

PlantAmnesty

To end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs.

PlantAmnesty vows to end Crimes Against Nature

Most people take it for granted that trees and plants are being maintained properly, or that it's not really a major issue. But think of the green infrastructure of our city — improper pruning and tree topping add up to an expensive waste of resources, and many trees and plants pay for these mistakes with their lives.

PLANTAMNESTY was founded in 1987 to “stop the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs.” The nonprofit group uses a unique blend of humor and controversy to raise public awareness of “Crimes Against Nature” committed in our own backyards.

After alerting the public to this problem, our volunteers provide readily accessible and accurate information, materials and services.

PLANTAMNESTY's solutions to plant abuse and neglect include garden renovation workshops, classes, videos, a referral service and volunteer pruning and tree projects throughout the community. Several grants have allowed our group to produce and distribute thousands of Pruning Guides, *Saving Trees and Views* pamphlets, tree biology quizzes for local students, tree planting guides and locally-produced public service announcements.



Don't Top That Tree!

A serious “Crime Against Nature” is the misguided practice of topping trees. One of PLANTAMNESTY's major efforts over the past two decades has been to stop this “torture and mutilation.”

Why doesn't topping work? Topping actually *increases* a tree's growth rate rather than slowing it, and this makes it an expensive choice. It's also **ugly**. But mostly it's *dangerous* because it rots, starves and weakens a tree.

Topping trees can also decrease property values for a homeowner and the entire neighborhood.

PLANTAMNESTY's media campaign works. In the Seattle 1990 edition of the yellow pages, 17 of the 28 businesses with display ads advertised topping as a service. That's 61%. In 1998 that number was 10/22 or 45%. In 2001 it was 8/34 or 23%. In 2003 only 3 in 36 advertised topping – a mere 8%!

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact PLANTAMNESTY at 206-783-9813, or check out our web site at www.plantamnesty.org.

A Stand for Trees

“We promise that when we take what we want from Nature, that we will do so selectively and with respect. Always we will preserve the health and integrity of the whole, be it a plant, a rainforest, or a planet.”

Cass Turnbull, Founder

PlantAmnesty Mission Statement

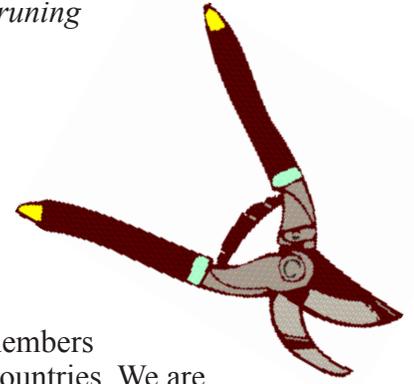
To end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by mal-pruning (and other common forms of plant mis-management).

Goals:

-  Raise Awareness of the Problem.
-  Provide Solutions (referral service, education, volunteer pruning and care).
-  Engender Respect for Plants.

We Affirm:

-  That our organization is inclusive, tolerant and based on grassroots collective action.
-  That our educational materials are clear, current and technically accurate.
-  That we will maintain a sense of humor and good-will being outspoken on the issues.



PLANTAMNESTY

has more than 1000 members in 31 states and four countries. We are part of a growing movement to lead society out of the dark ages of landscape care.

PLANTAMNESTY members share a common bond of caring about green things, and they know that an immense amount of damage is done to our landscapes as a simple result of widespread ignorance.

Seattle Heritage Tree Program

Since there is little legal protection for trees in Seattle, PLANTAMNESTY decided to identify and celebrate the City's special trees.

Funding for the Seattle Heritage Tree program was originally supplied by a grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service. Additional support has been provided from time to time by various departments of the City of Seattle. In-kind volunteer services are provided by PLANTAMNESTY arborists

and members of the Heritage Tree Committee.

