



# Timely Tree Tips

## Colorado Gardening Challenge

**News flash:** 2008 breaks the 1874 record for the most consecutive 90 degree days!

**News flash:** 2008 is the driest year to date in recorded history, even dryer than the previous record set in 2002!

Chances are this is something you have already heard, but for the purposes of this newsletter it is worth repeating. Especially how it relates to gardening and attempting to have a decent lawn and healthy trees and shrubs. We live in an area where water is the missing link between “green and

brown”. Scorching temperatures literally add insult to injury, baking the soil to a nice brick consistency. Until recently, since things have cooled a bit, the vast majority of lawns, including my own, simply looked bad. When it is in the 90’s lawns want to go dormant. Bluegrass is a cool season turf. Its comfort zone is from 60 to 80 degrees. Now that the heat is backing off lawns are looking better. Having a perfectly green lawn all summer is a difficult task. Unless you water every day, forget it. It’s not going to happen. Overwatering brings on other problems with turf and trees not to mention it is a waste of water. Bear in mind that lawns look their best April through June, and mid August through October. Other than these months brown is the norm.

Many trees have suffered drought stress this season. It is critical to water trees outside of irrigated areas. 10 gallons per diameter inch of trunk every 2 two weeks **or** as needed is the rule to follow. Check the soil for moisture **before** deep watering. Trees weakened by drought stress are more susceptible to insects and disease. Often symptoms as a result of drought stress do not appear for a couple of years, i.e. die back of the crown, etc. Keep them watered, keep them healthy! Questions? Call us.



## Walnuts Under Attack

In 2003, Foresters in Boulder noticed a decline and mortality of Black Walnut trees. The trees showed branch die back, but rapidly declined and died. They initially thought it was drought but upon further investigation they found a twig beetle infesting branches and later isolated a fungus that clogs the vascular system of the tree, causing the tree to wilt and die. At this point the experts still are not sure which comes first, the fungus or the beetle. They both seem to be associated with the end result; a dead tree. Dead walnuts are now spreading across the city. The last we heard, CSU recommends to use soil injection with Merit type products to help protect healthy, non-infested trees from beetle attack, although there are no guarantees. Infected trees should be removed ASAP.

### Special points of interest:

- Blue grass is COOL season plant.
- The grass is greener under the sprinkler.
- Turf fungus is showing up.
- Walnut twig beetle
- Firewood sale
- Fall Check list



*A typical drought/heat stressed lawn*



There is nothing nicer than to cuddle up in front of a nice warm fire on a cold winter's day. Except maybe to off set the high prices of natural gas and electricity! We have a ton of split firewood, as well as our "bulk" fire-

## Electric and Gas Prices Set To Rise

wood ready to go. Spilt wood sells for \$225.00 per cord, \$125.00 for a half cord. We can deliver and dump the split wood for an additional \$80.00 ( half or full cord) in the Metro area. The Bulk wood, which is simply logs of various diameters and lengths sells for \$50.00 a pickup truck load, you load it, you haul it. This price is adjustable depending on the size of

your truck or trailer. Woods that we sell include a mix of Elm, Ash, locust, Ailanthus, maple, cedar, spruce and pine, along with whatever else comes our way. Quantities are limited so stock up today!

**Fact:** Did you know that most modern wood burning stoves and fireplace inserts are exempt from "No Burn Days" ?

## A Fall Check List to End the Season

I think I shall never see a billboard as lovely as a tree. Indeed, unless the billboards fall I'll never see a tree at all. *Ogden Nash (1902- 1971)*

### For the Lawn:

- For non Meister clients, a winterizer lawn fertilizer application
- Spray for weeds in and out of the lawn
- Aerate and over seed

- Soak the lawn well before blowing out the sprinkler system
- Call us to schedule a sprinkler blow out.

### For the Trees:

- Fall deep root feeding . Go light on the

nitrogen, heavier with micro nutrients and organics.

- Schedule for fall and winter trimming.
- Plan on deep watering trees and shrubs on a schedule while dormant.
- For roses, pile up leaves, pine needles or mulch around the crown. Don't prune them until spring.

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