



THE LEAFLET



YOUR SOURCE FOR TREE HEALTH & ARBORICULTURAL NEWS

2009 Fall/Winter

Feature Tree: Hackberry



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EMERALD ASH BORER IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

The presence of emerald ash borer in Milwaukee county was confirmed on August 28th. On August 26th, city public works officials in Franklin noticed ash trees that were displaying signs of emerald ash borer. State officials were notified, and survey specialists were sent the next day to examine the possible infestations. Larvae were found after peeling back the bark of a suspicious tree, which was then sent to federal identifiers. On August 28th it was confirmed that the larvae was EAB.

As of September 14th, Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine counties have been placed under quarantine. This means that wood prod-

ucts, such as nursery stock, ash logs, and all types of firewood, cannot be moved out of the counties without state or federal approval. This brings the total number of quarantined counties within Wisconsin to 11.

The first thing we recommend people do is to take a look at their trees and determine if any of them are ash. EAB will only attack ash trees, so identification of tree species is very important. An excellent resource to help in the identification of ash trees can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info. If you are still unsure whether or not you have ash trees, you can call us and our certified arborists will be able to make that determination.

Once you have determined that there are ash trees on your property, you should consider if you would like preventative EAB treatments performed. The likelihood of treating and saving an ash tree that is already infested, is much lower than if that tree was receiving preventative treatments when it was healthy.

Ash trees should be continually monitored for signs and symptoms of EAB. Signs and

symptoms can include the following:

- D-shaped exit holes
- Presence of adult beetles or larvae
- Canopy dieback
- Excessive sprouting
- Increased woodpecker activity/damage

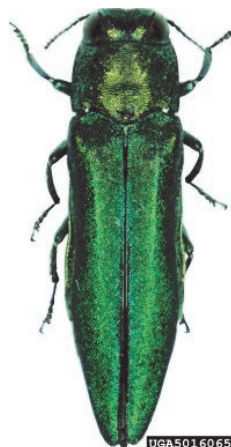
American Tree Experts are the specialists in controlling emerald ash borer. Call us today to find out how we can help.



Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture



Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org



Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Foliar symptoms of anthracnose

“A tree that is stressed is more susceptible to insect and disease problems”



Spring Defoliation Caused by Anthracnose

In May and June of this year, we saw wide spread defoliation of many trees throughout our region. This was largely due to the fungal disorder known as anthracnose. The fungal disease attacks the foliage of many types of trees, especially maple, white oak, and ash.

Symptoms of this disease include irregular dead spots on the leaves that are tan or brown in color. Leaves that are severely affected will curl or fall off completely. Generally, there will be more defoliation and damage to the leaves in the lower part of the crown, since this area dries more slowly after periods of rain.

Anthracnose originates from leaf litter already on the ground that contain the fungal spores. There are several types of fungi that cause anthracnose. The fungi are host specific, meaning the fungi causing anthracnose on the maple across the street, will not be the same fungi causing anthracnose on your ash tree. If weather conditions are favorable, like they were this spring (cool and wet), then the disease is likely to develop on many trees.

For most tree species, this is just a cosmetic disease that can leave the tree looking a little ragged. The tree will replace the leaves it has

lost and look normal later on in the growing season. If there have been consecutive years of infection, however, or there are other issues affecting the tree's health, then there may be a need to control the disease. Good control can be achieved through foliar fungicide applications in early spring. It is also a good idea to rake up fallen infected leaves and dispose of them to prevent the spores from spreading.

Anthracnose will infect the twigs of some species of trees such as sycamore. It is strongly recommended that these trees receive treatment, otherwise severe dieback could occur.

Early Fall Colors Indicate Stressed Trees

Fall brings one of nature's finest shows as trees put on a beautiful display of vibrant color. It also gives us an opportunity to identify stressed trees, which is indicated by fall coloration that occurs unusually early.

An unhealthy or stressed tree will often show premature color, which can be due to a number of different factors. Sometimes the early coloration may occur in just one or two limbs. This could indicate the tree has a disease and only the infected limbs are showing early coloration. It is more common, however, for early coloration to be found throughout the entire canopy of the stressed tree,

which is often linked to root-related stresses.

Careful examination of the root zone will usually reveal the source of root damage that is contributing to stress. Direct damage can occur from digging or cutting roots near the tree, while indirect damage can occur from chemicals in the soil, excess water, shortage of water, and placing soil or fill over the root zone. Girdling roots that cut across other roots, or grow across trunk tissue, may also be the cause of root stress.

When looking at the base of the trunk, you should be able to see roots flare out from the bottom. If the

trunk goes straight into the ground like a telephone pole, then it is likely that the tree has been planted too deep, or soil/fill has been placed over the roots.

Unfavorable weather conditions can also add stress and cause early coloration. The last few years we have had very dry periods of weather, which have increased stress and contributed to the death of many trees.

A tree that is stressed is more susceptible to insect and disease problems. Proper care should be administered as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration of health.

Feature Tree

Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

Height: 50-75 Feet

Spread: 35-50 Feet

Form: Upright

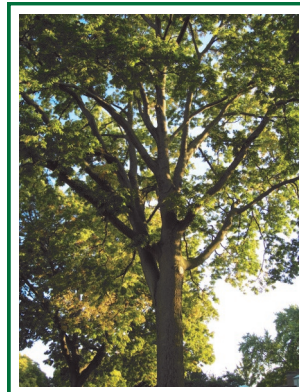
Growth Rate: Fast

Life Expectancy: Long

Sun Exposure: Full sun/part shade

Soil: Moist, well drained

This is an excellent shade tree that is very tolerant of urban conditions. It is a fast grower that attracts an array of wildlife with it's fruit. Hackberry is a cold hardy tree, however, it is sensitive to road salt. The bark has a corky appearance that is very ornamental. There are few diseases that affect the Hackberry and the ones that do are mainly cosmetic.



Company News

New Office Opening

American Tree Experts is excited to announce the opening of our new office in Watertown. We will now be able to provide our services to those with tree care needs in the Watertown and surrounding areas.

Welcome to our newest employee: Eric Bjorkman

We are pleased to have Eric join our team as our newest full time arborist. Eric was hired in the spring of this year shortly after he graduated from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Forestry.



Eric Bjorkman
Arborist

Thank you to all of our valued clients

As 2009 draws to a close we are able to look back and reflect on the many challenges faced this year. The financial issues of 2009 had a strong impact on many of our clients. American Tree Experts would like to thank all of our loyal clients and everyone who has supported our business through this difficult year. In return, we continue to strive to provide all of our clients with the highest quality of tree care and excellent service.



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Alert: Emerald Ash Borer in Milwaukee County

Tree Myths

Myth 1: The more mulch the better

Truth: Excessive mulch can kill roots and when piled against the trunk will encourage insect and disease problems. Mulch depth should not exceed 4 inches and should be kept away from the trunk of the tree.

Myth 2: Painting wounds help healing

Truth: A painted wound holds moisture in, accelerating decay. Leave the wound open and let the tree cover over the wound naturally.

Myth 3: The more water the better

Truth: Over watering can cause a tree to suffocate. Roots need air to respire and excess water may cause damage.

Myth 4: Trees have a taproot

Truth: Tree roots spread only where soil nutrients, moisture, and oxygen are available. This results in over 90% of tree roots being within the top 24" of soil.

