees, however, quickly grow to a size that may require the services of a professional arborist. Arborists have the knowledge and equipment needed to prune, treat, fertilize, and otherwise maintain a large tree. Your garden center owner, university extension agent, community forester, or consulting arborist can answer questions about tree maintenance, suggest treatments, or recommend qualified arborists.

This brochure is one in a series published by the International Society of Arboriculture as part of its Consumer Information Program. You may have additional interest in the following titles currently in the series:

Avoiding Tree and Utility Conflicts  Mature Tree Care  Pruning Mature Trees  Trees and Turf
Avoiding Tree Damage During Construction  New Tree Planting  Pruning Young Trees  Tree Values
Benefits of Trees  Plant Health Care  Recognizing Tree Risk  Why Hire an Arborist
Buying High-Quality Trees  Proper Mulching Techniques  Treatment of Trees Damaged by Construction  Why Topping Hurts Trees
Insect and Disease Problems  Palms  Tree Selection and Placement

E-mail inquiries: isa@isa-arbor.com


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The benefits of trees provide many social, environmental, and economic advantages.

When trees and shrubs in cities or communities are planned to provide beauty or shade, while also creating aesthetic, functional, and economic value.

**Benefits of Trees**

- **Environment:**
  - Reduce the climate in which we live by moderating climate, improving air quality, reducing smog and water pollution.

- **Community:**
  - Trees provide shade, improving outdoor comfort and reducing energy costs.
  - Trees enhance property values and provide shade and beauty.

- **Social Benefits:**
  - Trees provide beauty and shade, improving outdoor aesthetics.
  - Trees reduce crime and increase property values.

- **Economic Benefits:**
  - Trees reduce energy costs by providing shade and improving outdoor comfort.
  - Trees provide aesthetic value, improving property values.

When trees are planted and maintained properly, the benefits of trees can be increased, providing many social, environmental, and economic advantages.