

Tree Safety Guidance

New growths from pruning of bows

Look for broken new growth

Leaves (or needles). Dead twigs and branches

Generally small, sparse or pale. Tree flushes late or drops its leaves early. These symptoms sometimes indicate root decay or death

Break out cavity

Decay may develop in wounds caused by branches breaking

Weak fork

Tight V-shaped crotches may be structurally weak, sometimes giving rise to cracks; decay can develop in them

Pruning wounds

The wound surface or a layer of paint (if present) may appear sound but the wood behind may be decayed.

Abrupt bends

Resulting from past breaking or pruning. Decay may be present.

Loose bark

Bark coming away from the stem may indicate the presence of rotten wood beneath

Fungai fruit bodies

Bracket fungi on the stem are positive indicators of internal decay. Fruit bodies on or near tree roots may indicate they are decayed, but the species of fungi should be identified as many harmless or beneficial kinds also grow in this area

Holes in base of trunk

Look for holes or decay at base of trunk

Damaged roots

Site disturbance may sever or kill roots, poor soil conditions may lead to restricted rooting. Tree stability may be affected.

Soil cracks

Heaving of ground may occur when a tree with an unstable root system moves in a wind

