

# Tree News

Fall 2016

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

## Updates for 2016



### **Emerald Ash Borer:**

The big news continues to be emerald ash borer. As expected it is advancing through the state and quickly killing our ash. Our experience with controlling it is fairly positive using either bark sprays or trunk injections. From my personal experience at my home, bark sprays are less effective than injections on big trees. For more detailed info just go to our website, get to the insect section and click on the EAB link to the D.E.E.P.

### **Winter Damage on Ornamental Trees:**

Last winter was quite mild and easy to work through. The lack of real cold weather caused many ornamentals to never go into true dormancy. I took many pics through the winter of cherry trees flowering and a lilac was even growing leaves in January. Unfortunately, we had a very cold week in February and this caused a lot of plant damage to many trees throughout the state. I've

heard that most of the peach crop was lost and there was general damage to many different species. The pic here shows a cherry that



was damaged and we have seen many bad ones such as this all throughout the area.

## Seasonal Tip

I usually try to use the fall season as a time to look back on the past growing year and evaluate how things have done. Usually certain plants did well while others did poorly. For instance, if you just can't seem to grow a nice dogwood, give up on the idea and try some-



thing else; maybe a Stewartia. Have you had trouble growing the yak rhododendrons? You could try an unusual azalea. My point is that it's okay to deviate from your original planting plan. The ability to follow another path shows good sense and practicality.

Make your plans now to do any tree work that needs to be done to improve your plantings. Tree pruning and removals done in the fall or winter will help ensure success for your gardens in 2017!



## Species Spotlight



If you are looking for a nice deciduous tree, consider black tupelo (*nyssa sylvatica*). Sometimes also called pepperidge or sourgum, it's a native tree of eastern North America that is easy to grow with few pest problems. It grows to a 60-80 foot height and is well suited to a wet area if you have one.

The branching habit has many small limbs growing horizontally from the trunk and a nice characteristic is good red fall color! The fruit is often eaten by birds too, so it fits nicely into the habitat for good land management practices.

## Did YOU know?

Girdling roots can be a problem for most any tree. This condition is where a root will grow right against the trunk of the tree, usually at ground level. This causes a problem because each year the tree trunk grows larger in diameter, as does the girdling root. As each part grows larger the increased pressure cuts off the flow of nutrients upward in the tree, effectively choking it. That's what the pic to the right shows.

When found at an early stage this condition can be treated quite easily. We use a mallet and chisel to cut the offending root and the tree continues just fine. It's important to treat trees at an early stage though. If the condition becomes advanced the tree is usually in such bad shape that any treatment is a lost cause.

The bottom line is have us check any young trees to identify any problems.

