

Urban Forestry-related News in the Midwest

(August 22, 2014)

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ILLINOIS

Carpentersville to Increase Reimbursement for Tree Replacement

<http://couriernews.suntimes.com/2014/08/21/carpentersville-increase-reimbursement-tree-replacement/>

Erin Sauder for Sun-Times Media (IL), Aug. 21 11:45 a.m.

In an effort to get more residents to take advantage of the village's voluntary tree replacement cost sharing program, Carpentersville plans to increase the reimbursement fee from \$50 to \$100. In the past few years hundreds of trees have come down in the village due to the infestation of the emerald ash borer.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the emerald ash borer is a small, metallic green pest whose larvae feeds under the bark of ash trees, cutting off nutrient flow essential for a healthy tree. It has been found in several states from the east coast to the midwest, and in June 2006 it was discovered in a residential neighborhood in Kane County.

Grants from both the Illinois Department of Resources and the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus has enabled more than 100 trees to be replaced, while funding from the village's coffers and cost sharing program has enabled more than 400 trees to be replaced.

Trustee Paul Humpfer, also a member of the village's Audit and Finance Commission, said at Tuesday's board meeting many homeowner's associations on the village's west side have taken advantage of the program and there is still money available in the cost sharing program fund.

"We've had some requests by homeowner's association's to increase the [reimbursement] amount," he said.

Humpfer said at the last Audit and Finance Commission he got consensus from not only commission members but trustees who were in attendance to increase the reimbursement.

"Hopefully more people will start taking advantage of replacing ash trees throughout the village," he said.

Residents who are interested in the tree replacement program or have questions should contact the village.

Residents Concerned, but Berwyn Officials Say Aggressive Tree Trimming Has Long-Term Results

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/2014/08/06/residents-concerned-but-berwyn-officials-say-aggressive-tree-trimming-has-long-term-results/awtlb65/>

By JOE SINOPOLI MySuburbanLife.com (IL), Thursday, Aug. 21, 2014 1:47 p.m. CDT

BERWYN – Parkway tree trimming has prompted a Berwyn man to begin a campaign against what he believes to be excessive trimming practices in the city, and claims it may actually be harmful – even fatal – to the trees in the long run.

But city officials said the trimming, which is supervised by certified arborists, is not only in line with what has become a standard practice but is actually beneficial to the trees.

Ed Allard, of the 1800 block of Scoville Avenue, started a blog atsaveberwynthrees.blogspot.com, to raise awareness of over-pruning by removing much of the interior of the branches. The practice leaves behind what looks like a lion’s tail, he said.

“It seems to be a national trend,” Allard said, who works as an engineer. “It’s way easier to go in and mutilate them, than to properly trim them. I did a lot of research. It’s like giving them a crew cut. It’s something that needs to be stopped.”

City Administrator Brian Pabst agreed trees in Berwyn are trimmed aggressively when the time comes. But it’s done to avoid having to trim trees every year, at a considerable cost to the city, he said. Pabst added he receives complaints regularly from residents that Berwyn’s trees aren’t trimmed enough.

Allard expressed his concerns to both Pabst and Alderman Theodore Polashek, but said Pabst appeared not to be interested in what he had to say. Pabst, on the other hand, said he prefers to follow what the experts say about tree trimming, especially in areas where trees haven’t been trimmed for years. “Is it a drastic trim? Absolutely,” Pabst said. “The reason why is some have not been trimmed in over 20 years. We get hammered by residents that we don’t trim trees enough. The trees will fill out. According to certified arborists, this is appropriate. Yes, the canopy is high, but they will fill in.”

Arborist Mark Duntemann, who started Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants in 1988, advises cities internationally on urban tree policies and programs. Duntemann, who sits on the board of the Illinois Arborists Association, inventoried Berwyn’s trees last year through a grant from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The purpose, along with identifying trees infested with the emerald ash borer, is to get a baseline of information for cities to develop strategies for tree care.

