

WALWORTH COUNTY EXTENSION MONTHLY REPORT



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



WALWORTH COUNTY
— WISCONSIN —



July 2026



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Walworth County Extension

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Memorandum

Christine Wen
Area Extension Director

Janel Heidelmeier
4-H Program Coordinator

Debbie Harris
4-H Youth Development Educator

Julie Hill
Horticulture Outreach Specialist

Amanda Merchlewitz
Human Development and
Relationships Educator

Josh Kamps
Crops and Soils Outreach
Specialist

Alison Pfau
Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator

Jerri Laidley
Support Staff

Maria Nelson
Support Staff

To: Agriculture and Extension Committee

From: Christine Wen, Area Extension Director

Cc: Mark Lubarda, Walworth County Administrator

Date: July 14, 2026

Re: Long-Term Planning: SWOT Analysis and Community Health Assessment

UW-Madison Extension is a trusted partner that helps address local needs through education, youth development, agriculture, leadership development, partnerships, and community engagement. The priorities identified in both the Community Health Assessment and County SWOT analysis closely match what Extension educators hear from residents and communities. Extension is well positioned to support many of the priorities identified in the Community Health Assessment and SWOT analysis. Common themes include:

- Rising costs of living and workforce challenges
- Mental health and access to services
- Social connectedness and reducing isolation
- Opportunities for youth to learn, lead, and belong

Building on our current strengths and expanding capacity in key areas would allow Extension to strengthen community partnerships and address emerging needs across Walworth County. Ideas and considerations include:

- Increasing community awareness of Extension services and resources - much of Extension's work happens behind the scenes and is represented in the fabric of a community.
- Providing a safe and secure educational space within the Government Center.
- Expanding parenting and family education programs.
- Building capacity in areas that align with identified community needs.

Walworth County and Extension will continue building strong communities, supporting local families, and creating opportunities for future generations.

I look forward to discussing this more at the July committee meeting.





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Cc: Mark Lubberda, Walworth County Administrator

Date: July 14, 2026

Re: 2027 Budget Ideas or Considerations

As we begin planning for the 2027 county budget, I would like to provide an overview of the Extension budget and highlight several key updates.

The 2027 Extension county budget will remain largely consistent with the 2026 budget. Most of Extension's operating expenses are tied to the contract between Walworth County and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. These costs are included in both the county budget and our annual contract agreement.

Key 2027 Contract Updates:

- The co-funded fee will be \$50,045 per position, reflecting a 2% increase for co-funded positions (compared to the 3% increases in previous years).
- Extension has four co-funded positions and three fully county-funded positions.
- The \$10,000 contract reduction remains in place for 2027.
- The total 2027 contract cost is \$303,299.

Extension remains committed to providing high-quality educational programming while maintaining a budget process that is transparent, predictable, and easy to understand.

I look forward to discussing the 2027 Extension budget and answering any questions at the July committee meeting.



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



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WALWORTH COUNTY
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Janel Heidelmeier, 4-H Program Educator & Debbie Harris, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Pictured are photos from two recent Walworth County 4-H events:



Walworth County 4-H Camp

Pictured are photos from the 2026 Walworth County 4-H Camp, held June 25-28 at Upham Woods. A total of 109 Walworth County 4-H members attended the camp experience, supported by 17 adult chaperones and one staff member. Camp participants enjoyed hands-on learning, outdoor recreation, leadership development, and opportunities to build friendships with fellow 4-H members.



4-H Shooting Sports Shoot-Off

Pictured are photos from the 2026 Walworth County 4-H Shooting Sports Shoot-Off, held July 11 at the Triangle Sportsmen Club in East Troy. The annual event welcomed 66 participants and was supported by a dedicated network of certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors.



The Extension Institute of Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance, build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

AGRICULTURE - CROPS & SOILS



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Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Regional Educator

MAY

On-Farm Nitrogen Rate Optimization Research

A collection of multiple on-farm studies to better understand the optimal nitrogen rate for corn production. Results from these studies will directly influence profitable nitrogen rate decisions at the host farms and add relevant data in support of UW-Madison Extension soil fertility guidelines.

