

ARBORICULTURE IN MANITOBA FOR THE PUBLIC

To practice arboriculture in Manitoba a person must:

- Hold and maintain certification from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA),
- Or, have a previously issued Manitoba Arborists Licence that was valid after October 1, 2017,
- Or, have proof of successfully completing the Manitoba Arborists Training Course from the University of Manitoba before July 1, 2019.

The following exceptions apply:

- A person does not need certification if the only arboriculture services they provide are planting and watering trees/woody plants or applying pesticides to trees/woody plants.
- Assistants who are not certified may provide tree care if a qualified arborist is present at the worksite and directly supervises the assistant's work.

Why does Manitoba now require ISA certification for arborists?

Manitoba's trees are valuable and provide many benefits to our communities. Pruning and caring for trees properly requires a high level of knowledge, training, and experience. Previously, to help maintain the skill level of those working in arboriculture in the province, the Manitoba government required arborists to take and pass the Manitoba Arborists Training Course from the University of Manitoba or have certification from the ISA. These training requirements, along with Manitoba's licencing process, ensured arborists met a minimum standard of practice.

With increasing threats to urban trees from climate change and invasive forest pests, like emerald ash borer, it is more important than ever that Manitoba's arborists be well trained and stay current with the latest information in tree care. While those who have years of experience working in tree care under Manitoba's previous licencing system can continue to practice arboriculture here, all future arborists will be required to have and maintain certification from the ISA.

To obtain ISA certification a person must have a minimum of three years experience in tree care or horticulture and/or college or university education in horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture, or urban forestry. After obtaining these qualifications, they must pass an exam that covers the different aspects of tree care and maintain annual training requirements to remain up-to-date on current practices.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.isa-arbor.com/For-the-Public>.

Tips on hiring an arborist

- Make sure they meet Manitoba's requirements. Go to the ISA's "Arborist Search" webpage and click on the "Verify a Credential" tab to confirm ISA credentials: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>. If they qualify under the province's previous arborist licencing system, ask them to show you their previously issued Manitoba Arborists Licence or proof of successfully completing the Manitoba Arborists Training Course from the University of Manitoba before July 1, 2019.
- Make sure they have insurance and ask to see it.
- Ask for references and examples of their past work.
- Ask for an explanation of the work that they are recommending.
- Consider getting multiple estimates in writing as rates vary widely.
- Get a contract in writing that specifies what work will be completed with all associated costs. For example, if branches or trees are removed is clean-up and disposal included in the costs?
- Arborists must also hold a pesticide applicator's licence if applying pesticides to your trees or other landscaping uses.



Other important information

- **It is illegal to prune elms between April 1st to July 31st.** The bark beetles that spread Dutch elm disease (DED) are active during this time and are attracted to fresh pruning wounds. If a limb is badly damaged and poses an immediate risk to safety, it can be removed during the ban if approved by the Forestry Branch. Please call 204-945-7866 or send an email to treeline@gov.mb.ca for more information.



Dutch elm disease infected tree

- **You cannot store and use barked elm wood in Manitoba.** The bark beetles that spread DED use barked elm wood as breeding material. For more information, go to: https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/forest_lands/health/dutch_elm_disease_faq.pdf.
- **It is illegal to remove ash tree material and firewood of all species from emerald ash borer (EAB) federally regulated areas.** Winnipeg is an EAB regulated area. For more information, go to: https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/forest_lands/health/emerald_ash_borer.pdf.

For more information about pruning trees, please visit:

<https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/pruningyourtrees>

For more information about the International Society of Arboriculture, please visit: <https://www.isa-arbor.com/For-the-Public>.

For more information about urban forestry in Manitoba, please visit: <https://www.mbufc.ca/>.

Questions about arborist regulations in Manitoba? Please contact the Forestry Branch at 204-945-7866 or treeline@gov.mb.ca.