Duntemann evaluated about 14,000 trees in Berwyn to help the city develop maintenance recommendations, for both the long and short term. And in some cases, the start of such a program can look pretty startling, he said.



Caption (Erica Benson-ebenson@shawmedia.com)

INDIANA

EAB Treatments Finished For This Year Only

<http://wthitv.com/2014/08/21/eab-treatments-finished-for-this-year-only/>

By Patsy Kelly WTHI (IN), August 21, 2014, 5:23 pm

VIGO COUNTY, Ind. (WTHI) – Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department’s Adam Grossman treated his last ash tree, fighting the pesky emerald ash borer. At least he’s finished for this year.

This comes after a three-month process, almost 150 trunks and quite a bit of cash. “Just this year for Fowler Park, it was \$5,040. For chemicals, \$700, then equipment, and little nickel and dime stuff along the way,” said Adam Grossman, assistant superintendent for Vigo County Parks. All for one little bug.

Next year, the treatment starts at Prairie Creek and Hawthorn parks. But those two won’t hit their pocketbook quite as badly, with only an average of 60 trees to hit. But then, 2016 comes around.

“But when we go back to Fowler Park the next year, it’ll be another \$5,000. So, quite the investment financially, a financial investment in our parks,” said Grossman. Hitting the parks department in a way they didn’t expect, but now they have a plan in place. “Our budget, we’ve set it up for about a 12-year cycle. That’s how we anticipate treatment, for twelve years. Let the infestation come through and retreat,” said Grossman. Preserving our trees and waiting for that dinky demolitionist to move on.

IOWA

Emerald Ash Borer Hits Our Area

<http://kimt.com/2014/08/21/emerald-ash-borer-hits-our-area/>

By Levi Ismail KIMT (IA), August 21, 2014, 10:49 pm

The Emerald Ash Borer has spread dramatically throughout the country in recent years, and is now spreading in our area.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says that the invasive species has now made it's way to Olmsted County and has begun to infest local trees.

Olmsted joins, Hennepin, Winona, Ramsey and Houston counties as the areas affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Minnesota currently has the largest population of ash trees in the country making it a hotbed state, but experts say there are still ways to protect your home from the insect.

"The experts say that we don't we want to limit the use of pesticides in the groundwater and so they say don't treat on your own until it's within 15 miles of your given area," said Tree Care Specialist, Jesse Fox with Arbor Master and Cutting Edge Tree Services.

The first step of course is to identify any ash trees on your property.

Ash trees have five or more spade shaped leaves per branch, the branches are also symmetrical with leaves opposite one another.

Finally, the ash tree features bark that is diamond shaped in texture on mature trees and smooth on trees less than 10 inches in diameter.

"When we see it pop up in Rochester, Waterloo or Waverly, we see that it's moving along the roadways and that's due to human activity transporting firewood," said Fox.

For treatment options, Fox says trunk injections are more effective and environmentally friendly than household products.

Fox says the other benefit is that the injections can before Emerald Ash Borers reach the 15 mile radius. For more information on how you can find out more, contact Jesse Fox with Arbor Master at (641) 512-0370.

DNR Looks to Slow Spread of Emerald Ash Borer

<http://www.kaaltv.com/article/stories/S3539253.shtml>

By Meghan Reistad (IA), 08/21/2014 6:44 PM KAALtv.com

(ABC 6 News) -- An Emerald Ash Borer infestation was recently found in Olmsted County. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed it to be the first infestation of the insect in the county.

"The bug goes after the ash trees. It lays eggs under the bark and they create galleries where the larva feed. It cuts off the water and nutrients that go up and down the tree. It slowly kills the tree," said Kurt Hinz from the DNR.

Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009.

"It's not native to the country, but it arrived here probably on shipping material. They first found it in Michigan and now it has been spreading all over the eastern part of the country," said Hinz.

Hinz says it can be confused with other insects.

"Very bright emerald green color. There are a few insects that look similar to it. It's about the length of a penny," said Hinz.

