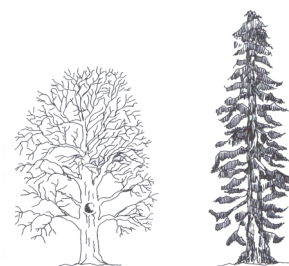


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JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 1



Last month we were accredited by CHAS—Contractors health and safety assessment scheme, ensuring customers peace of mind regarding health and safety.

Report Topic: Winter Weather

Driving around Devon it is noticeable how the cold winds have caused scorching on conifers. This appears as dulling and browning of the foliage. Damage cannot be reversed but recovery shoots develop below the dead parts. It's best to wait until late in the growing season before pruning out the dead areas.

Snow can cause damage when it settles on branches and the added weight causes them to break. It is worth checking your trees to see if there are any broken branches still hanging in the crown that could fall.

Road Salt—the use of rock salt to keep roads and footpaths clear of ice and snow can be damaging to nearby trees and

shrubs, not only from the direct damage of salt on roots but also indirectly from deterioration of the soil structure and loss of nutrients. Symptoms of damage will show up in the spring by failure of buds to flush, browning of foliage, die-back in the crown of the tree or even death.

If you need to de-ice your paths an alternative to salt, if you have open fires is wood ash, cat litter too has been mentioned.

On a larger scale road heating systems, use of grit, chlorides, urea among other ideas have all been tested but all have drawbacks or are less effective.

Work: January 2010

The recent cold snap made things quite difficult—well very cold hands for a start. However we had a nice felling job to do where the customer wanted the brushwood burnt on site (they said it was good for baking potatoes for up to three days later). The trees had grown up around a fence as you can see on the photos

opposite. The Ash trees were dismantled and felled in sections to protect the fence. The fence is growing through the stumps so they were left and the wood carvings made. Then the brushwood fire was raked in, the timber logged up and stacked and the site left neat and tidy.



Tree planting:

It is a good time to get out and plant a few trees if you've got the space. There are various options from the very small transplants that can be seen planted on the side of motorway embankments or in hedges to the larger whips that are about 2m in height, then feathered trees which have side branches, standard trees which have a clear stem to a certain height depending on the specification and on to heavy and extra heavy standards to semi-mature trees that need specialized lorries to move them. The smaller the tree is planted the better it will establish.



Sometimes it is important for impact to plant larger trees but they will often be overtaken by those that have been planted smaller.

Trees can be bought either bare root or in containers. Bare root trees can only be bought in the winter, con-

tainerised trees all the year round, although these are still happiest being planted from October through to March. If planted later it is very important to check the watering and flood the area with approximately 100l of water two or three times over a dry summer. Keep the base weed free over a 1m diameter for two or three years and if the tree is staked check the tie is not digging in every six months and remove altogether after two or three years. If you go to our web site there is a whole set of pictures of the tree planting on the left. If you would like advice on tree planting or any other tree related matter phone Andy on 01395 567643.



Trees for small gardens: there are so many amazing trees to plant even if you have a small garden it is still possible to fit in a tree such as *Acer davidii*, *Amelanchier lamarckii*, *Cornus alternifolia* 'Variegata', *Magnolia stellata*, *Sorbus aucuparia* or a *Crataegus* (Hawthorn), *Malus* (Crab Apple), *Stewartia pseudocamelia*, although this one needs acid soil. The list goes on and on—its worth looking at the Arboricultural Associations website or Thornhayes nursery has a gallery and, of course, the RHS has lots of information.

Next Issue: We would like to send this by email as a pdf, if possible. If you would like the next issue this way please email us at the address above.

Hedges: This is another job we did in the autumn—planting a Yew hedge. It is surprising, given their reputation, how quickly Yew hedges can establish. We planted ours in 2001 or 2002 and this is what it looks like now (on the right). It's over 2m and we trim it in August.

