

Repairing Tree Damage

- ◆ If damage is relatively slight (one or two main limbs on a healthy, mature tree), prune damaged limbs back to the trunk. Do not prune too heavily. Then wait to see if the tree recovers. Watch for signs of decay at the sites of wounds.
- ◆ Young trees can sustain a lot of damage and still recover. Remove only the damaged limbs.
- ◆ If the main upward-growing limb is broken, more than half the tree's crown (branches and leaves) is damaged, or fewer than half the tree's limbs remain, the tree may not survive. Even if it does, it will not regain its shape. Severely damaged trees should be removed.
- ◆ If in doubt, hire a certified arborist to assess and repair tree damage. Get more than one estimate and ask each person exactly what work they plan to do. Check their references and proofs of insurance.