In order to prevent the insects from spreading, state and federal officials have set a quarantine on firewood leaving Olmsted County.

"It's going to keep continuing to spread; however, we can slow that down by not transporting firewood and trying to keep your wood as local as possible," said Hinz.

The infestation was found recently, but chances are, it has been here for a while.

"Usually when they find it, it's already been around for three to five years, so I imagine it's been in that area for quite a few years. It can move at a rate of about 15 miles per year so I guess I would be concerned," said Arborist Jon Marx.

Officials say the best way to detect Emerald Ash Borer is to look for signs of the tree dying, wood peckers being attracted to the tree or bark falling off in patches. If you see ash trees you think are infested, the DNR says to call an arborist, city forester or the DNR.

Master Gardeners Offer Ash Borer Information

http://wfcourier.com/news/local/master-gardeners-offer-ash-borer-information/article_d4ee1156-81af-562f-a7c8-5325d9f920a5.html

By Holly Hudson Waterloo Falls Courier (IA), 082114

WATERLOO -- Black Hawk County Master Gardeners are seeking opportunities to speak to civic groups, city councils, churches, community organizations, neighborhood coalitions, schools, etc. on the emerald ash borer.

The emerald ash borer is a small beetle that kills all species of ash trees and has been found in Iowa, including Black Hawk County, and has the potential to spread across the state.

Master gardeners can address issues such as ash tree identification, signs of infestation, treatment options, tree replacement and municipal requirements. The group's goal is to serve as an educational resource to the community.

To schedule a speaker, call the Black Hawk County Extension office at 234-6811. For more information, check www.extension.iastate.edu/blackhawk/.

Urbandale Forum to Address Ash Borer Threat

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/local/urbandale/2014/08/22/urbandale-ash-borer/14375565/>

Todd Erzen Des Moines Register (IA), 11:02 p.m. CDT August 21, 2014

Urbandale is ratcheting up its push to distribute information about the emerald ash borer now that the tree-killing pest has been discovered just one county to the east.

A public forum for homeowners and concerned residents is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Giovannetti Community Shelter, 8900 Douglas Ave., in Walker Johnston Park.

Emma Hanigan, urban forestry coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' forestry bureau, will be on hand to address the onset of the emerald ash borer in Iowa and what can be done to combat the pest. Specific topics that will be addressed include the borer's history and proper identification, tree treatment versus removal strategies, private property responsibilities, and what city officials are doing to address the city's ash trees.

Eleven Iowa counties have confirmed presence of the emerald ash borer since it was first discovered in the state in 2010. The Iowa DNR announced in February that a quarantine was being implemented for the entire state.

Infestation of ash trees by the emerald ash borer causes a gradual decline of the infected ash tree and kills ash trees if not properly confronted.

"Most people have already heard the problem is here and that it doesn't mean good things," DNR Urban Forestry Specialist Shane Donegan said before addressing Ankeny residents about the emerald ash borer this spring. "These meetings have been happening more frequently and are being pretty well attended. Instead of the info just being doom-focused, we are really trying to give people options for how they can prepare."

The emerald ash borer is an invasive, non-native Asian beetle species. The first identified case in the United States was in Michigan in 2002. More than 50 million ash trees have been destroyed in the country since then.

The beetle's infestation causes what is called "die-back" in the canopy of the trees, which ultimately consumes the entirety of the tree in two to four years.

Ash trees typically have five to seven leaflets sharing a home on one compound stem. Chemical treatments to help trees survive must begin before borer infestation begins and must continue for the life of the tree.

Kevin James, assistant director of parks and facilities in Urbandale, said the city has as many as 565 ash trees spread throughout its parks. He indicated that the transport of firewood is the primary means by which the emerald ash borer makes its leaps across the state and the country.

"It doesn't move but five miles a year otherwise," James said. "We are assisting homeowners right now with identifying whether or not they have ash trees. Once we know the emerald ash borer is actually in Polk County, it will be up to the owners for how they want to manage it (on) their personal property."

Need tree tips?