- The on-farm studies will produce actionable nitrogen response curves that will help each cooperating farm identify its most profitable N rate, improve economic returns, and reduce unnecessary fertilizer use. Aggregated results will also strengthen statewide nitrogen recommendations, ensuring they remain relevant, data-driven, and reflective of current production environments.

On-Farm Cover Crop Nitrogen Credit Research

An on-farm study designed to better understand the amount of nitrogen available as a nitrogen credit following a summer established clover cover crop. Results from this study will assist host farms with gaining the confidence required to adjust nitrogen rate decisions lower to reduce nitrogen input costs while maintaining crop yields.

- Results will provide growers with evidence-based nitrogen credit values, increase confidence to reduce fertilizer inputs while maintaining expected corn yields. The findings will support decision-making for more cost-effective nutrient management, improved profitability, and broader adoption of cover crops as a nitrogen-supplying practice.

On-Farm Manure Nitrogen Credit Research

An on-farm study to better understand the amount of nitrogen available for corn production from an application of dairy manure. Results of this study will assist farmers with calculating an accurate level to credit the manure nitrogen through the use of nitrogen sensing technologies and corn yield comparisons between manure and no manure treatments.

- The study will provide farmers with reliable nitrogen credit estimates and will improve confidence in lowering supplemental fertilizer rates without sacrificing yield. These results will support more accurate nutrient management planning, reduced input costs, and more efficient use of manure as a crop nutrient source.



The Extension Agriculture Institute is your connection to the latest University of Wisconsin-Madison research. Our five program areas; Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture, are here to educate and respond to the needs of the agriculture community while providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

AGRICULTURE - CROPS & SOILS



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Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Regional Educator

Field Trial Generator Tool Consultation

- A farm consultation with a farmer and developer to evaluate a field trial generator tool for designing replicated research trials in uniform soil zones and creating an application script to automate the precise nitrogen application by treatment area, expanding on-farm research capacity.
- The farm gained a clear understanding of how to use the tool to implement replicated, spatially sound nitrogen trials, increasing confidence in conducting future on-farm experiments. The developer received actionable feedback to refine the tool's functionality, and the resulting automated application script improved the precision and efficiency of nitrogen treatment placement. Together, these outcomes significantly expanded the farm's on-farm research potential and strengthened its capacity to make data-driven nutrient management decisions.

Cover Crop Termination Timing Field Demonstration

A cover crop termination timing field demonstration for farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants where participants will learn about the value of delayed termination of cereal grains on weed suppression versus the risk of crop development and yield potential to inform the use of cover crops as a weed suppression and soil health tool while maintaining soybean yield potential and reducing the risk of developing herbicide resistance.

- Participants will gain a clearer understanding of how delayed termination can enhance weed suppression and reduce reliance on herbicides, while also recognizing the potential tradeoffs related to soybean emergence and yield. The demonstration will increase confidence in using cover crops as a weed-management and soil-health tool, helping attendees better evaluate termination strategies that maintain soybean yield potential and reduce the risk of herbicide resistance.

JUNE

Fine-Tuning Nitrogen Rates in Corn Grain Production

A study to better understand the optimal nitrogen rate for corn grain production within different farm production systems. Results from this study will help farmers, crop consultants, and conservation professionals in making nitrogen rate decisions, which maximizes profitability while reducing the risk of nitrogen leaching or loss to the environment.



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Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Regional Educator

- The study will identify nitrogen rate ranges that consistently optimize corn grain yield within each production system while reducing the risk of nitrogen leaching or loss. These results will provide actionable, data-driven recommendations that help farmers, crop consultants, and conservation professionals make more precise nitrogen decisions that enhance profitability and support long-term environmental sustainability.

Legume Nitrogen Credit in Corn Production Trial

A study to better understand the nitrogen credit level available for corn from a legume cover crop planted in mid-summer following small grains the previous year. Results from this study will help farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants maximize the use of nitrogen made available through legume cover crops and more accurately identify the rate of synthetic nitrogen required for profitable corn production within this cropping system.

