



## ***The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.***

*58 Old Post Road, PO Box 356, Northford, Connecticut 06472-0356  
203-484-2512 (voice and fax) – 888-919-2872 (toll free in-state) • www.CTPA.org*

Dear Potential Tree Care Customer:

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association is a non-profit, educational association dedicated to advancing the way in which trees are cared for in the state of Connecticut. We have been in existence since 1922, and count among our membership the majority of professional men and women involved in tree care in the state. Our membership currently numbers over 700 individuals.

We are writing to you because of your interest in hiring someone to do tree work on your property. As you make your decision about whom to hire, we urge you to take into consideration whether that person is licensed by the State of Connecticut to practice arboriculture. If it is a firm you are considering, please check to see whether that firm employs individuals who are licensed arborists.

The CTPA strongly supports the arborist license, for two reasons. First, it is a legal requirement in Connecticut that only those individuals who hold an arborist license may offer their services for hire in tree care. Second, too often, the hiring of unlicensed workers results in poor or improper tree work. Through such work, serious harm may be done to trees. Trees may decline in health, and previously safe trees may become hazardous to people and property. In some instances, these changes in the tree's condition may not be apparent until years after the work has been performed.

Connecticut's General Statutes states that "No person shall advertise, solicit or contract to do arboriculture within this state at any time without a license" (CGS, Section 23-61b). Exceptions are made for tree removals and for individuals doing work on their own or their employer's properties. Also, unlicensed individuals may work under the supervision of a licensed individual.

While this does not obligate you, as a potential tree care customer, to hire a licensed individual, it does show the value that the state places on responsible tree care. Unlicensed tree workers who violate the law may be punishable by fines of up to \$2,500 per day.

To learn if a potential contractor is a licensed arborist, simply ask for proof. You should also ask for proof as to whether he or she is appropriately insured for the type of work being contemplated.

If you have any questions or wish to obtain a list of licensed arborists, please contact the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection at (860) 424-3369. You may also contact the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at (888) 919-2872, or visit our website – [www.CTPA.org](http://www.CTPA.org).

Thank you very much for your interest in Connecticut's trees. We encourage you to continue taking steps to care for your trees, including the most important step of all – choosing a licensed arborist!

Sincerely,

Chris Donnelly  
Secretary-Treasurer, CTPA