

Plant Health Care inspections Starting in September - Call us!



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Tree Talk

A publication from the staff of Metropolitan Forestry Services, Inc.

Summer / Fall 2011

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TREE TALK - SUMMER / FALL 2011

Mosquitoes? MFS party sprays

Are mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers causing you problems in your lawn this summer especially when you are entertaining? Mosquitoes hang out during the day in the trees and shrubs in the yard and come out to bite your guests in the evening. Mosquitoes have been extremely bad in some locations due to the excessive moisture we had this spring and the high water levels of major rivers around our area.

If you have a party coming up, give us a call. We can fog the entire lawn area, trees, shrubs and grassy areas which will give 24-48 hours or longer reprieve from mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers. It will also help out with these biting insects getting on your pets.

If you have questions or need these services, please give us a call.

Spruce decline & herbicide damage

Last fall a new broadleaf weed killer came on the market and had been used extensively by the lawn services throughout the United States. This spring severe damage started showing up on Norway spruces, Blue spruces and white pines. This has accelerated into a near catastrophic event where certain areas have seen major die-off in the spruces and pines. While Metropolitan Forestry Services does not apply any herbicides to lawns, we have received numerous calls about damage to the spruces and pines in addition to many deciduous trees and shrubs. The herbicide damage shows up in the tips of the branches initially and progresses throughout the entire plant killing off large sections throughout the entire plant. If you have mysterious problems going on with your spruces or pines, please check with your lawn service and ask if they have used Imprelis herbicide. This may be the cause of some of your problems. I encourage you to research this on the internet and see what is going on.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

Services We Provide:

- Tree Pruning
- Landscape Design and Construction
- Vegetation Insect and Disease Management
- Tree and Shrub Fertilization
- Tree and Stump Removals
- Landscape Evaluation, and Consultation

A message from the desk of Dan Christie



We hope you are staying cool and enjoying the summer. Included in this edition of tree talk are updates on relevant pest issues, gardening highlights, and other tips to keep your trees and plants in good shape. We hope you find it helpful!

We will soon be conducting our annual Fall Plant Health Care Inspections. Let us know if there is anything particular that you would like us to look at in your landscape.

More information on MFS, our services, and other helpful information can be found on our website www.metro-forestry.com. **Also check us out on Twitter and Facebook to stay up on the latest trends!**

Cicada damage - stress management: water, trim, sanitize, fertilize

This summer the 13 year periodic cicada made its presence in the St. Louis region. Generally these insects are harmless to healthy trees but can cause minor damage to newly planted and stressed trees. Most of this damage is located in the tips of branches and new growth caused by the egg laying process of these insects. The insect makes small slits in the new growth and deposits eggs. These eventually either die or snap off and look unsightly. Most of these lesions will callous over and not be a problem.

If you are concerned about a newly planted tree, or a more severely damaged mature tree, you can tend to it with simple stress management. Water during prolonged hot and dry weather, prune out dead or diseased wood, and fertilize to maintain health and vigor.

Image to the right: Cicada damage or 'flagging' on branch tips. Image taken by Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service.



Herb and vegetable gardening trends

Many of our clients are finding it fun to grow their own vegetables in their landscape. Tomatoes, peppers and beans can be quite ornamental in the landscape instead of utilizing only annual flowers. Many gardeners are getting great satisfaction out of growing their own fresh vegetables. A couple of tomato plants and peppers and some other common garden plants as well as herbs can supply fresh vegetables to the table all summer long. MFS has always enjoyed helping people build, renovate and maintain their gardens over the years. Let us know if we can help with your gardening needs.

Heat stress and watering

Water is generally the most limiting factor for plant growth. Make sure to water when necessary to maintain health and vigor. **During hot and dry weather – Check your trees and shrubs!**

- **Check to see if the tree needs to be watered by feeling the soil below the mulch.**
- **Water slowly and deeply!**
- **Do not rely on irrigation systems!**
- Water the root ball to keep it slightly moist while the roots grow into the surrounding soil.
- Watering amounts and times will vary depending on weather, drainage, soils, and the type and size of the plant.
- **Generally 1 inch of water per week is good**, if temperatures are above 90° - 2" per week may be necessary.

Anthracnose

Anthracnose is a class of fungi associated with wet cool springs. Generally this fungus shows up as spots on leaves. There are many types of Anthracnose and each is associated with a host tree. Most of the foliar types of Anthracnose are minor issues and treatments are not warranted. The fungus will cause blackish spots to develop and as dryer summer temperature increase causes the trees to be further stressed. **Some of the more troublesome types of Anthracnose can be found on Dogwood and Sycamore trees.**

Spotted Dogwood Anthracnose: This is the more common form in our area that causes foliar problems. It can cause overall loss of vigor but it is treatable.

Discula Dogwood Anthracnose: This is a very serious form of Anthracnose on Dogwood trees. It is more destructive than the Spotted Dogwood Anthracnose as it invades stem tissue, but much less common in Missouri.

Image to right: Discula destructiva on a flowering dogwood flower. Image taken by Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service

Sycamore Anthracnose: A highly destructive and aggressive form of Anthracnose found on Sycamore trees that invades stem tissue. Once infected recovery is difficult. Preventative treatments are available.



Fall landscaping

With the fall planting season approaching, this is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. Root systems will become established quickly during the cooler weather and be ready to go next spring when the leaves emerge. **If you need planting recommendations on what to plant and where to plant it, please give us a call.** Our landscape designers are waiting to hear from you.

Storm damage in 2011

Several tornadoes and a number of severe storms have damaged our trees here in the St. Louis area. Unfortunately, in the tornado area around the airport and in Crestwood many trees were completely destroyed or damaged so badly they needed to be removed. Many of the thunderstorms and resulting high winds caused damage to trees with weak branches and branch to trunk connections. Many of these trees had evidence of previous rot which had compromised the structural integrity of the tree. This is another reminder to keep an eye out for fungal fruiting bodies (mushrooms) and discolored or misshapen branches. In many instances, trees can be protected by installing cables and rods to structurally support the tree. If you need help with this, please give us a call.