

Gathered LEAVES

A publication of Buckley Tree Service

Fall 2008

Dormant Season Treatments

Pruning

A common question we are often asked is: When is the best time to prune our trees? Most trees can be pruned anytime of year, but there are some advantages of pruning during the dormant season.



- Oaks and elms are the only trees that have to be pruned in the dormant season to prevent the spread of oak wilt and Dutch elm disease. The beetles that spread both diseases enter the trees through open wounds or pruning cuts.
- Pruning operations in the winter can cause less damage to lawns, landscapes and perennial plants.
- Leafless canopies allow our arborists to see the entire structure of the tree making it easier to see deadwood, decayed, damaged limbs and poor structure. (Yes, we can tell the difference between live and dead branches without leaves on the trees.)



Root Treatments

- Fertilizing and root stimulations are effective in fall when the top growth slows and the root growth increases. Roots continue to grow until the ground freezes.



- Fertilizing in the fall can help trees and shrubs recover from the stresses of the summer and better tolerate the harsh winter weather.
- Some soil injected insecticides work best in fall when roots are active and able to absorb the material.



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Effects of Flooding on Trees

Courtesy of Laura G. Jull, UW-Madison

The flood waters from the spring rains have long ago receded, but the damage to the trees could last a while. The severity of damage depends on several factors including, time of the year, type of plant, type of soil, and duration of the flood event.



- Dormant trees are more tolerant of flood than actively growing trees.
- Most plants can tolerate a couple of days of flooding, but some such as lindens, sugar and Norway maples, oaks, hickories and spruce can be severely injured or die from a week or more of flooding.
- Soil type is another factor in the amount of damage a tree may suffer. Clay soils stay wet much longer than sandy soils even if there is no visible water on the surface.
- Healthy trees can withstand flood damage better than very old trees, stressed trees or young trees of the same species.
- Maintaining plant health is important in preventing damage and helping damaged plants recover. Proper pruning, mulching and root treatments will help the trees recover and make them less susceptible to future environmental stress.

Japanese Beetle—“The Other Exotic Pest”

The Japanese beetle is continuing to grow in population and is spreading throughout southeast Wisconsin. The beetle feeds on the leaves of many varieties of trees and shrubs causing complete defoliation in severe cases. The defoliation can cause extreme stress to plants, and eventually death if they are repeatedly defoliated. Treatment is difficult because the beetles are very mobile and feed at night. Soil injected insecticides will give some control, but severe infestations may have to be followed up with a foliar spray in mid-summer when the beetles are active.



Little leaf lindens with severe Japanese beetle damage.



Welcome to our new employees



Brett Walzer,
Arborist Madison



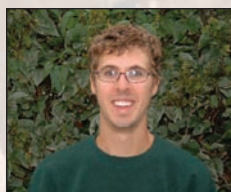
Jon Kramer,
Arborist New Berlin



Dan Blazer,
Arborist New Berlin



Jose Martinez-Hernandez,
Arborist New Berlin



Stewart Korte,
Arborist Mequon



Rubin Rivera,
Arborist Mequon

Not Pictured,
Heriberto Martinez,
Arborist Mequon

Buckley News

- Buckley crew members recently went through a comprehensive emergency response training. Climbing with a rope and saddle in trees means we may have to perform unique and very specific type of rescue called aerial rescue. The pictures below show some of our climbers practicing an aerial rescue.



Emerald Ash Borer



There has been quite a bit of buzz about the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (E.A.B.) in Wisconsin. Our philosophy is to educate our clients on the facts about E.A.B. and the options available for control, so that our clients can make a decision that is best for them and their ash trees. Here are the basic facts and options for control.

- A common recommendation made by the Wisconsin Extension is to only treat E.A.B. when the beetle is within 15 miles of your property. The problem with that recommendation is that we do not exactly know where the beetle is. Before July 22nd, people with ash trees in Newburg thought that the closest Emerald Ash Borer was in Northern Illinois. The truth is that it was most likely in Newburg the last couple of years.
- Currently the best treatment option is soil treatment with imidaclopid. The treatment has to be done every year. It has shown excellent results in even the most heavily infested areas in other states. Buckley, The Tree Care specialists recommends treatment for important, high value trees.
- There are a couple of other treatment options that show promise, but have not yet been approved for use in Wisconsin. We expect them to be approved very soon. The new control options are trunk injection and trunk spray that would be used as a therapeutic treatment for infested trees. The new control options would be used in conjunction with our soil injected soil treatment which is a preventative treatment.
- There is no need to remove ash trees until it is confirmed that they have an E.A.B. infestation.
- We will be monitoring our client's ash trees and making recommendations during our fall property tours. We will also monitor the spread of E.A.B. and the response by the federal and state governments. Currently the state government is checking traps for more locations that may have E.A.B.



State worker checking a purple E.A.B. trap.



Quick Facts—Fall Color

- Only 14% of the world's forests have trees with the habit of fall coloration.
- Plant receptors “sense” a combination of shorter days and cooler temperatures resulting in the production of plant hormones that start the fall color process.
- The red, purple and pink colors of the leaves are produced by anthocyanin pigments. The anthocyanin are produced by soluble sugars. Trees such as sugar maples have bright red and orange color because they have a large amount of sugar available for the production of anthocyanin.
- The leaf color on a tree can vary by the position of the leaf on the tree. Leaves on the exposed part of the canopy can have red leaves because they produce more sugar from the sunlight, while inner leaves on the same tree may be yellow because of less sugar production.
- The best fall weather conditions for bright red color are warm sunny days followed by cool, but not freezing nights. Rainy or cloudy days near the time of peak coloration reduce the brilliant color because of the reduced sugar production.



Customer Comments

- *The tree looks great after trimming. We were well satisfied with the work.*
—C.B. Fox Point
- *The crew did a very good job and was very careful about plantings below work area.*
—B.S. Greenfield
- *... the cleanup was beyond perfect.*
—D.O. Madison
- *Above and beyond expectations.*
—B.W. Mequon

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