

# Gardening Basics

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## Tree Inquiry

In order for the Garden Help Desk to assist you when you have problems with your tree, please supply pictures and answers to the questions below. Our email address is: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov)

Photos are vital in order to diagnose problems. Please send us the following pictures, as appropriate, to show:

- A picture to show tree, from top to bottom
- Overall picture including surrounding landscape, e.g. from the street to show the tree in its environment
- Trunk, including where it meets the ground – the root flare
- The affected area(s) (include any insect activity if that is involved); include a close up, if possible
- Leaves: those affected as well as unaffected---both sides. If possible, place them on white paper for pictures
- Any webbing, structures made by insects, weeping, borer holes, etc.
- Any other photos that you feel are relevant

Please answer the following questions:

- What kind of tree is it?
- Describe the problem/damage you are seeing.  
e.g. Half of the leaves on my Hackberry have no tissue, are skeletonized; My yaupon holly is 10 years old but never has berries; There is weeping, gummy stuff bubbling out of the bark of my peach tree; My hedge of cedar trees is dying from the top down with the foliage turning reddish brown and crispy
- What area(s) of the tree are affected: Canopy? Branches? Bark? Leaves? Root area?
- When did the tree first exhibit symptoms?
- How often is the tree watered? How much each time?
- Are there standing water/drainage problems near the tree/on your property?
- Does the tree receive any regularly scheduled maintenance?
- Have any herbicides been applied on or near the tree? Or in the area?
- Have the trees been recently fertilized? Or the surrounding lawn?
- Are any other surrounding plants showing signs of distress?
- Have you noticed any insects on the tree? Evidence such as borer holes or webs, etc.?
- Have you noticed other issues such as discolored bark? fallen twigs? damaged leaves?
- Any digging or construction in the last few years in the area? On your property? At your neighbors?