



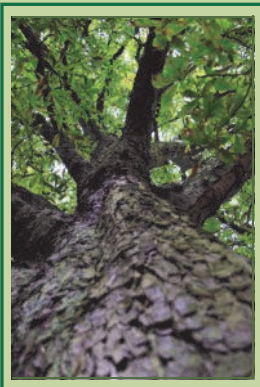
# THE LEAFLET



**YOUR SOURCE FOR TREE HEALTH & ARBORICULTURAL NEWS**

**2010 Spring/Summer**

## Feature Tree: Ohio Buckeye



### Inside this issue:

Benefits of mulching	1
Tree Selection Survey	2
Moving houseplants outside	2
Feature Tree	3
Company News	3

## Benefits of Mulching

Did you know that one of the most beneficial things you can do for your trees is to mulch them? With a little bit of work and understanding of proper techniques, you can do this on your own.

Trees naturally grow in well-aerated soils that are nutrient rich and full of organic matter. In urban environments, during construction, organic matter and nutrient rich soil is stripped away and the soil underneath is severely compacted. A thin layer of topsoil is then placed on top and planted with grass. This makes a very poor environment for tree roots to grow and by mulching, we can work towards restoring a healthy soil environment.

As mulch decomposes, nutrients vital to tree health are released into the soil and made available for trees to absorb. Soil aeration and structure also improves, allowing for higher retention of water and air, which are also vital to tree health. By replacing turf with mulch around trees, the competition for water from turf is greatly reduced and the mulch will also help to reduce the amount of water

lost to evaporation.

By utilizing mulch you can drastically improve the appearance of your landscape. Turf can be difficult to grow under trees where light is limited, especially under trees with dense foliage. Mulching these areas is a great alternative that can be enhanced by installing shade loving perennials. Mulch placed around the base of trees will also reduce the likelihood of injury from lawn mowers and weed whackers and can make these areas easier to maintain.

When choosing mulch we recommend using something organic such as woodchips or shredded bark mulch. Try to avoid inorganic mulches, such as rock and pulverized rubber, as these will not provide many of the health benefits already discussed.

Use the following guidelines when mulching your trees:

- Try to mulch area as far out from the tree as the canopy extends (going further out is even better if it is possible)
- Mulch should be spread so it is 2"-4" thick

- Avoid placing mulch against the trunks or stems of plants
- Avoid mulches that contain grass, which will affect soil pH

It is important not to spread mulch too thick, as tree health could be compromised. Over mulching can lead to excess moisture in the soil, which may result in root rot. Thick layers of fine mulch can become matted and prevent the penetration of water and air. Also, avoid placing mulch against tree trunks as this can lead to insect and disease problems.

If you are interested in mulching your trees please contact us. We offer shredded bark mulch that you can pick up yourself, or we can put it in place for you.



**American Tree Experts, Inc**

2100 S Springdale Rd, New Berlin, WI 53146 • [www.atetreecare.com](http://www.atetreecare.com) • (262) 542-0404

## Tree Selection Survey



Flowers on linden tree

Recent data shows that over 43% of Wisconsin's urban forest is comprised of maple and ash. To increase diversity within our urban forest, green industry professionals were surveyed at the 2009 Wisconsin Nursery Association Summer Field Day regarding tree selection. They were asked what type of trees they thought people should plant to increase diversity.

The top 10 genera that were voted on are listed below and are broken down by species.

### #1 Oak (42 Votes)

- 12 - Swamp white oak
- 5 - Bur oak
- 3 - English oak
- 3 - Chinkapin oak
- 2 - White oak
- 2 - Pin oak
- 1 - Scarlet oak
- 1 - Northern pin oak
- 7 - Non-specific

### #2 Common honeylocust (17 votes)

### #3 Kentucky coffeetree (16 votes)

### #4 Elm (16 votes)

- 1 - Discovery elm
- 1 - Lacebark elm
- 14 - Non-specific

### #5 Tree lilac (15 votes)

- 7 - Japanese tree lilac
- 8 - Non-specific

### #6 Linden (15 votes)

- 5 - Littleleaf linden
- 4 - American linden
- 1 - Silver linden
- 3 - Non-specific

### #7 Common hackberry (12 votes)

### #8 Ginkgo (12 votes)

### #9 Hornbeam (12 votes)

- 11 - American hornbeam
- 1 - European hornbeam

### #10 Plum/Cherry/Other (11 votes)

- 3 - Sargent cherry
- 2 - Black cherry
- 1 - Crimson Pointe cherry plum
- 1 - Sour cherry
- 1 - Common chokecherry
- 3 - Non-specific

**TREE CARE HELPLINE:**  
(262) 542-0404

## Moving Houseplants Outside



One of the happiest moments in a houseplant's life is when it gets to go back outside for the summer. The increased sunlight and fresh rain act as major growth stimulants for tired houseplants. And, it is very fashionable to incorporate houseplants and foliage plants into garden design. Having said that, every gardener has to follow a few simple rules for successfully moving houseplants into the garden.

