

# Summer Is Your Best Window for a Smart Tree Evaluation



| Topic                    | Details                                                                                                                         | Importance                                                                                  | Recommendations                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer Observation       | Summer is the best time to evaluate trees as their full foliage reveals growth patterns, structural issues, and overall health. | Gives the clearest picture of tree condition compared to other seasons.                     | Document canopy gaps, branch issues, and shade coverage for off-season trimming plans.           |
| Shade Patterns           | Mature trees provide critical shade that can enhance or hinder the surrounding landscape depending on its distribution.         | Helps optimize outdoor comfort and supports healthy plant growth beneath the canopy.        | Observe shade throughout the day and plan trimming to balance light and coverage.                |
| Tree Shape and Structure | A tree's form affects curb appeal and safety. Structural issues like crossing branches can cause long-term problems.            | Supports aesthetic balance and prevents hazards in the landscape.                           | Identify irregular growth and prioritize structural corrections for dormant-season pruning.      |
| Off-Season Preparation   | Summer observations inform precise off-season trimming plans that optimize tree health.                                         | Effective maintenance improves growth and reduces risks such as pest and fungal infections. | Take photos and detailed notes in summer; consult arborists to plan trimming work.               |
| Tree Care Records        | Maintaining detailed evaluations and care history ensures informed decisions for years to come.                                 | Essential for managing multiple trees and consistent landscape design.                      | Create a record with photos, species details, and notes; track future care needs systematically. |