

HELP! MY PINES ARE DYING!

Every fall homeowners get concerned about pines and other conifers (evergreens) that “suddenly turn yellow or brown” and are perceived to be dying fast. Actually, this is part of the normal fall cycle for them and is called **seasonal needle drop**. During this



time, the oldest (and innermost) needles lose their green chlorophyll and are shed. It is their “fall.” Needle evergreens normally retain 2 to 7 years of needles on their branches at a time. Every spring a “year” is added and every fall a “year” is lost (shed). Pines and arborvitae tend to show a rapid and dramatic color change and subsequent dropping of this oldest year of needles. This normal occurrence cannot be stopped.

What is unusual is when the amount of needles dropped seems to be greater than normal. **Spruces** tend to drop their needles over several months, which tends to hide the event. Last fall, it happened quick for many individual trees, including spruce. Trees that have been **stressed the most** will show **faster and more extensive needle drop**. All evergreens will eventually display some amount of seasonal needle drop. Take advantage of the fall season to “hear the trees talk” as they give a clue as to how much stress they accumulated over the last few years. Give the earliest and most dramatic changers extra water. Treatments designed to help compensate root loss and stress can help greatly.

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LIVING MEMORIALS

Planting a tree or installing a memorial bench is a thoughtful and distinctive way to present a memorial to a deceased relative or friend, to honor a person who you love or respect, or to say thanks to a person or group. That living, growing tree will be a constant reminder of the reason you gave it. The memorial bench, with an engraved plaque, will enhance the park, offering a resting area for leisure & relaxation.

Give these gifts for:

- Memorials*
- Anniversary*
- Retirement*
- Arbor Day*
- Grandchildren*
- Friend/Co-Worker*
- Mother’s/Father’s Day*
- Beautification Project*
- Special Occasion*



These memorials are tax-deductible contributions. Please call the Park and Rec for more information.

TREE CITY USA AWARD

The Village of Little Chute was just awarded its 21st Tree City USA Certification for work performed in 2014. To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards: have a tree board/department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program & an Arbor Day observance.

TERRACE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The village has budgeted limited funds for this fall’s terrace tree planting program. Property owners pay \$60 towards the cost of each terrace tree requested, with remaining balance paid for with budgeted funds. Forestry Dept staff plant the terrace trees starting in October, as specified by village’s forestry manual. Property owners interested in applying for a terrace tree can obtain an application form starting in June from the Park & Rec or online at www.littlechutewi.org/forestry. Information will also be in village’s summer newsletter.

TERRACE TREE PRUNING

The Forestry Dept will perform all pruning of terrace trees. Terrace trees are all trees that fall within the Village right-of-way (*between the curb and the back of the sidewalk or where it would fall*). Pruning will take place either at time of planting (*of which only broken or damaged limbs will be removed*), upon the request of a property owner, on a periodic pruning cycle, or as the need is determined by the forestry dept. The Village will not “top” trees in the terrace or on any other property, and it is likewise not advised that anyone partake in such a practice.

PRIVATE TREE TRIMMING/PRUNING

Pursuant to Village Ordinance section 40-151 Forestry Policies, there is a required traffic and pedestrian clearance of 10 feet minimum over sidewalks and at least 15 feet over streets.

HUMAN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ENCOURAGED BY TREES

Physical activity provides benefits ranging from fighting obesity and reducing cholesterol to increased brain size & functions. Anything that can be done to encourage exercise contributes to public health. Trees and associated green space play an important role.

~ Trees contribute to making outdoor spaces attractive whether they are shopping areas, parks, or tree-lined streets.

~ A study of urban adults found that residents in areas with the highest levels of greenery were three times more likely to be physically active and 40% less likely to be overweight than those living in the least green settings.

~ Research shows that streets having wide sidewalks and 8-foot tree lawns with trees are perceived by parents to be the safest for their children walking to school or to a friends.

~ One study found that elderly people who had nearby parks and tree-lined streets showed greater longevity.

RESTORATION AND INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

Classic studies by Roger Ulrich have highlighted the role of trees in some amazing ways, especially the recovery of hospital patients. Trees can help reduce stress, restore cognitive function in individuals, and enhance their ability to better face the demands of life.

~ Hospital patients with a view of trees instead of a brick wall were found to spend 8.5% fewer post-op days in the hospital and required fewer pain killers.

~ In various experiments, trees & natural settings have been found to reduce muscle tension and blood pressure.

~ Office workers with a view of nature report being more satisfied with their jobs and take significantly fewer sick days than workers without such window views.

~ Exposure to trees has been shown to improve thought process & problem-solving skills, raise the levels of self-discipline, and improve the behavior of children with attention disorders.

~ Roadside trees and green landscaping can reduce driver stress and aggression.

HOW TO IDENTIFY AN ASH TREE

Proper tree identification can be tricky. Many trees share similar attributes such as branch and bud configuration, leaf shape, and bark texture, making it easy to mistake one type of tree for another.

An ash tree can be properly identified using the following criteria:

LEAF, BUD AND BRANCH ARRANGEMENT — Ash tree leaves, buds and branch grow directly across from each other, or opposite, not staggered.



LEAVES — The ash tree has compound leaves with 5 to 11 leaflets.



BARK — Mature ash trees have a thick bark with a netted diamond shape pattern. Young ash have relatively smooth bark.

SEEDS — The ash tree seeds are dry and typically occur in clusters. These seeds hang on the tree until late fall or early winter.



After you have properly identified your trees as ash, the next step is to protect your valuable trees against Emerald Ash Borer. The EAB is in Wisconsin and it will kill your ash trees unless treated. Protecting favored trees is important and necessary if you hope to keep your trees. Through the use of Tree-age treatment or other effective EAB preventative treatments you can save the trees you love and your landscape.

Q — I've seen bumper stickers and signs that say "Don't move fire wood, it BUGS me." What does that mean?

A — After emerald ash borer has been verified in a special location, that area is quarantined with the hopes of slowing the spread of EAB to unaffected areas. Moving firewood infested with EAB moves the destructive bug to the unaffected areas much quicker than naturally possible.

Q — How can I treat my tree to protect it against emerald ash borer?

A — Systemic Insecticide can be applied annually to the soil and absorbed through the root system. Research shows this method to be 80% effective. Otherwise Tree-age Trunk Injection can be injected every other year around the diameter of the tree low on the trunk. Research shows this method to be 95% effective.

Q — What types of ash are susceptible to EAB?

A — All ash trees are susceptible to the emerald ash borer. This includes the green, black, white, and blue ash trees. Despite its name, the mountain ash is not susceptible because it is not a true ash species.

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