For information on identifying the emerald ash borer or an ash tree in Urbandale, call Kevin James at 515-331-6799.

MICHIGAN

Disease Spreading and Killing More Trees; Fight Against It Can Be Costly

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20140821/COMMUNITIES07/308210013/Mighty-oaks-risk>

Laura Colvin Gannett Michigan, Aug. 21, 2014

Tony Capozzo found himself facing an expensive and daunting problem in June 2013 as leaves began falling from several of the tall red oak trees surrounding his Milford Township home.

By July last year, all the leaves were on the ground and the trees were dead. Capozzo contacted the state Department of Natural Resources, which sent a representative to take samples. Three weeks later, the results were in: oak wilt.

Oak wilt disease, caused by a fungus known as *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is a lethal oak disease most serious for members of the red oak family. And it's spreading; oak wilt is becoming more prevalent in many areas.

Over the past year, Capozzo has spent thousands of dollars to prevent the disease from destroying the other 35 or so oak trees on his 2-acre property.

During the course of his extensive research, he enlisted the help of David Roberts, a plant pathologist who serves as senior academic specialist at Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"Oak wilt is present throughout the county," said Roberts, who was also responsible for identifying the emerald ash borer in the early 2000s. "It's going to get worse before it gets better."

The disease, he explained, spreads in a number of ways, but most predominantly through injury of the tree — pruning or storm damage, for example — during warm months. The fresh wounds attract sap beetles, which, in turn, transmit the fungus from nearby diseased trees to the healthy, but freshly wounded trees.

Once a red oak becomes infected with the oak wilt fungus, it usually dies within several months. According to many in the field, April, May and June are the months when the threat is greatest, but it can also be dangerous to prune or otherwise injure a red oak during other warm months.

"I believe it's best not to prune at all when the weather is warm, regardless of what the calendar says," Roberts said. "If you've got a 200- to 300-year-old oak tree in your yard, it's just not worth the risk."



Mighty oaks are at risk. Milford Township resident Tony Capozzo looks at some of the oak trees on his property as he deals with the spread of oak wilt disease. / Hal Gould/Gannett Michigan

Members of the white oak family, while vulnerable, are generally not nearly as susceptible to the disease as those in the red oak family, he added.

Generally speaking, the trees can be identified by foliage: red oak leaves typically have pointed edges, while the leaves of white oak have rounded edges.

Management

Symptoms in recently infected trees include wilting and leaf browning that begins on the margins and progresses inward. Green or brown leaves may fall from the tree while others remain attached. Once established in the tree, Roberts said, oak wilt fungus becomes systemic, causing risk to neighboring trees which happen to be root grafted to the diseased tree and thereby potentially affecting many trees in the area.

Proper management of oak wilt will help stop – or at least slow – spread of the disease. Roberts advises the following management techniques:

- Do not prune trees in the warm season.
- Infected trees should be removed promptly; wood may be used for firewood provided it is debarked or covered and sealed during the spring/summer months.
- If there is a possibility of root grafts, trenching at least 3-4 feet deep is recommended midway between the diseased and healthy trees.
- Micro- and macro-injection of fungicides is a protective —albeit expensive —measure against infection.
- If any unusual problems or symptoms are associated with oaks, obtain help.

Expense

For Capozzo, the battle continues. He'd like to bring down the diseased trees on his property, but it's an expensive proposition, and one that he just can't afford right now.

"I moved into this house in 1987, and other than picking up branches and raking leaves in the fall, I haven't had to do anything to these trees," he said.

That has certainly changed.

But it's not just that he can't afford to pay the high cost of cutting down the the trees. He doesn't want to lose the wooded charm of his property, either.

"It has to do with property value," he said.

Professionally applied injections are expensive — the best estimate Capozzo received was \$3,600 for a one-time application to 16 trees.

So, after extensive research, he's doing much of the work on his own. So far, he's trenched in several areas and is treating trees with a fungicide called Alamo, which costs about \$100 per quart and is enough to treat about one-and-a-half trees. The process includes gingerly digging out the soil around the roots, drilling holes and injection Ts to apply the fungicide.

