

GREEN MACHINE

CAT® 289D A KEY PIECE OF TREE SERVICE FLEET



Based in Henry County, Georgia, 9 Oak Tree Service specializes in removing hazardous trees and pruning in tight residential spaces.

9 Oak crews have covered anything from small jobs and routine maintenance to disaster relief in the wake of hurricanes Irma, Matthew and Florence.

Currently serving a 25-mile radius around McDonough, Ga., 9 Oak Tree Service has grown over a short period of time by providing a reliable, quality service to homeowners. The company was founded in 2009 by Brandon Dwyer.

“We have a solid customer base that we’re very thankful for,” says Dwyer, who operates the business together with his wife, Katelyn. “We have a lot of repeat business and good referrals.”

Dwyer learned how to climb trees professionally when he was 15. That experience led him to start his own company when he was still in high school.

“What I love most about the tree care industry is that it is never boring,” Dwyer says. “I’ve always said I’d rather be a little stressed than bored and the tree industry definitely never gets dull. It’s always exciting, always something new and intense. You have to focus to do it properly—it’s something new every day.”

Safety is a continual emphasis. Crew members are fully equipped with personal protective equipment, including special helmets, eye and ear protection, boots and reflective vests.

“We hold regular safety meetings, and our climber that does all the aerial work is well trained and always wears a helmet, a harness, and every kind of protection that he

9 OAK TREE SERVICE, INC.

Employees: 9

Location: McDonough, Ga.

Cat® equipment: 289D Compact Track Loader

needs,” Dwyer says. “He knows how to make the call if something is unsafe or too dangerous.

9 Oak’s crew has stayed together for a long time due to a positive work environment, Dwyer says.

“We all get along with each other, and we also have quality equipment. People prefer working with good equipment and we have newer, well-maintained equipment that’s a pleasure to work with on a daily basis.

“I think a key to our success is having a great team to work with—you can’t do anything big by yourself,” Dwyer adds. “We have a great team and a great set of equipment. You can’t complete jobs if your machines are breaking down, so we strive to maintain very reliable equipment.”

Going green

The company operates with four trucks, and 12 machines. One of the key pieces in 9 Oak’s equipment fleet is a Cat® 289D Compact Track Loader (CTL), which is painted lime green to match the rest of its machines and stay consistent with its brand.

Once a hazardous tree is cut down, the tree is sawed into manageable pieces. The Cat CTL grabs a section of the sawed tree trunk or limbs with a grapple attachment and feeds it into a chipper, or loads stumps or brush into a truck bed. As part of the safety emphasis, 9 Oak crews feed the chipper with a machine attachment and never by hand.

“We have to move large pieces of trees and logs every day, and I think that Caterpillar definitely makes the best



WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT CAT® EQUIPMENT

“We decided to go with Caterpillar for our track machine purchase because we think they build the best machine in comparison to their competitors,” says Brandon Dwyer, owner of 9 Oak Tree Service.

WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT HIS CAT DEALER

“Yancey has a great service department,” Dwyer says. “Not only is the machine solid, but if there are ever any issues, our Cat dealer can get us going quickly. They have a huge parts inventory. If you ever need anything, they can get it to you quickly. They are extremely responsive—they always answer the phone or call you back within 10 minutes.

“Something else that we really like about Caterpillar is their great financing options,” he adds. “Cat Financial offers great rates for good terms and they’re easy to work with.”

compact loader,” Dwyer says. “We chose to go with the 289D Cat Compact Track Loader because we think the track machines have a lot more power,” Dwyer says. “And since we’re often working in turf, it distributes the weight of the machine better and it doesn’t rut a yard like a tire machine does.”

The standard, suspended undercarriage system on the 289D provides superior traction, flotation, stability and speed to work in a wide range of applications and underfoot conditions. The 289D is, in fact, a green machine: the electronically controlled Cat C3.3B engine provides high horsepower and torque while meeting U.S. EPA Tier 4 Final emission standards.

A backup camera is another important safety feature of the 289D.

“It has a backup camera and a very large screen—this is great for daily operation,” Dwyer says. “It eliminates all the turning around and the neck aches for our crew, and also it’s a great safety feature. You can see if someone is behind you, or maybe it’s a stationary object like a house or a fence. So it’s very helpful as we strive to operate in a safe, efficient manner.” **OTJ**