

ArborSide

J.P.M. TREE SERVICE

FALL 2010

Hmmm...smells like fall outside.

It's the time of year to begin thinking about leaf cleanup – and oh what a job that can be! – time, effort, money, rain and wind, and then more effort. There's nothing like trying to scoop up wet, soggy leaves and / or blowing them into 'neat' piles. It's all adds up to more labour and more expense.

This got me thinking about "high maintenance trees". Not everyone knows that conifers (evergreens) do in fact shed their leaves (needles). It's just that their shedding patterns are not as noticeable as those of their deciduous cousins. High maintenance conifers in my experience are the Pines, particularly White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). Many have a common, leaf-life span of between two to four years. On the other hand, Douglas-fir [*Pseudotsuga menziesii*], Western Hemlock [*Tsuga heterophylla*], and

Spruce [*Picea* spp.] will leaf shed every five to seven years, and Yew [*Taxus* spp.] every three to seven years. The highest maintenance evergreen would be the Larch [*Larix* spp.] with a leaf life span of about six months. If you are going to have the "high maintenance" Pines and Larch on your commercial property for instance, then I would suggest that they be in an area that (a) does not have fine garden plants that get smothered by the leaf shedding, and (b) the trees are in a passive soil bed that does not require constant clean up. Let the needles create a natural mulch. Some wood chips and soil mixed in with the leaves every so often will help to keep the trees in their healthiest condition. So, if you are looking for lower maintenance evergreens, consider some of the comments mentioned. It's all about saving you time and money in maintenance clean up costs!

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Arbor-Humour

You might be a Redneck if ...
Your family tree has a tire swing.
-Jeff Foxworthy, humorist,
Atlanta, Georgia
(Payment made to humorist for
use in newsletter)



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