The product is available commercially at a limited number of landscape supply stores, including John Deere Landscaping in Commerce and Brighton.

"We're selling a fair amount," said Steve Anderson, department manager at John Deere Landscaping.

"It's an educational process — people are starting to realize oak wilt is a serious problem, and it's becoming more of a problem in Oakland and Livingston.

It's crucial, he added, for homeowners who suspect oak wilt to seek advice from a professional.

Huntington Woods Revokes Tree Ordinance

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140820/METRO02/308200108/1361/Huntington-Woods-revokes-tree-ordinance>

Charles E. Ramirez Detroit News (MI), August 20, 2014 at 7:46 pm

Huntington Woods city officials have repealed a controversial ordinance requiring homeowners to get permits, consult with tree experts and pay fees for cutting down trees that aren't diseased or dying. "It was rescinded," said Ronald Gillham, the city's mayor. "It'll be one of those things that we will go back and look at and see what level of protection of trees we can provide."

Gillham said the city commission's five members revoked the ordinance at a meeting Tuesday night. The vote was unanimous, he said.

The decision comes a couple of months after the commission unanimously passed the law. City officials intended to use the law to discourage homeowners from taking down healthy, mature trees — a defining feature of the community.

Under the ordinance, the city would have only kept permit fees of homeowners removing mature, healthy trees and returned fees for removing dead or dying trees.

"If you want to make changes to your house, you have to get permission," Gillham said. "It's not unprecedented for cities to have some control."

He said the city tried to get input from residents as it developed the ordinance, but "we obviously didn't do it enough; we're working on that."

A group of residents saw the law as the city government over-stepping its bounds and a violation of private property rights.

"We're very happy the city chose to rescind the tree ordinance," said Allison Iversen, who led a successful petition drive earlier this month that forced the city commission to either repeal the law or submit it for voter approval.

Iversen and a group of neighbors gathered 533 signatures for the petition, but the city charter only required 180. She filed the petition with the city Aug. 4.

"And we're looking forward to working with city officials for a more sensible solution," she said. "It's very easy to point the finger and complain, but we also have to put our money where our mouth is and offer some solutions."

Huntington Woods has more than 6,000 residents and more than 2,000 homes.

Inspect Your Trees for Their Danger Potential

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140822/LIFESTYLE01/308220026/Inspect-your-trees-their-danger-potential>

Nancy Szerlag Detroit News (MI), August 22, 2014 at 1:00 am

A leaning tree can be a signal of trouble, especially if there are exposed roots or a mound of soil near its base; a storm bringing straight-line winds can topple such a tree. (Joe Raedle / Getty Images)

One of the great charms of older neighborhoods is the stately centennial trees that line the streets. But aging trees can become hazards if they are not cared for.

Bob Polomski, Ph.D., from the Clemson University School of Agriculture, Forest and Environmental Science and a certified arborist, created the following checklist to teach homeowners how to examine their trees for defects that could cause damage or injury to property and humans along with those dreaded power outages.

Polomski says to begin by standing away from the tree and look at the canopy. Dead, hanging or broken branches larger than 2 inches in diameter should be removed before they fall and cause harm. A thinning canopy and undersized leaves are an indication of trouble and a red flag.

A leaning tree can also be a signal for trouble, especially if there are exposed roots or a mound of soil near its base. A storm bringing straight-line winds could topple such a tree, so have a professional assess the tree's stability ASAP.

Next, walk up to the tree and closely examine the branches and trunk for defects. Look for cracks and splits in the trunk. Large trees with multiple branches arising from the same point in the trunk may have weak attachments and separate during a storm, bringing down all or part of the tree.

Also look for cracks where branches larger than 3 inches in diameter are attached to the trunk. A split here indicates a high probability of failure and warrants action.