- The study will generate practical nitrogen credit estimates that can be reliably applied to corn grown after mid-summer legume cover crops. These results will enable farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants to better utilize biologically supplied nitrogen, reduce unnecessary synthetic nitrogen applications, and maintain profitable corn yields while supporting improved environmental stewardship.

Nitrogen Credit from Manure Application in Corn Grain

A study to better understand the level of nitrogen credit available when manure is applied ahead of corn grain production. Results from this study will help farmers, crop consultants, and conservation professionals more accurately credit the level of nitrogen and other nutrients provided in manure for corn grain production which will improve farm profitability and reduce losses of nutrients to the environment.

- The study will produce reliable nitrogen credit estimates that reflect the contribution of manure under real-world field conditions. The results will help farmers, crop consultants, and conservation professionals more accurately account for manure-derived nitrogen and other nutrients, enabling more precise synthetic nitrogen applications that support profitable corn production while reducing the risk of nutrient loss to the environment.



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AGRICULTURE - CROPS & SOILS



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Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Regional Educator

Cereal Rye and Triticale Cover Crop Termination Timing Trial

A study to better understand the target termination timing of cereal rye and triticale to provide a 50% reduction in weed biomass while not impacting the yield potential of soybean. Results from this study will help farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants in managing cover crop biomass accumulation as a tool for weed suppression while reducing the risk of herbicide resistance development.

- The study identified termination windows that consistently achieved approximately a 50% reduction in weed biomass while maintaining soybean yield potential. These results provide actionable recommendations that support farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants in using cover crop biomass accumulation to suppress weeds, strengthen integrated weed management programs, and reduce reliance on herbicides, which lowers the risk of herbicide resistance development.

Grazing Management Farm Consultation

A farm consultation with a farmer seeking advice on grazing management of Reed canary grass where resources and recommendations were provided. Through this farm consultation, the farmer has the tools necessary to make an informed decision on utilizing the section of their farm with Reed canary grass to increase available on-farm forage for the beef herd, which will reduce the need for purchased forage and will increase farm profitability.

- Following the consultation, the farmer now has the tools and confidence to make an informed decision about utilizing Reed canary grass as part of the beef herd's forage supply. This will increase available on-farm forage, reduce dependence on purchased feed, and ultimately improve the farm's profitability.

Crop Scout Field Day

A field day for beginning crop scouts and early career agricultural professionals, where participants learned crop scouting methodologies, pest management identification and techniques to better understand the role and responsibilities of crop scouting, which is the first step of an integrated pest management (IPM) plan and is integral to making decisions for crop productivity and profitability.

- This field day provided attendees with beginner crop scouting tools and resources for them to understand how and what to look for when crop scouting a field, and how what is seen while in the field will affect management decisions.



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AGRICULTURE - CROPS & SOILS

Josh Kamps, Crops and Soils Regional Educator



Installing soil sensors for the trial



Crimson clover cover crop treatment area



Soybean development at the time of cereal rye termination



Tools for collection of soil samples ahead of nitrogen application

AGRICULTURE - DAIRY



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Alison Pfau, Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator

- Planning and developing a workshop focused on proper administration of medicine and vaccines for dairy cattle on August 27th and 28th from 9 to 3 pm in Dane County. In this program we will talk about the proper management and storage of health products, common mistakes handling health products in dairy farms, practical tips for a successful cattle vaccination, right intervention and right medication on time, and the importance of the vaccination plan in cattle.
- Planning and developing the fourth edition of El "Break" Info-Lechero. This webinar in Spanish was created to help dairy workers and the dairy industry in Wisconsin and around the world get access to the most up to date dairy information in different topics like animal reproduction, date collection, animal welfare, nutrition, calf care and more. This webinar will be held in September and October 2026.
<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/el-break-info-lechero-english/>
- Bovi-noticias is a bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter created through collaboration between the Dairy and Farm Management teams. It provides dairy farms and their employees with accessible, research-based information that explains the reasons behind key practices and offers practical insights for daily work. Through this effort, Bovi-noticias helps build a more informed and engaged workforce, improving animal well-being, optimizing resources, and supporting farm profitability and safety. New summer issue, see the attachment.
<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/bovi-noticias/>
- A statewide program promoting humane dairy cow-handling practices for dairy cow handlers where the participants will learn to be aware of their own beliefs about working with cows, which affect how they interact with them. They will also learn how to form or maintain good habits, which will make the cows easier to handle and their job smoother. In July, August, and September, we will schedule farms where we are going to provide the course and get feedback from the employees.



