

Help your Trees Resist Pests

On your property, insects and microorganisms abound. This is a natural and beneficial state, since insects and microorganisms are key components in nutrient recycling, decomposition, plant succession, natural pest control and wildlife habitat.

Periodic outbreaks of destructive tree insect pests, as well as diseases, occur as part of natural fluctuations in ecosystems. The actions of homeowners make these outbreaks more severe or lessen their impact locally. To promote a healthy landscape and to prevent pest outbreaks, take steps to ensure diversity and vigor on your property.

Increase Diversity

Many property owners have lots with just a single or a few trees. Others have small backyard woods, which have become an important component of the urban environment. Small woodlands with a mix of tree species are often less susceptible to pest outbreaks than woods with a single species.

A diversity of tree ages also reduces the risk of pest outbreaks. As with species diversity, age diversity increases the complexity and stability of the ecosystem. A natural balance of organisms is more like to develop a sage diversity increases. For example, potential pest of young trees could be regulated by parasites and predators already will established on older trees.

The first clues of a tree health problem may be symptoms like yellowing needles or leaves, thinning foliage or dieback on upper limbs. These problems may be caused by insect pests or disease pathogens, or they may arise from "abiotic" factors such as soil problems, construction damage, drought, pollution or herbicide injury.

What to do

Santa Ynez Valley Tree Care handles a variety of local tree care problems. Since different parts of the county have different climate issues, geological situations and diverse types of organisms. Our specialties go far beyond cutting limbs off your trees. Please call Santa Ynez Valley Tree Care for questions at (805) 688-5580