Houseplants can be moved outdoors during the day after all danger of daylight frost has passed. The temperatures for these first few days should at least be in

the low 60's Fahrenheit . to avoid temperature shock. A windless site is also important as a cold wind will quickly chill a houseplant into shock. Leaving a plant outside for only a few hours a day for the first few days is optimal, rather than leaving it outside from morning until night.

Plants can be left outdoors at night after all danger of night frost has passed and after a week of daytime acclimatization. Again, do not leave the houseplant outdoors if night temperatures are going to plunge or if there is a cold, raw wind. If you would not want to be

outdoors, neither would your plant.

The key to successful acclimatization of indoor plants to outdoor gardens is slowly acclimatizing the plant to increased levels of sunshine, cool winds and natural rains. Usually a week of moving a plant outdoors in the morning and indoors at night will serve to harden off the tender indoor plant so it will survive and indeed, thrive in its new outdoor location. While we all want to rush the season in seeing our gardens fully leaved out, rushing or pushing indoor plants into cold gardens will only set them back.

## Feature Tree

### Ohio Buckeye

*Aesculus glabra*

Height:	40'-60'
Spread:	30'-35'
Form:	Rounded
Growth Rate:	Slow-Medium
Sun Exposure:	Full sun/part shade
Soil:	Moist, well drained
Hardiness zone:	4-7

Ohio buckeye is a medium sized tree with a coarse textured appearance. In spring, this tree produces prominent upright yellow-green flowers, that are easily recognized. The flowers develop into a large brown showy fruit that ripens in late summer. It produces large leaves composed of 5 leaflets that spread out like a fan. Although it is not native to Wisconsin, it is successfully grown in our area. It is often used as a specimen shade tree on large open areas. One drawback, however, is that this tree is susceptible to leaf blotch and leaf scorch, especially during hot dry summers.



## Celebrating 60 Years of Tree Care Excellence

American Tree Experts is proud to announce that we are celebrating our 60th Anniversary. There have been tremendous advancements in arboriculture knowledge and practices since our beginnings in 1950. Throughout the decades we have remained on the cutting edge of innovative tree care, which has positioned us as one of the areas premier tree care providers. We are now in our third generation of family ownership and we continue to remain focused on our mission of providing exceptional tree care services, while offering personal, and reliable service.

### 60 Year Anniversary Prize Drawing

As a thank you to all of our clients who have supported us over the years, we are offering you a chance to win a prize in our commemorative drawing. If you have purchased tree care services from us at any point between Jan 1st, 2007 and now, your name will automatically be entered into our drawing for a chance to win. If you have purchased services from us, but not since 2007, then please fill in your information at [www.atetreecare.com/contact.php](http://www.atetreecare.com/contact.php) then type "drawing submission" in the description box, and we will gladly enter you into our drawing. The drawing will be held on September 1st, 2010.

#### Prizes are as follows

- 1st name drawn: \$200 check**
- 2nd name drawn: \$100 check**
- 3rd name drawn: \$50 check**

#### Did you know that in 1950 you could....

- Buy a typical home for \$14,500
- Buy a new car for \$1,510
- Buy a gallon of gas for \$.18
- Buy a gallon of milk for \$.82





2100 S. Springdale Rd.  
New Berlin, WI 53146  
Phone: 262-542-0404  
Fax: 262-542-0316  
Email: [Info@atetreecare.com](mailto:Info@atetreecare.com)  
[www.atetreecare.com](http://www.atetreecare.com)

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO 2901



**Win up to \$200 in our commemorative 60th year anniversary drawing (details inside)**

## Record Setting Trees

- The largest known tree by volume is the General Sherman, a giant redwood sequoia in California. General Sherman is about 275 ft or 84 m tall, with a circumference of 102.6 ft (31.3m). It is believed to be between 2,300 and 2,700 years old.
- The 236 ft or 72 m high Ada Tree of Australia has a 50 ft or 15.4 m girth and a root system that takes up more than an acre.
- The world's tallest tree is named Hyperion. It is a coastal redwood in California, measuring 379.3 ft (115.6m).
- The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines that have been found in the USA.