Polomski also recommends looking for trunk or branch cracks and measure their depth with a screwdriver. Shallow cracks in bark are not a problem, but cracks that go deeper than the bark are a sign of trouble and need to be addressed.

Inspect the trunk and large branches for cavities, cankers, mushrooms and conks — large growths. Mushrooms and conks at the base of a tree are a sign of decay. A trained arborist can evaluate the tree's condition and its potential as a hazard.



A leaning tree can be a signal of trouble, especially if there are exposed roots or a mound of soil near its base; a storm bringing straight-line winds can topple such a tree. (Joe Raedle / Getty Images)

The final step is to look down at the base of the tree. Damage from rodents, string trimmers, roots encircling the tree and/or a flat-sided trunk are all red flags and should be seen by a professional. Removing strangling roots and exposing buried root flairs using an air spade can save the life of a tree. To find out more about care of trees and locate a certified arborist in your area, go to treesaregood.org. Nancy Szerlag is a master gardener and Metro Detroit freelance writer. Her column appears Fridays in Homestyle. Email her at [Szerlag @earthlink.net](mailto:Szerlag@earthlink.net). You can also read her previous columns at detroitnews.com/homestyle.

WISCONSIN

How to Properly Plant Trees and Shrubs

<http://www.postcrescent.com/story/life/home-garden/2014/08/22/properly-plant-trees-shrubs/14073105/>

Rob Zimmer, Post-Crescent Media 11 p.m. CDT August 21, 2014

When and how to properly plant trees and shrubs long has been a topic of discussion in gardening and landscaping circles, with equal numbers of proponents and opponents for both spring and fall.

In our area, fall is actually the best time of year to plant woody plants, for numerous reasons. However, how we plant them actually becomes more important than when. An improperly planted tree, no matter when it is done, eventually will succumb or show signs of trouble. Avoiding common planting mistakes is much more vital than worrying about when to get it in the ground.



Consider the environment

(Photo: Rob Zimmer/Post-Crescent Media)

Obviously site location and soil condition are prime considerations to make when determining where to plant your trees. Research the trees online that are most suitable for your soil type, soil conditions, light conditions, as well as the mature or expected size before you buy. Consider Wisconsin native trees whenever possible as these are best suited to most areas of the state.

“Before planting trees, consider the environmental conditions,” said Justin Kroening, owner of Stone Silo Prairie Gardens in De Pere. “Make sure you are using the correct tree for the location. The amount of sunlight, moisture and type of soil can all have positive or negative effect on trees. Trees, shrubs and perennials are all investments to your landscape and should be installed with the intention of growing a thriving plant. When plants function well, they thrive, not just survive.”

Many types of introduced or exotic trees and shrubs on the market today likely will be considered invasive in a few decades. That is the trend we have been seeing over the past few decades. This potential threat can be eliminated by choosing native varieties.

“Consider the mature size of the tree,” Kroening said. “Far too often we see plants that have overgrown their site. This tends to become a problem when years of investment need to be removed.”

Key to a long life

The most common mistake gardeners, even some professionals, make when planting trees is planting too deep. Unfortunately, this error often goes unnoticed for decades as the tree does not show signs of decline for up to 20 years or more.

Planting properly at the start helps your tree live out a full and happy life, rather than begin to decline or even die well before its expected lifespan. While 20 years may sound like a long time, it is important to remember that, planted properly, these plants potentially could live 75-100 years or longer.

Expose the root flare

By far the most common tree-planting mistake is burying the root flare or root collar, which is the area where the trunk of the tree flares outward at the base.

This mistake is easy to make, since many publications and resources state to plant nursery potted trees at the same level they are in the nursery pot or burlap. However, what they don't explain is that potted trees often have the root flare area buried under several inches of soil. Because of this, gardeners who are simply following directions and planting at the same level are unknowingly burying the root flare as well.

To avoid this mistake, brush off all the soil from the potted plant to expose the root flare or root collar. Removing all of the excess soil above the root flare will help you identify clearly at which level to plant. Additionally, removing the soil from around the root flare also will help you identify girdling or adventitious roots that may be growing above the root flare that should be removed before planting. These roots eventually will strangle the tree if not removed.

