

Tree News

Fall 2010

A Newsletter from Connecticut Arborists, Inc.

Emerald Ash Borer

We think this is a good time to mention that there will soon be significant issues concerning some of Connecticut's trees. A couple of years ago we wrote about two invasive insects that were coming our way, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). At that time ALB had just been found in Worcester, MA. It has been found this summer in the Boston area and eradication efforts are underway there.

Two years ago the EAB was known to be in western Pennsylvania and in Maryland. Just last month it has been found in Saugherties, NY, which is only 25 miles from Connecticut. This insect is truly a fast mover!

Though the feds work to control ALB, the EAB is hard to contain because it is a good flyer. This flying ability allows it to quickly move into new territory, staying ahead of efforts to contain it. The trouble it poses for trees is that its larval stage feeds on the inner bark of the native ash. This feeding causes the death of the host tree in two or three years.

The likelihood is high that this pest is here or soon will be. It's important for us all to be on the lookout for it and to catch it early. Early detection is the best chance for us to manage and slow its spread.



Seasonal Tips

We try to remind everyone that fall is the best time of year to have heavy trimming or removal work done. With the leaves off the trees it's easier to get the work done and we can see what we're doing. When the lawns and gardens are dormant we cause much less impact on them with equipment and debris movement. The end result is a much better final product.

Please give us a call to make sure we have you on the schedule for fall or winter work.

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Specie Spotlight

We encourage you to plant a tree or shrub this fall, and to pick one of a variety that you've always wished you had. Maybe you've always longed for a pink dogwood? Plant one now. Or a red flowering rhododendron such as *Nova zembla*? Plant one now. I try to do this every year and am now getting a pretty good collection at my house.

This fall for me it'll be a new variety of American elm, probably the 'Heritage' or 'Liberty' cultivar. It is resistant to Dutch elm disease while still having the classic vase-shape form. The ones I've seen around town appear to be quite vigorous so I'm ready to give one a try at my place. Probably in the not too distant future I'll be able to give another old one a try; I'm hoping for an American chestnut!



We all know that this has been a hot summer, but did you know that we've been in a drought, too? As I drive around the area I see many trees showing drought effects with leaves falling and branches dying, just as in the maple to the left. Even if this doesn't kill a tree now, this type of stress is likely to cause many trees to decline

next year. It's a reality that it is usually a combination of stress factors that kill trees. This drought just might be the final straw for some trees. We'll find out next year.