

Hiring Professionals to Help with Your Ash Trees

Hiring professionals to remove, replace or treat a tree deserves careful consideration. These individuals need to be trained in **arboriculture, the nursery and landscape industry, and pesticide application.**

- **A qualified arborist can remove** and assess the structural integrity and health of your ash trees. Removing trees can be dangerous business. Arborists are trained to work near valuable homes and around power lines. These people are specialists in safe tree removal and can be insured to handle liability in the case of accidents. Their familiarity with trees can help you identify the trees worth saving, and those that may be saved with insecticides.
- **A qualified nursery and landscape professional can help you select replacement trees** that are suitable for your area. They can also install new trees in the landscape. Many of these professionals can also determine if ash trees are healthy enough to try save them.
- **A certified pesticide applicator is licensed to apply pesticides** to your ash trees. In Indiana they will have a category 3a license issued by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist.

Your Professional Consultant may be certified in one or more of these areas. Qualified arborists often have good working relationships with qualified nursery professionals and work together to develop tree replacement plans.

- Check your telephone directory's yellow pages under "Tree Service" or "Arborist" for a listing of those businesses which do tree work in your area.
- Some communities require that arborists be licensed in order to do tree work within city limits. If you are unsure contact the city office to see if such a license is required.

Choosing an arborist

- Ask if the arborist is certified. The [International Society of Arboriculture](#) maintains a list of ISA Certified Arborists throughout the entire country and you can search the database by state, city or even zip code. [Indiana Arborists Association](#) also maintains a list of Indiana state certified arborists. Certification is not required but it does indicate that the arborist has a high degree of knowledge.
- If the arborist you are considering is not certified, determine if he/she is a member of any professional organizations, such as the [Indiana Arborists Association](#) the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) or the [Tree Care Industry Association](#). Membership in these and other professional organizations does not guarantee quality, but does indicate professional commitment.

Choosing a nursery or landscape professional

- Ask if they have a professional certification. Individuals with certifications such as those conferred by the [Indiana Accredited Horticultural Program](#) have had advanced training in plant selection and landscape management and plant selection.
- If the landscape professional you are considering is not certified, determine if he/she is a member of any professional organizations, such as the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, [Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Program](#). Membership in these and other professional organizations does not guarantee quality, but does indicate professional commitment.

Choosing a certified pesticide applicator

- Pesticides need to be applied by a business that has a certified pesticide applicator on staff. Businesses must have a pesticide business license from the Office of the Indiana State Chemist. Certified pesticide applicators also have licenses.

General guidelines for all selecting any professional

- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage and worker's compensation. Then, contact the insurance company to make sure the policy is current. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property or if the worker damages a neighbor's property.
- Ask for local references. Take a look at some of the work, and if possible, talk with former clients. Experience, education, and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
- Don't rush into a decision just because you are promised a discount if you sign an agreement now. Be sure you understand what work is to be done for what amount of money. It is not generally a good idea to pay in full until the work is completed.
- If possible, get more than one estimate.
- Good work will not be inexpensive by any means. A good professional must carry several kinds of insurance as well as pay for expensive and specialized equipment. Beware of estimates that fall well below the average. There may be hidden costs or the person may not be fully insured or trained.

These guidelines were adapted to Indiana needs from a website produced by the [Nebraska Forest Service](#).