
Top Tier Tree Care LLC

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Certified Arborist Report – Tree Removal Recommendation

Prepared by: Top Tier Tree Care LLC

ISA Certified Arborist: Joseph Mitchell, ISA Certification # PN-8196A

TRAQ Qualified

Date: 8/13/25

Property Owner: Rod Harder

Property Address: 1498 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Tree Location: Right rear corner of home, within the riparian zone of Mill Creek

Tree Information

- **Common Name:** Tree of Heaven
 - **Scientific Name:** *Ailanthus altissima*
 - **DBH:** 15 inches
 - **Height:** Approximately 50 feet
 - **Crown Spread:** Approximately 30 feet
 - **Overall Health:** Fair
 - **Condition Notes:** Previously topped; showing regrowth from topping cuts. No significant current structural defects observed beyond past topping wounds. Slight lean toward the residence.
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Site Factors

- Located within 5 feet of the home's foundation; no visible foundation damage at time of inspection.
- Proximity to residence increases potential risk from branch or tree failure.
- Situated in the riparian zone of Mill Creek.
- Limited available space for canopy growth without interference with structures.

Risk & Management

While not an imminent hazard, the *Ailanthus altissima* at the rear corner of this property poses both ecological and future structural risk. This species is **invasive in riparian zones**, rapidly spreading via prolific seed production and extensive root suckers—sometimes up to **50 feet** from the original tree ([US Forest Service](#)). It also exudes the allelopathic compound *ailanthone*, which suppresses the germination and growth of nearby native vegetation ([Wikipedia](#)).

Compounding the issue, *Tree of Heaven* is the **preferred host** for the destructive **spotted lanternfly**, an invasive planthopper that threatens agricultural and urban landscapes. Its presence creates favorable conditions for lanternfly proliferation, which makes its removal a **critical component** of pest management strategies ([Penn State Extension](#)).

Recommendation

Due to its invasive nature, ecological impact, proximity to the residence, and limited growing space, removal is recommended. Replacement with a site-appropriate native species is encouraged to maintain riparian habitat value while preventing re-establishment of *Ailanthus altissima*.

