

# Timely Tree Tips

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## Weather Forecast: Hot and Dry...

**I**t's hot, it's dry and things are drying up. What's a gardener to do? Not so very long ago, 20 years or so, the Denver area was under similar water restrictions as we are today. A new term "Xeriscape" hit the streets and some landscapes started to change. Some people tore out their lawns, covered the ground with black plastic and rocks and often times planted a yucca or two for some greenery. This type of landscape renovation more appropriately was called "Zeroscape". Not a lot of imagination! Others followed directions and watered their lawns every third day and they made it! Soon water restrictions disappeared and we went crazy again, watering like there was no end to the supply.

Again we are faced with restrictions. What we learned from the past was that you can have a decent landscape while conserving water at the same time. We learned that to "water thoroughly but infrequently" created a more drought resistant plant than opposed to the "water all the time" trick.

We learned that you don't have to have wall to wall Kentucky blue grass in order to have a beautiful landscape. It's okay to have low water use tree and shrub borders around the perimeter with some blue grass in the middle or to have out lying areas planted with native grasses and drought hardy trees like pinon, hackberry, or Kentucky coffee tree.

We learned that high water use



*Norway maple leaf with drought injury. These and Lindens do not tolerate drought stress.*

trees do best when planted in the blue grass lawn if we want them thrive. We can have bright colored flower beds of both traditional and native plants that each can grow in the appropriate location.

Living in an arid part of the world takes imagination and a willingness to adapt to the surroundings. Water restrictions are a way to remind us that if we plan accordingly we can have a water efficient landscape and an attractive landscape at the same time.

Kevin Jones

For more information on Xeriscape try: *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener* a Waterwise guide for the Rocky mountain Region, by Jim Knopf . *Rocky Mountain Horticulture*, by George Kelly, and Colorado State University has some great in-

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to all our customers!  
It is always a pleasure to be of  
service.

## Tips for effective use of water

### For the lawn...

- ⇒ If you have a sprinkler system set out some flat bottomed tin cans all over the lawn, especially in dry spots and green spots. Run the system then check each can to see how much water landed in each. If the amounts vary, adjust the system for uniform coverage. Chances are the grass is greener in shady areas. If possible adjust the sprinkler to water more in the sunny spots and less in the shade.
- ⇒ Keep your mowing height at 3". This helps shade the soil a bit and leaves more leaf surface to make food for the grass plant.
- ⇒ Aerate in the spring and fall. This allows better penetration for air, water and fertilizers, and helps reduce water run off.
- ⇒ Be willing to accept a less than perfect lawn. Hand water brown and dry spots.
- ⇒ Switch to slow release fertilizers, such as our CoRon and Meister programs. Regular fertilizers stimulate fast growth that takes a lot of water to sustain.

### For the Garden, trees, shrubs and flowers

- ⇒ Mulch! Put wood mulch around the base of plants and to cover exposed soil. A 3"- 4" depth is sufficient to cool soil temperature, conserve water and will eventually decompose to make the soil better. Don't pile mulch directly against tree trunks!

# Top Trees Pests of 2002

## Late Summer to-do's

**S**o far this year there haven't been too many horrendous bug infestations or wide spread diseases. However, these are note worthy...

- Elm leaf miner once again came out first thing this spring. Damage from a distance looks like elm leaf beetle damage but happens about a month before. Leaf miners eat the tissue between the upper and lower leaf epidermis. Control is difficult at best. Soil or trunk injections work best but need to be done at least a year in advance and then repeated annually. It can take several seasons worth of injections to finally notice any control. The up side to injections is that they work well for elm leaf beetle, eliminating the need to spray. If miners were a problem late summer is a good time to inject trees.
- Elm leaf beetle has had a great year! A mild winter meant that lots of over wintering adults where ready to start feeding in May and June. Some neglected elms are now completely brown, stripped of foliage. Sprays or soil and trunk injections work good to protect your elm tree. August is the time to do a 2nd spray for Elm leaf beetle.
- Tussock moth is chopping spruce this year. Spray in June to prevent damage.
- Spruce gall aphid had a good year. We have seen lots of galls on spruce. Fortunately our customers trees look good. Spray in October or November, or in the early spring.
- Ash trees look pretty good this year. We haven't seen a lot of curl leaf aphid or saw fly damage on the trees we take care of. Dormant oil sprays work well for the curl leaf aphid. Soil injections work well for both.
- Disease wise this has been a mild year. We haven't seen much of fireblight in crabs and apples, leaf spot of aspen isn't too bad so far. There are American elms dying from Dutch elm disease but that is expected.

- ⇒ Now is the time to get tree pruning on order.
- ⇒ Trim and shear juniper trees and shrubs late summer early fall
- ⇒ Trim crab apple, apple, hawthorns, and American elms in the winter
- ⇒ Fall deep root fertilize trees and shrubs
- ⇒ Fertilize lawns and spray for turf weeds
- ⇒ Spray trees and shrubs for aphids and mites
- ⇒ Late summer/fall target sprays include Kermes scale on oak, spruce gall on spruce. Also soil and trunk injections for elms and various trees.

With temperatures starting to cool off start watering the lawn. You'll be amazed how fast it perks up. If you let the lawn die completely re-sodding is an expensive proposition or it may be the chance to make some landscape changes!

We would like to extend a special thank you to all our great employees!  
You guys and gals are the best and it is a pleasure to have you here. Great job!

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