

## **JOBS FOR JUNE**

There's not too much happening with the growth of our trees over the next couple of months, but before you start thinking you'll have time to put your feet up, here are a few jobs that might need attention.

After removing the last of any dead leaves from your deciduous trees, these lovely naked silhouettes unfortunately highlight areas that may require rectification or restyling. Now is a great time for this, but remember to have your trees on the dry side before wiring as trees are slightly more brittle at this time.

Don't forget when restyling deciduous trees to remove all of the shoots growing vertically from your branches (broom and canopy style excluded) and trim back your horizontal branches to create "V" shape branch pads.

Ideally, any repotting of deciduous trees should be done at 'budswell' (a term describing a time at which buds have enlarged and are just about to open but are not yet showing any green shoots) but if you have a large amount of repotting to be done, some early shooting varieties and winter flowering trees can be repotted in late June/July. Chinese Elms, Pomegranites, Mulberry, Flowering Cherry etc. are trees that fall into this category.

Some conifers seem to get a bronze/brown tinge to their foliage depending on how cold it is in your area and you will certainly notice colour changes to the foliage of your Azaleas, Buxus, Cotoneaster etc. The older leaves on your Figs and Privets can sometimes 'yellow off' and fall at this time, but all of the abovementioned changes are quite normal.

Frosts can cause problems to your figs, so it is a good idea to protect them by placing them under a large tree or gazebo during the frost times, and whilst on figs, keep an eye out for 'Black Spot' on the leaves. This can be treated with 'Baycor'.

Watering can be a problem at this time of year due to the cold nights. As such, morning watering allows time for excess water to drain thoroughly before the cold night temperatures freeze the roots or even crack your pots.

Your deciduous trees require much less water than they did in the growing season, so be sure to wait until the surface is beginning to dry out before rewatering. Overwatering could easily cause root rot which will lead to fungal problems. Keep a watchful eye for insects, pests and mildew. Maples, Crepe Myrtle, Oaks and Olives are susceptible to mildew which can be treated with a 3% lime sulphur solution and can be used 2-3 times through winter.