

# Tree News

Fall 2011

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

## Have Your Maples Looked "Off"?



One reality of the summer of 2011 is that many trees have shown symptoms of leaf

diseases. This picture shows the browning leaves of a sugar maple. These diseases are prevalent when the spring of a year is very wet. This past May it rained so much that we just knew leaf diseases, such as anthracnose, would be a problem. There's no way to control these diseases after they occur. The best approach is simply to accept what mother nature has given us and prepare for a better 2012. We can best ready your trees for next year with soil injection of fertilizers this fall. These are rich in organic products and help get your trees off to a good start next spring. Make sure we fertilize your trees this fall by giving us a call today.

## Seasonal Tips

Now, in the beginning of fall, the weather is fairly gentle. We continue to deal with the aftermath of the recent tropical storm 'Irene' and prepare for hemlock sprays this October.

Pause for a moment and think about last winter. Remember how your shrubs looked after that long winter? It's likely they experienced quite a bit of damage with browning and dieback, especially with broad-leaved shrubs such as boxwood, rhododendron and laurel.

We can help reduce the typical winter damage with an application of material which acts as an anti-desiccant. We spray the shrubs in the fall with a product that serves as a sort of blanket, protecting them from drying out.

Give us a call so that we can add your shrubs to our schedule.

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COPY BY  
DON PARROTT

PUBLISHED BY  
CONNECTICUT  
ARBORISTS,  
INC.  
MONROE, CT

DEP # B-1333  
TEL 459-0737  
FAX 459-8137



## Specie Spotlight



Each fall, we encourage you to plant a tree or shrub variety that you've always wished you had. A few years ago I planted a dawn redwood '*metasequoia glyptostroboides*', in the far corner of my property. I've given it a lot of room because it does get quite large. It's one of the uncommon deciduous conifers and it can surprise you with its needle drop in the fall. I like it mostly because of its heavy main trunk that is a nice reddish color. With age the trunk becomes nicely buttressed and quite impressive. The heavy trunk coupled with its slender branches makes an unusual appearance that I've always loved. It grows pretty quickly, too; mine has been putting on about two feet of growth the past couple of years.



As arborists, we regularly experience pest problems that get a bit out of hand. You may remember the gypsy moth infestations from thirty years ago; that was quite a mess!

Over the last few years we've witnessed a growing problem with an insect called the bronze birch borer. The larval stage of this insect feeds within the trunk of the birch tree, in the area known as the sapwood, just below the bark. As it continues to feed, the tunnels cut off the flow of nutrients and water to the crown of the tree. Typically, after a couple of years the tree dies.

We bring this to your attention because the presence of this pest has been increasing over the past five years. There are ways we can control the bronze birch borer if we get to it in time. Please make sure that we know you have a birch tree before it starts looking unhealthy.

The picture to the left shows typical damage resulting from this pest, death of the upper crown.