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English Edition

Issue 7, Summer 2026

Keep Calves Hydrated in the Heat



Provide Fresh Water: Calves need water all day long.

Use Electrolytes: They help prevent dehydration when it's hot. Electrolytes work best when calves also have plenty of water to drink. This helps them stay cool and healthy.

Subscribe

Bovi-Noticias online:

<https://go.wisc.edu/BoviNoticias>



What Is Your Milking Equipment Telling You Today?



A dairy farm is always in motion: cows coming and going, equipment running, shift changes... and in the middle of all that activity, small details can easily go unnoticed. A hose out of place, a worn gasket, an incomplete wash routine, or a missing record may seem minor, but if not detected in time, they can turn into major headaches.

Learning to use your senses to spot early signs of failure in the milking system, the wash system, and the tank room is the first line of defense. These skills help you recognize warning signs before they become problems that affect animal health or milk quality.

Watch the full video on YouTube to strengthen your preventive mindset.

Visit <https://go.wisc.edu/BN26021> or scan the QR code to read the complete article:

Detecting Failures Early in Milking Systems



Tornadoes in Wisconsin



Image generated with AI tools.

About 80–85% of tornadoes in Wisconsin happen during spring and summer, especially from May through July.

Farm owners and employees should be prepared by:

- Creating and reviewing an emergency plan.
- Designing and identifying a safe shelter area.
- Monitoring weather alerts:
 -  **Tornado Watch:** Stay alert
 -  **Tornado Warning:** Seek shelter immediately.

During a Tornado

- Go to the designated shelter.
- Protect your head and neck.
- Remain in the shelter until it is safe to leave.

Being prepared and responding quickly can save lives during severe weather events.

Be safe!!

Provide effective feedback in a simple way



Feedback, defined as information given about someone's work or behavior to help them improve or continue performing well, is essential for building a strong and productive team.

Easy steps for Giving Feedback:

1. Start with observation: Clearly explain what the employee did well or what needs improvement.
2. Explain the impact: Describe how their actions affected the farm, team, or overall operations.
3. Set direction: Identify how to reinforce positive behaviors or outline what needs to improve.

Feedback Tips:

- Always provide genuine and sincere feedback.
- Provide feedback timely, don't wait weeks, months, or even years.
- Provide positive feedback publicly and negative feedback privately.

When done well, feedback motivates employees and improves performance. However, when handled poorly, it can lead to confusion and workplace conflict. Now it's your turn, start giving effective feedback and strengthening your team.

Fun Fact

Did you know?

A cow drinks a bathtub (50 gallons) of water per day.



Image generated with AI tools.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



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Amanda Kostman, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- **Rent Smart** - Participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, those new to renting are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports. The goal of this program is to increase participants' ability to meet their financial goals and increase financial capability and/or renter knowledge for long-term financial success.
 - Continued to offer an in-person 6-session course for renters at a local homeless shelter.
 - Conducted one session for young people involved in the foster care system as part of Independent Living.
 - Continued to offer a virtual 6-session course for renters in Walworth County and beyond.
 - Conducted a four session (three-hours per session) **Rent Smart Train the Trainer** program designed to help about 50 social workers and other community service providers facilitate the Rent Smart program effectively in their own organizations and communities. Professionals and volunteers receive the tools they need to help their clients acquire and keep safe and affordable housing.
- Continued to offer a coaching program for families and individuals where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.
- Participated in community workgroups, including Build HOPE Foundation (a housing initiative), ReEntry Group, CHIP/CHA Group, Walworth County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR), Anti Human Trafficking Coalition, and Join the Movement.



The Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



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Amanda Kostman, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- Continued to offer one-on-one canner gauge testing and education for interested adults, where participants learn best practices in food preservation to ensure safe practices are followed to provide safe food to families. Offered one program to help individuals gain the knowledge to preserve food in safely.
- Worked with local jail staff to conduct four sessions of the ReEntry Ready program to the Walworth County Jail. Program objectives include:
 - Provide people impacted by the legal system with resources necessary for reintegrating into society.
 - Increase the financial capability of those impacted by the legal system through personal financial education.
 - Facilitate participants' ability to follow through on their plans to build, maintain, and enhance money management skills and behaviors.
- Offered credit and debt and financial record keeping programs with coaching after, to clients of Southeastern Monitoring.
- In partnership with Walworth County HHS, conducted a 6 session (2.5 hours per session) program for young adults aging out of care. This includes Rent Smart, as well as, meeting with community partners to learn about accessing healthcare, furthering education to obtain life sustaining careers, learning about healthy relationships, and other life skills.



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HORTICULTURE



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Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist

- (Ongoing) A year-long activity/service for residents of Walworth County to provide research-based answers to their horticulture questions. The goal of this effort is to educate individuals of Walworth County so they can implement best practices in their landscapes that will positively affect the environment and their communities.
- An in-person presentation in collaboration with Milton Public Library where participants learned about proper horticulture practices to provide food resources and decrease/eliminate pesticide use to improve habitat availability for hummingbirds as a Wisconsin pollinator.
- An in-person program in collaboration with Lake Mills Club 55, where participants learned about growing vegetables in containers. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge, confidence and build skills in gardening for improved yields and to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides.
- An in-person presentation in collaboration with Barrett Memorial Library for consumer horticulture audiences, where participants learned about proper horticulture practices to provide food resources and decrease/eliminate pesticide use to improve habitat availability for Wisconsin pollinators.
- An in-person presentation hosted by Janesville Senior Center, for the general public, where participants learned about integrated pest management to reduce wildlife conflict in a way that supports both garden and ecological balance.



The UW-Madison's Extension Horticulture Program provides research-based horticulture information to Wisconsinites so they can make gardening decisions that keep their plants healthy while protecting the environment. We provide research- and evidence-based horticulture management education, resources and decision-making tools to home gardeners and commercial horticulture practitioners.

HORTICULTURE



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WALWORTH COUNTY
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Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist

- An in-person program in collaboration with Lake Geneva Public Library where participants learned about home composting. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge, confidence and build skills in composting, to help mitigate the causes of climate change and to improve the soil health of yards and gardens.
- An in-person presentation in collaboration with Jefferson Public Library where participants learned about proper horticulture practices to provide food resources and decrease/eliminate pesticide use to improve habitat availability for hummingbirds as a Wisconsin pollinator.
- Working with the Environmental Stewardship workgroup in the Extension Horticulture Program, we developed new resources available online and as downloadable handouts. Please see attached for:
 - Tips for Hiring a Certified Arborist
 - Tips for Hiring a Lawn Care Service
 - Coming soon: Making Informed Mosquito Control Decisions and Hiring a Landscaper: A Homeowner's Guide for Wisconsin
- Registration for the online Foundations in Gardening course is open. This is a completely online, complete at your own pace introductory course to learn key concepts for selecting, growing and maintaining plants. Please see attached or online: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/foundations-in-gardening/>



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Tips for Hiring a Lawn Care Service



Hiring a Lawn Care Service

When hiring a lawn service, choose one that understands your goals and uses research-based practices. Healthy lawns are the result of a partnership.



Homeowner Responsibilities

Regardless of who you hire, homeowners are typically responsible for mowing, watering, and seeding bare areas. If these cultural practices are not done correctly, even the most expensive professional treatments may fail.



Professional Services

Most companies focus on fertilization and the control of weeds, insects, and diseases. Some specialized services may focus only on lawn establishment (seeding and sodding) or strictly on mowing and seasonal clean-up. If basic care like mowing and watering is neglected, even professional treatments may not be effective.

