

National Arborist Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Money Does Grow On Trees

Most people regard trees as something that look beautiful, provide shade and bear fruit. Trees are more than just aesthetically pleasing, however, they have a dollar value. Well-maintained, mature, healthy trees can increase the value of your property by up to 25%, depending on their size, species and location. Realtors recognize this value, stressing “well-landscaped yard” or “shaded patio” or “great view of trees.” A little attention and proper care can improve a tree’s health and life and protect your assets.

A tree can be valued from \$300, based on the going price of firewood, up to \$10,000 for its appraised value for all benefits it provides or regarded as priceless for the beautiful memories attached to it. Research shows that humans have a definite psychological attachment to trees.

Trees have a calculable and legally defensible monetary value that can be recovered when they are damaged or lost. A knowledgeable arborist is the best person to perform an accurate appraisal of your trees. You should document their value with photos and a professional landscape appraisal for insurance and tax purposes. The best time to do this is before any damage occurs.

Whose liability is it?

When a tree falls and damage is done to life or property, who is responsible? If the tree was made less safe by some defect, the owner of the tree may be held responsible. The general rule says that the property owner who suffered damage due to tree failure can file a claim on his or her home owner’s policy. But if the tree was known to be weakened before the fall, it may indicate negligence on the part of the party who owned the tree, giving the injured party recourse to collect damages from the tree owner. Laws vary from state to state, so check with your insurance pro-

For information on the care of trees or to search for an arborist in your local area visit the NAA’s web site: WWW.NATLARB.COM. The NAA is a 60-year-old public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture.