

# Timely Tree Tips



## 2010 Growing Season

2010 turned out to be a rather good year for trying to grow things in our area. Here are some of the highlights we found throughout the season...

**Apricots and Peaches;** A mild spring without the surprise attack spring freeze allowed peach and apricot trees to flower in many locations. It is truly unusual to see apricots bear fruit in Denver. They are the first tree to flower and first to freeze. Peaches rival a close 2nd. When they bear fruit it is a taste treat!

**Locust trees;** The mild spring again played a role with locust trees and their ability to leaf out normally. They too flowered profusely. As a result they spent a lot of energy making flowers as opposed to making leaves. It wasn't until mid to late June that they finally kicked leaf production into gear. If you own a locust you might recall all the brown crumbly stuff falling all over everything. That was the dried up flowers.

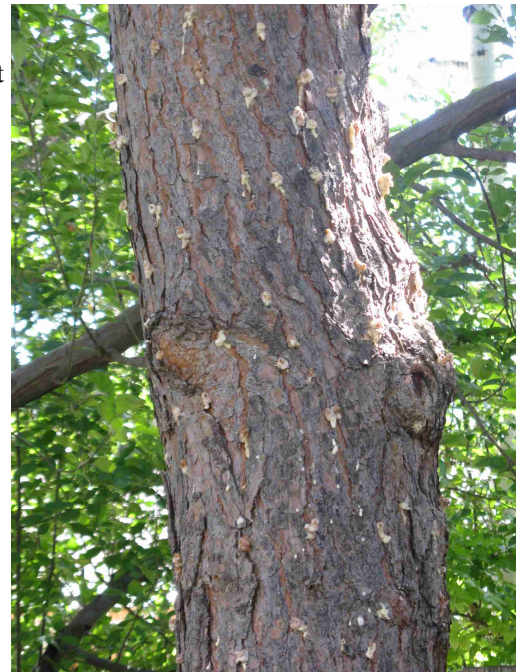
**Ash trees;** Many ash tree caught a fungus called "Anthracnose". It affects the foliage, making the leaves wither, curl and drop off. In many cases parts of the tree look fine, while other parts of the same tree were affected. In some cases there were 2 or more ash trees at the same location One tree was infected and the others were not. It's hard to say what was different this year as opposed to years past that caused such a wide spread infection. There really is no reliable cure and the best recommendation is to see what happens next year.

**Fire Blight;** Any year you get a fruit crop on apples Fire blight is usually prevalent. Fire blight is a bacteria disease that can infects all varieties of apples, crabapples, pears and hawthorns. Some varieties are resistant (Red delicious apple and Dolga crabs) while others are very susceptible ( Jonathan apple and Spring Snow Crab). The bottom line is that none are immune to the disease. No matter what you do to prevent the disease the potential to get it is always there as long as you have a susceptible host plant.

**Apples and Crab Apples Galore;** As mentioned above this was a good year for producing apples and crabs. But that all depends on who is picking up all the wasted fruit. Most apple tree owners express their frustration with the fruit: birds peck holes, squirrels take one bite and toss the rest on the ground and every apple that looks good has a surprise guest inside; a worm!

**Mountain Pine Beetle; MPB** This photo of a Scots pine was taken in Broomfield in August. Since then several other calls have come in from the Broomfield. Mountain Pine Beetle seemed to have become established in this area. Tell tale indicators are the pitch tubes peppering the trunk. Preventative sprays are the best bet. So far they seem to prefer the Scots pine but other pine species are susceptible. **Breaking News MPB found in Scots pines on the 3700 South block of Oneida Way !!! 9-30-10**

**Hot and Dry:** As of 9/30/10 the weather person said we have had 49 days of 90 degrees or more. That and no rain to speak of has put a lot of lawns, trees and other life forms under a lot of stress. Hopefully as temperatures cool off the irrigation water we provide will perk lawns back up enough to give them some color before sprinkler systems have to be drained. Remember: it is to your advantage to drag out the garden hose once a month during fall and winter to water your trees, shrubs and lawns. Most plant damage from drought stress occurs in the off season.



## VerDur Iron Infusion Makes a difference

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In 2009 we started using VerDur iron to treat trees sick from lacking iron. The element iron is in the center of the chlorophyll molecule. If the leaf can't make chlorophyll it cannot perform photosynthesis and thus is unable to make food for itself. The end result is the tree starves to death. The obvious symptom is the yellow leaf color. Upon closer inspection the leaf veins are green while the leaf tissue is yellow. In severe cases the leaves will be almost white and will actually sunburn. Best time to inject chlorotic trees is late summer near fall. A typical first reaction of trees injected is for the leaves to crinkle up due to the shock of the nutrients. This doesn't have any long term affect on the tree since leaves are a temporary appendage anyway. The following spring is when you will see a difference. What was once a yellow tree is now green. Results can vary but an improvement is usually made. The manufacturer claims one treatment lasts up to 3 years. If you have neighbors with yellow trees please share this information with them.



The VerDur difference. The photo on the left was taken Sept. 2009 before we injected it with VerDur. To the right, same tree one year later. It worked!

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## Fall tree trimming

The dormant season is a great time to get your trees and shrubs trimmed or take care of removing unwanted trees and shrubs. Certain trees like apples, crab apples, hawthorns Mtn. Ash and American elms need to be trimmed while dormant for disease prevention purposes.

Other tree species can be trimmed as well. To the trained arborist eye, defects such as dead wood and bad growing habits are visible and not hidden by leaves. