

FLOODING TALKING POINTS

- Recent flooding in our area is creating serious tree hazards.
- Saturated ground and rising waters have loosened soil around tree root systems, which may allow roots to lose their grip and trees to lean or fall.
- **BEWARE OF DRIVE-BY TREE SERVICES AND ALWAYS MAKE SURE THE CONTRACTOR IS INSURED AND IS A CERTIFIED ARBORIST.**
- Never attempt to right a leaning tree.
- Contact a Certified Arborist for advice on salvaging or disposing of flood-damaged trees.
- Excessive water can impact a tree's overall health. The accumulation of organic toxins in the soil and the reduced flow of oxygen to the roots can cause the tree to become stressed and susceptible to insect and disease damage.
- Warning signs of flood damage in trees include curling and wilting of leaves, followed by "chlorosis," or pale-colored leaves, which is generally followed by leaf browning and ultimately, leaf loss.
- Certified Arborists can remedy hazardous tree situations and provide advice on proper species placement and maintenance.
- If you experience a downed tree due to inclement weather in the coming days, here are a few ways to report it:
 - If the tree has fallen into the right-of-way (roadway), but it is not blocking the road (cars can still get past), please report the issue to the local jurisdiction.
 - If a tree has fallen into the roadway and is blocking the roadway, call the local jurisdiction's non-emergency line.
 - If a tree has fallen and has created a hazardous situation that threatens personal or public safety (ex. It has taken down power lines or has fallen and injured or trapped someone), call 911. Remember to please use 911 only in emergency situations. Using 911 for anything other than true emergencies can potentially hamper our emergency response for someone else.
- **TO FIND A CERTIFIED ARBORIST, VISIT THE GEORGIA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT GEORGIAARBORIST.ORG.**