

# Tree News

Spring 2012

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

## Boxwood Blight



Most of us are aware of a new concern that is affecting all varieties of boxwood. Our state has gone on red alert (green alert?) due to a new out-

break of a previously unseen disease that is killing boxwood plants. Boxwood blight was found in Fairfield County in the fall of 2011 and we expect a real problem. This disease first affects the leaves, then the stems of plants, causing death fairly soon. I personally wonder if this disease has been here for years, undiagnosed.

We've delivered numerous unhealthy boxwood plants to the scientists over the last few years for examination; perhaps this heretofore unseen disease was the culprit. Regardless, the rainy weather last year would clearly have encouraged this disease.

There are no treatment protocols yet established and we are in regular contact with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to monitor their research. At this point all we know is that plant leaves develop spots, turn yellow then dry and fall off rapidly. Plants die with cankers present on their stems. No known treatments yet but over watering exacerbates the blight. It's likely that preventive fungicide treatments can help prevent problems. We'll continue to monitor.



## Seasonal Tip



We're looking ahead to this spring and

wondering what kind of hand we'll be dealt, from a weather perspective. I recall last year and remember that spring and summer brought a lot of rain. I believe that we actually set a new record for rainfall totals in 2011.

This heavy rainfall allowed leaf diseases to develop and caused a lot of plant damage with leaves turning brown and falling off. (See Boxwood Blight to the left!) The only chance to help plants when this happens is preventive fungicide applications starting at bud break.

I wonder if 2012 will cause similar troubles or a new one we don't expect!

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## *Storm Aftermath*

The fall of 2011 certainly caused a lot of tree problems for many of us. First we had Tropical Storm Irene in early September then we got walloped by snowstorm Alfred on Halloween weekend. We're still doing some clean up work from those storms. While most of the cleaning up of fallen trees has been done, what about the survivor trees? Certainly some have been damaged internally without falling apart. Others were damaged only slightly but could benefit from some care to keep them safe. If you have any concerns please let us know. We can inspect your trees and provide clear recommendations for taking good care of them. The correct preventive work can make all the difference.

## *Invasive Insect Update:*

The Asian Longhorned Beetle has not been found in Connecticut to date. It's closest known infestation is around Worcester, Massachusetts. Maples are favored target trees. Preventive injections considered effective.

The hemlock wooly adelgid has been in Connecticut since about 1985. Preventive and curative treatments are effective.

The Emerald Ash Borer is known to be in Saugerties, New York, about 20 miles away. Preventive injections considered effective.