



THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

JUNE 2008

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Stressed Trees Need Watching

This has been a rough winter and spring for our trees in southwest Missouri. Depending where you are, your trees have been in an ice storm, floods, tornados, a light freeze, or all of these. We cannot prevent these events, but we can help our trees withstand these weather extremes through proper tree care.

Now that our trees are, hopefully, past destructive spring weather events, we need to watch for signs of stress and provide careful measured responses to help them regain their strength. Trees respond to stress in several ways. The most common and visible are a lack of leaves developing on branches, usually in the top of the crown, and epicormic sprouts on branches and the trunk. Harder to detect responses are root death, and slower growth. The response will depend on the stress the tree is under.

When we finally notice the tree is under stress, it may or may not be too late for it. We can only provide proper care to help the tree improve its own health. Depending on the situation and value of the tree, you may do nothing, aerate the soil, mulch around the tree, add small amounts of fertilizer, water, and prune.

If your community has some trees needing extra care and you are not certain what to do, feel free to contact me to provide input so you can make decisions that benefit your trees and community.

Mulching Trees Provides Multiple Benefits

Mulching properly is probably the most important thing that can be done for a trees health. Organic mulches like wood chips, bark, and pine needles are preferred. Inorganic mulches like rock absorb and reflect heat which can damage plants.

- Mulching helps maintain soil moisture underneath it by reducing evaporation allowing the tree to have water available longer than without mulch.
- Mulch helps control weeds and grass near the tree. By shading the soil, weeds and grasses have a much more difficult time germinating and thus don't grow.
- Mulch protects the tree trunk from mowers and string trimmers. With weeds and grass not near the trunk, there is no need to use power equipment near a tree which can damage its bark.
- Mulch insulates the soil surface. Just like insulation in our homes, mulch moderates soil temperature. Warmer soils in the winter and cooler soils in the summer benefits the trees roots.
- Mulch improves soil structure, aeration, and drainage. As mulch decomposes and the individual pieces break down, they become incorporated into the soil. As this occurs, more air space is added to the soil, loosens the soil which allows water to move through easier.
- Mulch increases soil fertility. As the mulch decomposes and works its way into the soil, it releases nutrients. These nutrients then are available to the tree.
- Mulch makes lawn care easier. By reducing the area to be mown, or trimmed, there is less effort needed to maintain the lawn.
- Mulch can create a well-kept appearance. Not all mulches are created equal in this respect and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Adding edging to the mulch bed will allow crisp lines to be created and maintained which most find appealing.

Meet Us in St. Louis - ISA Annual Conference - July 26 - 30

This is a rare opportunity for us to attend a large annual conference with tree experts from around the world. This conference was held in Hawaii last year, and will be in Australia in 2011. The conference covers many topics including: Risk Management in the Practice of Arboriculture; The Role of Trees in Global Change; Trees and Infrastructure; Pruning; Trees Need People and People Need Trees; Managing the Urban Forest; Tree Planting and Management; Tree Risk Assessment; Arboriculture Around the World; Environmental and Sustainable Forestry and Urban Ecology; and more. There are also great social events associated with the International Tree Climbing Championship where the world's most skilled tree climbers go for the title; the TREE Fund Tour des Trees Finale; and organized and impromptu social events.



red buckeye
Aesculus pavia

Red buckeye is a small tree to large shrub depending on the growth form and pruning. It has a mature height of 15 to 20 feet and equal spread. Appropriate for any yard, park or street planting strip, this tree will reward the grower with clusters of red flowers between April and June. It grows best in moist well drained soils with full sun, but has been observed on on a variety of soils in cultivation. The leaves are known to drop early, but may hang on longer in partially shaded sites. The cultivar 'Atrosanquinea' has deeper red flowers and 'Humilis' is a low shrub with small panicles of flowers.



Plant illustration modified from original by Paul Nelson in "Trees of Missouri", Missouri Department of Conservation
Range map modified from UConn Plant Database.

For more information visit: www.isa-arbor.com/conference.

Book Review

Arboriculture and The Law by Victor Merullo and Michael Valentine explains the basics of laws affecting trees, liability, and responsibility of communities, utilities, and individual tree owners. Nine different chapters utilize real legal cases as examples and explains the courts decisions. Understanding these examples will help you prevent legal issues with your community's trees.

How to Kill a Tree!



Trees need lots of fertilizer. Soils are so deficient that it is amazing plants survive without a truck load of ammonium nitrate. Only weekly applications of fertilizer will keep a tree from dying.

Of course, the above is incorrect. Most trees never need extra fertilizer. There are occasions when soils do not have nutrients available to trees or the trees health requires a small booster shot. Only by careful analysis of the plants symptoms, and many times with confirmation by a soil or plant analysis, will you be able to select and apply the correct type and amount of fertilizer.

June 4

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Fayetteville, AR, Registration Deadline May 16, 2008, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

June 12

MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

June 19

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Springfield, MO, Registration Deadline June 3, 2008, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

June 20

Kansas Arborist Association (KAA) Field Day, John C Pair Center, Wichita, KS Information and Registration at www.mlna.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.main/index.htm

June 21

ForestKeeper Insect and Disease Training, Springfield Nature Center, Springfield, MO Information at 216.119.79.248/pdfs/Advanced%20wkshp.pdf Registration Required by June 13.

June 26

Missouri Landscape and Nurseryman Association Field Day, Elsberry, MO Information and Registration at www.mlna.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.main/index.htm

June 26 - 28

American Conifer Society - 25th Annual National Membership Meeting, Dubuque, Iowa Information at www.conifersociety.org/cs/index.php

July 11 - 15

2008 ANLA Annual Meeting & the OFA Short Course, Columbus, OH Details at www.anla.org/events/index.htm

July 24 - 25

Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) workshops with certification exam, St. Louis, MO, Pre-registration required, Register at www.tcia.org/Public/ctsp_workshops.htm

July 25

Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) workshop, St. Louis, MO, Pre-registration required, Register at www.treecareindustry.org/public/product_ehap_seminars.htm

July 26

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, St. Louis, MO, Registration Deadline July 10, 2008, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

July 26 - 30

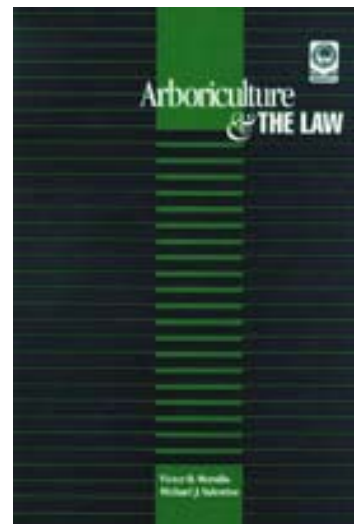
ISA 2008 Conference & Trade Show, St. Louis, MO Details at www.isa-arbor.com/conference/

August 14

MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

September 18

Missouri Landscape and Nurseryman Association Loma Vista Field Day, Ottawa, KS Information and Registration at www.mlna.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.calDetail/event_id/12/index.htm



There is always Music amongst the trees in the Garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.

- Minnie Aumonier

WHAT'S HAPPENING

"The Stump" web site:
www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/

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