

**Fall 2010**

Hello again:

I suspect that you are like most of our other clients and have native trees on your property. This is a great time of year to plant trees, and natives are a good choice. There are three major trees that are native on the Monterey Peninsula and in Monterey County in general: Coast Live Oak, Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress. Although there are many other native tree species in Monterey County, we'll focus here on the three that stand out the most.

**COAST LIVE OAK** can do well in shade beneath upper canopies as an understory tree and are typically found underneath Monterey Pines in forest settings. Oaks grow larger in an open setting, except on the top of hills where water is scarce and soil conditions can be poor. Pruning of Coast Live Oaks should not be done in the spring months of May and June. Pruning can start after the leaves harden off and turn to a darker color of green. Fall is the best time of year for the pruning of Oaks. Improper pruning of mature Oaks can ruin them, especially if they are small in size, on top of hills or in forest setting.

**MONTEREY PINE** will tolerate dead-wood trimming or having a few branches pruned off any time of year. However, Pines really should be pruned in the cooler months of the year, from November through the middle of March. Low winter temperatures are when Pine beetle pests are dormant and most pruning is done. Pine pruning in the summer months will attract beetle activity from the scent of pruning cuts. However, after minor trimming of Pines in the summer months, Pines should be sprayed with the pesticide Sevin as a deterrent to beetle infestation.

**MONTEREY CYPRESS** indigenous ranges are along the coast in Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach and Point Lobos. Their roots anchor very well in the soil and they have adapted to strong winds. Salt winds and fog keep them pest free and watered in the summer months. Monterey Cypress should not be planted further than six miles from the coast, as they will suffer from disease and hot weather. Planting Monterey Cypress further than six miles from the coast reduces their average genetic lifespan from three hundred years or more down to thirty years on average. Cypress is often planted in groups that will mature at around 80 feet and can also be pruned into hedges or smaller regulated trees leaving their overall canopies compact.