Understanding Needs

A thick, healthy lawn naturally prevents many weeds and pests, which means lawn care focuses on what your lawn actually needs, not a standard multi-step chemical program. Fertilizers and pesticides should be used as targeted tools, not routine treatments. Fertilizer should be applied in moderation, with slow-release products when possible, and adjusted for site conditions like sun or shade. Weed, insect, and disease problems should be identified and treated only when needed. Remember, higher-maintenance lawns require more inputs, such as fertilizer, water, time, effort and budget to maintain a specific look.



For more guidance on determining if you should hire a lawn professional, see *Hiring a Lawn Care Service: Making an Informed Decision* at go.wisc.edu/Hiring-Lawn-Services.



Horticulture Program
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Tips for Hiring a Certified Arborist



Finding the Right Certified Arborist for You

If you are concerned about the health or safety of trees located on your property, you may consider reaching out to a certified arborist to help with management or removal.

When to Reach Out to a Certified Arborist

- ☒ If the tree is large and requires a ladder or harness system to reach impacted branches.
- ☒ If there are large, broken branches from storm damage.
- ☒ If in need of assistance with tree pruning.
- ☒ If the tree in question is near a structure or electrical lines.
- ☒ If the tree is becoming a safety risk, e.g., leaning, branches overhanging buildings.
- ☒ If tree roots are causing damage or upheaving pavement or property, e.g., sidewalk, driveway, retaining wall, foundation.
- ☒ If there is significant tree decline potentially from disease, insect, or environmental damage.

Certified Arborist Services:

- **Pruning:** Pruning enhances a tree's form and structure, addresses insect or disease issues, removes dead or dying branches, and prevents branches from interfering with utilities, structures, streets, or sidewalks.
- **Tree Removal:** Assess whether tree removal is necessary due to risk factors or if a tree is situated in an area that requires its removal.
- **Emergency Tree Care:** After a storm, certified arborists can be called to assist in clearing properties affected by fallen limbs or trees.
- **Planting:** Choosing the right tree for a specific site is crucial for the tree's long-term health and longevity.
- **Insect and Disease Management:** Fungicides and insecticides should only be applied if a serious outbreak occurs. This requires monitoring and proper diagnosis; rather than applying chemicals on a pre-planned schedule or preventative basis.
Note: Samples may or may not need to be lab tested at an additional cost for proper identification.
- **Additional Services:** Many certified arborists also offer other services, such as plant health care, fertilization, cabling/bracing, and soil aeration.



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Considerations When Hiring a Certified Arborist

To find an arborist in your area, head over to treesaregood.org (International Society of Arboriculture), asca-consultants.org (American Society of Consulting Arborists), or waa-isa.org (Wisconsin Arborist Association) where you can enter your zip code, and a list of nearby certified arborists will be provided. If you have any questions regarding diagnostics or hiring an arborist, consider submitting your question to the Ask Your Gardening Question form on the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture website.

- ✓ **Look for Customization:** A reputable arborist will address the specific needs of your tree and will not pressure you into unnecessary treatments.
- ✓ **Evaluate Total Value:** Rather than looking only at the price, evaluate the full scope of the contract: timeline, the quality of product(s) used, the number of visits, and the company's procedures for troubleshooting and resolving issues.
- ✓ **Establish Clear Communication:** Confirm in writing exactly what the service includes and which tasks remain your responsibility.
- ✓ **Check Credentials:** Ensure the company or arborist is properly licensed and is either ISA or ASCA certified.
- ✓ **Verify Individual Licensing:** Each employee who applies pesticides on your property must be certified and licensed annually as a commercial applicator.
- ✓ **Organic Services:** Note that organic products registered as pesticides are subject to the same licensing and regulatory requirements as conventional synthetic pesticides.
- ✓ **Tree and Branch Removal:** Determine if the arborist will dispose of the tree or removed limbs.

Additional Resources

Finding the Right Certified Arborist for You

UW-Madison Division of Extension
go.wisc.edu/hiring-an-arborist

UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic

UW-Madison
pddc.wisc.edu

UW Insect Diagnostics Lab

UW-Madison
insectlab.russell.wisc.edu

Tree-Owner Resources

Trees Are Good
treesaregood.org/treeowner

Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

UW-Madison Division of Extension
hort.extension.wisc.edu/deciduous-trees-shrubs

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

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