

Tree News

Spring 2013

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

Is This Tree a Hazard?



I think that many of us have begun to have a shift in our thinking regarding trees that are questionable or compromised in some way. I

think it's no wonder considering the amount of tree damage we've all witnessed the last couple of years. It's getting very old to be driving around our familiar neighborhoods with fallen trees blocking the way to wherever we're going.

I believe that my mindset has evolved over the years. I always used to try to find a way to save compromised trees. I had the attitude, "sure, we can trim it a bit, add a cable, and it'll be fine". More often now I advise removal of a tree that has obvious structural problems. I've seen too many instances where compromised trees have caused significant property damage. Fortunately, I haven't been involved with a hazardous tree that has caused human loss. To be honest, that's my real concern. Over several decades I have maintained countless trees, and have seen quite a few of them still fail when a storm comes through. I've seen too many "good" trees come down to want to keep saving the problematic ones.

Something else happens, too, after an old tree is removed. It takes about a month or so, then we don't miss that old tree so much. That seems to happen almost all the time. It even happened to me at my own home. That old Norway maple that we took down, before the hurricane, isn't missed at all!

Seasonal Tip



The fall of 2012 brought us another "100 year storm". Beyond the obvious breakage of whole trees or big limbs of trees, we've seen a lot of visual damage from the salt spray that came with that storm. On properties within a mile of the sound, many of the evergreens are really showing brown foliage on their southeast side. It looks as though the white pines will lose most of their needles this spring, but the twigs appear to be alive and will grow new needles this spring. Other species, such as spruce and arborvitae, will probably not fare so well; my inspections lead me to believe that there will be a good bit of branch dieback. Only time will tell the complete extent of damage so we need to wait for the coming season.

It makes sense to provide some extra nutrients to help these damaged trees come back as best as they can. Let us help your trees do their best and get on our fertilizing program! Call today.

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I always like to advocate for

my favorite species—who doesn't like to spread their own ideas! I have to fess up that last year I didn't manage to plant my most recent favorite, a Franklinia tree, pictured to left in flower. I meant to plant one, honest, and I checked prices and availability, but never got to it. I'll blame super storm Sandy for side tracking me.

Well, I will plant one this spring, I promise. Hopefully the specimens available will be worth the wait. What I strongly suggest is that you commit to planting a tree or shrub that you've always wanted to have. It doesn't have to be a remarkable choice, just one that you really want. Go crazy with that early flowering witchhazel (got one), native sycamore (got two), sugar maples (yup), dawn redwood, parrotia, copper beech (you know I planted these!). My point is that we don't get many second chances, with anything in life, so go ahead and landscape away. You'll be happy you did!

Oh, that old Norway maple I took down before super storm Sandy is being replaced with a new variety of Jefferson American Elm. Already planted so not to worry!

Species Spotlight

Invasive Insect Update:

The Emerald Ash Borer is now in Connecticut, found in 2012, with a large infestation established in the Naugatuck, Bethany and Prospect area. Later it's been found in Beacon Falls and Waterbury. Preventive injections are considered effective.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle has not been found in Connecticut to date. Its 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.