In 1999 the City of Seattle became an official partner of the program, providing staff support and the Heritage Tree web site at:

[http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/heritage tree.htm)



[heritage tree.htm.](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/heritage tree.htm)

Garden Renovations and Volunteer Work Days

Pruning and Landscape Renovation Workshops

These popular hands-on pruning classes provide a rare 3:1 student to teacher ratio. All teachers are experienced PLANTAMNESTY gardeners and arborists donating their work for the day.

These classes are offered three to four times a year in various King County locations.

Volunteer Work Day

PLANTAMNESTY organizes one-day volunteer yard renovations for people without the means to do the job themselves, so that good pruning is available to all.

It's a cross between a party and a yard clean-up. Experienced gardeners share with the new kids and hobbyists mingle with the pros.

Arbor Day

PLANTAMNESTY arborists organize free pruning for deserving trees every April. It's our way of saying thanks to those who do so much for our green city.

What Else – Don't forget the shrubs

Tree topping is only one of the multitude of plant mismanagement practices that plague our landscapes. **PLANTAMNESTY** targets the two other major forms of mal-pruning, inappropriate shearing and over thinning with equal gusto. And there is more to do. Plants suffer from failure to water, mulch volcanos, mis-siting, planting too deep and girdling. We could go on, and we will, in our crusade to create a kinder, gentler world for the beautiful photosynthesizers.



PlantAmnesty: What We Do

PLANTAMNESTY provides these valuable services to the community:

- Alerting the public to *Crimes Against Nature* with a media campaign that employs humor, education and controversy to raise public awareness. We average one million readers – viewers – listeners per year.
- Educational materials and literature including “how-to” guides, videos, pruning topics, articles, essays and slide shows. We average 300 free DVDs and videos, 6,000 free pruning guides and \$3,000 worth of literature are distributed annually.
- Pruning classes, lectures, and hands-on lessons, workshops and demonstrations. Average 50 classes and 2,000 people taught annually.
- Professional arborist and gardener donated work days.
- Web Site: www.plantamnesty.org. Password Library available to members.
- Seattle Heritage Tree Program.
- Master Pruner Program.
- Nasty Letter Writer.
- Thousands of calls and requests for information answered by our office staff and volunteers.
- Educational display booths and speakers bureau.
- Gardener and Arborist referrals made through our free Referral Service.

“Seattle has definitely changed the way it prunes its trees because of PlantAmnesty, and other cities are changing as the PlantAmnesty concept roots and takes hold throughout the country.”

Marianne Binetti
Nationally syndicated gardening columnist

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PLANTAMNESTY engenders respect for our urban ecology by speaking out on behalf of the urban forest. We have fun while we try to change the world, because we take our mission, but not ourselves, seriously.

Awards

Seattle's Friend of the Trees Award, International Society of Arboriculture's Gold Leaf Award, National Arbor Day Foundation's Education Award.

PLANTAMNESTY is a federally approved 501 C-3 non-profit organization. As such, donations are tax deductible. Our Federal EIN Number is 91-1393557.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of most any non-profit organization, **PLANTAMNESTY** included.

Our members spend countless hours providing much-needed services and education to the public.

Volunteers participate in events such as the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, **PLANTAMNESTY**'s Fall FUN(d)raiser, Master Gardener's Plant Sale and the International Society of Arboriculture's annual conference. **PLANTAMNESTY** always needs people to speak on behalf of trees, and serve on our committees.

PLANTAMNESTY staffs educational booths with volunteers, always pairing up a veteran with a newcomer. We also encourage members to come to Volunteer Yard Renovations. These group projects

allow professional gardeners the opportunity to share tricks of the trade, tool information, and to get to know others of their kind. Novices get the opportunity to learn how to weed and prune from more experienced members. And besides, everybody feels great after saving a needy and deserving landscape from years of neglect.

Volunteers are invited to serve on these **PLANTAMNESTY** committees:

- Heritage Tree
- Education & Advocacy
- Tree Programs
- Financial Development
- Events (Fall Plant Sale)

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