Plant the tree with the root flare above the ground surface. A good rule of thumb is to plant so that the root collar or flare is slightly above the surface of soil, 1 or 2 inches. This will go a long way to prevent stem-girdling roots around the base of the tree.

Remove packaging material

While some gardeners swear by planting burlapped trees in their packaging since the burlap eventually will decompose, most tree experts advise to remove all burlap, baskets and wire from around the root ball. Removing this material will allow the root system to make immediate contact with the soil and eliminate any potential barriers to new growth.

Preparing the hole

Another common mistake when planting trees in the yard and garden is digging a hole much too large for the plant. Digging too large a hole, or one that is too deep, can result in problems down the line. It is not necessary to dig a hole much larger than the root ball itself.

Additionally, do not loosen the soil below the planting depth of the root ball. While this may seem like a good idea, it will cause the roots to sink as they tree becomes established, leading the same problems above with the root flare.

Using existing soil is also recommended upon planting. Slightly break down the sides of the hole when backfilling with existing soil.

"I prefer to use the native soils found on the location opposed to amending a larger hole," Kroening said. "Amendments can be made after the tree has begun to establish."

Aftercare

Once the tree is planted, water in well and keep the soil moist but not soaked. Watering thoroughly once a week for the first season is important, Kroening said.

Remove all plant tags and twining from the branches, as these can create unsightly and unhealthy scars and injuries later on if left on the tree.

Staking of new trees is normally not required. Staking of trees sometimes can result in a weaker tree in the long run. Trees that are not staked become more strongly anchored as the swaying motion of the wind promotes root growth below the surface.

If you must stake, stake loosely to allow movement. Remove tree stakes after one year.

Protecting new trees during winter to prevent animal damage is also important. Tree protection products of many types are available including wire, tubes and wraps. Whichever you choose, be sure to wrap loosely enough to allow room for the tree to grow.

—Rob Zimmer: 920-419-3734 or yardmd@postcrescent.com; on Twitter @YardMD

Who Whacked The Trees At Purves Lagoon?

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/door-county/news/2014/08/19/whacked-trees-purves-lagoon/14304255/>

Ramelle Bintz Door County Advocate 4:02 p.m. CDT August 19, 2014

Sturgeon Bay Police were called for a case of vandalism when three large pine trees had nearly all branches on their north and west sides cut and the treetops lopped off on the common grounds at the Purves Lagoon subdivision in Sturgeon Bay.

The trees are growing on a grass landscaped lot that is maintained and owned as part of Purves Lagoon homeowners association at 818 S. Ridgeway Drive. According to the police report, the damage occurred sometime between 8 p.m. Aug. 8 and 8 a.m. Aug. 9. About 6 feet of the tops were cut, and many other branches were cut halfway and broken the rest of the way.

An unknown suspect appears to have climbed the tree by hand or used a ladder to reach the top of the trees, the report said. A hand saw was likely used based on the type of cuts on the branches. Members of the Purves Lagoon Association found the branches in the water in the morning, as the lot is adjacent to the Sturgeon Bay shipping canal just off Wisconsin 42/57 on the city's west side. The branches in the water posed a hazard for boaters and marina.

The area borders the Quarter Deck Lodge Condominiums, and police questioned residents of that complex since people in that building could potentially have a better view of the water and marina by trimming the trees. The manager of the Quarter Deck Lodge was upset someone would have done this to the trees on the Purves Lagoon property and provided police entry to speak with residents to try to find who might have caused the damage. Many of those units are rental properties, and temporary tenants expressed little motivation to carry out such an act, the report said. Others said they liked the trees the way they were.

It was noted the trees also had been topped previously in June by an unknown suspect. Damages would be in the thousands of dollars due to the large size of the trees, which the association intends to replace as the trees may die.

No suspects were located, but anyone with information should call the Sturgeon Bay Police Department at (920) 746-2450.