
Tree News

Fall 2013

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

Emerald Ash Borer in Connecticut

You might know that this invasive insect was first found in Connecticut last summer in one large area around Prospect, Naugatuck and Bethany. This year it's now found in fourteen towns scattered over four counties. This insect really moves quickly and there will be no stopping its spread. Once it gets feeding in an individual tree it's not long before it kills the entire tree. We can pretty much say goodbye to ash trees growing in the forests of Connecticut.

Most of us remember when Hemlock Woolly Adelgid arrived in Connecticut in the mid-80's. It, too, was an invasive insect and has now killed most of the hemlocks in our woodlands. Treatments on residential properties are able to keep these hemlock trees healthy.

What to do if you have ash in your yard? If you have trees that are important to you please make sure that we are aware of them. Important trees can be treated with a material that will prevent the EAB from killing it. Either a soil injection or bark treatment will be a good approach to manage this insect. Just make sure you let us know! Otherwise, it's goodbye for that tree!

One last thing regarding EAB. There is a quarantine which prevents moving ash wood from the affected counties. Please, no moving of any wood to other areas.

Seasonal Tips

With the ending of the summer season, thoughts naturally turn towards the changing seasons. The fall is when I start preparing for winter by readying the proper equipment, finishing projects that are in the works and taking stock of what I didn't get to.

We should follow the same approach with the outdoor landscape, too. Take a look around and make an assessment of things. Did you get done all you wanted to do? Maybe there is some part of the property that needs more light? Pruning trees to raise their canopies is a good way to do that. Or is there a tree that should be removed? Perhaps there is a tree that should be pruned away from the house? Make the assessment and take action now to get ready for the next season.

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PUBLISHED BY
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Specie Spotlight



Some of you might recall that I usually encourage everyone to plant a new tree each fall, one that you've always wanted. Last year for me it was a Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatamaha*. Mine is doing fine and I'm starting to see the first white flower here in the last half of August. To the left is an example.

For this year I was hoping to get a seed for the American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, but it doesn't look as though that will happen. Instead, I plan on digging up a basic White oak, *Quercus alba*, from the woods and bringing it home. There are two big, mature ones at our shop in Monroe, so I'll try to get one from there. My thinking is that if I can get an offspring from a parent tree that has performed well, it should ensure success with my new one. Of course, I'll plant it bareroot, not ball and burlap. This works great and I'm trying to encourage the trend!



Did you Know?

One of the more unusual tools we occasionally use is called an air spade. This tool is an air nozzle about five feet long that connects to a contractor-sized air compressor. We use it to direct a powerful blast of air to the soil around the base of a tree trunk, excavating the soil away from the roots.

This doesn't harm the roots at all and it lets us see what's going on in the root system of the tree. We'll do this when we expect to find a problem with the growth pattern of a tree's roots. Sometimes a tree will actually strangle itself; we call this girdling. That's what this pic to the right shows. When we find this, if it's early enough in the process, we can do some corrective surgery and chisel out the offending roots.

