



Certified Arborists for Hire Serving Chesterfield County
As Listed With



International Society of Arboriculture

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Chesterfield County**
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Greene, Brian A.	A	Cambium	Richmond, VA 23235	(804) 426-2037
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Parker, Jennette	A	Davey Resource Group	Richmond, VA 23230	(757) 537-5557
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McCall, Luke A.	A M	Dominion VA Power	Midlothian, VA 23113	(804) 379-4823
Tuttle, John.	A	Eastern Tree Company, Inc.	Powhatan, VA 23139	(804) 794-9410
Baker, James	A	Fine Pruning Tree Services, LLC	Mechanicsville, VA 23111	(804) 779-2170
Tuttle, Kate M.	A	Greater Richmond Urban Forestry Consulting	Richmond, VA 23220	(803) 295-3509
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Scott, Larkin	A	L.G. Scott Landscaping & Tree Service	Providence Forge, VA 23140	(804) 966-2706
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Traynor, Michael A.	A M	MAT & Tree Landscape LLC	Midlothian, VA 23112	(804) 218-9843
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Blackwell III, James H.	A	Prince George Tree Service	Hopewell, VA 23860	(804) 458-8674
Hypes, Jonathan	A	R.A. Coleman Landscaping and Tree Service	Charles City, VA 23030	(757) 784-8362
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Reynolds, Randy	A T	Truetimber Tree Services, Inc.	Richmond, VA 23225	(804) 218-8733
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Singleton, Lee M.	A	Woodchuckers Tree Service, Inc.	Midlothian, VA 23113	(804) 387-6000
Greene, James	A	WSM Ventures, Inc.	Richmond, VA 23227	(804) 389-1100
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Certification Credentials Key

A = Certified Arborist B = Board Certified Master Arborist M = Municipal Specialist
T = Tree Worker Climber Specialist L = Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist U = Utility Specialist



What is a Certified Arborist? An arborist by definition is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. ISA Arborist Certification is a non-governmental, voluntary process by which individuals can document their base of knowledge. It operates without mandate of law and is an internal, self-regulating device administered by the International Society of Arboriculture. Certification provides a measurable assessment of an individual's knowledge and competence required to provide proper tree care.

Certification is not a measure of standards of practice. Certification can attest to the tree knowledge of an individual but cannot guarantee or ensure quality performance.

Certified arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. Certified arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification. Therefore, they should be up-to-date on the latest techniques in arboriculture. For more information visit the ISA's consumer webpage: www.treesaregood.com

Selecting the Right Arborist for the Job

When selecting an arborist,

- Check for membership in professional organizations such as the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), or the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). Such membership demonstrates a willingness on the part of the arborist to stay up to date on the latest techniques and information.
- Check for ISA arborist certification. Certified Arborists are experienced professionals who have passed an extensive examination covering all aspects of tree care.
- Ask for proof of insurance and then phone the insurance company if you are not satisfied. A reputable arborist carries personal and property damage insurance as well as workers compensation insurance. Many home owners have had to pay out large amounts of money for damages caused by uninsured individuals claiming to be tree experts. You could be held responsible for damages and injuries that occur as a result of the job.
- Check for necessary permits and licenses. Some governmental agencies require contractors to apply for permits and/or to apply for a license before they are able to work. Be sure they comply with any local, state, provincial, or national laws that govern their work.
- Ask for references to find out where the company has done work similar to the work you are requesting. Don't hesitate to check references or visit other work sites where the company or individual has done tree work. Remember, tree care is a substantial, long-lasting investment; you would not buy a car without a test drive!
- Get more than one estimate, unless you know and are comfortable with the arborist. You may have to pay for the estimates, and it will take more time, but it will be worth the investment.
- Don't always accept the low bid. You should examine the credentials and the written specifications of the firms that submitted bids and determine the best combination of price, work to be done, skill, and professionalism to protect your substantial investment.
- Be wary of individuals who go door to door and offer bargains for performing tree work. Most reputable companies are too busy to solicit work in this manner. Improper tree care can take many years to correct itself and, in some cases, it can never be corrected. Are you willing to take that risk with your valuable investment?
- Keep in mind that good arborists will perform only accepted practices. For example, practices such as topping a tree, removing an excessive amount of live wood, using climbing spikes on trees that are not being removed, and removing or disfiguring living trees without just cause are unnecessary.
- Get it in writing. Most reputable arborists have their clients sign a contract. Be sure to read the contract carefully. Don't be afraid to ask questions, such as
 - When will the work be started and completed?
 - Who will be responsible for clean-up?
 - Is this the total price?
 - If I would like more to be done, what is your hourly rate?

(A): ISA Certified Arborist

This certification was developed for professional arborists in order to provide the public and those in government with a means to identify those professionals who have demonstrated, through a professionally developed exam and education program, that they have a thorough knowledge of tree care practices. It is also designed to be an educational program that will improve technical competency of personnel in the tree care industry and create incentives for these individuals to continue their professional development.

(B): ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist

This credential is designed for arborists who have reached the pinnacle of their profession. To sit for the exam, individuals must be a Certified Arborist in good standing and have obtained other prerequisites, or "points" defined by ISA. A minimum of eight points are required, obtained through measurable experience, formal education, related credentials, or professional experience. The computer-based exam covers science, practice and management.

(M): ISA Certified Arborist/Municipal Specialist

This certification is also for professional arborists who are ISA Certified Arborists in good standing and have additional experience in the specialty area of urban trees. The municipal specialists work for cities and states, parks, contractors or consultants. One of the certification objectives is to provide the public and those in government with a means to identify those professionals who have demonstrated, through a professionally developed exam and education program, that they have a thorough knowledge of establishing and maintaining trees in a community.

(T): ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist

These credential holders have a minimum of 18 months experience professionally climbing trees in a safe and efficient manner to perform tree care. They have knowledge in the major aspects involved in tree care including, pruning, removal, cabling and safety. They must pass a knowledge exam and a skills exam conducted by trained evaluators.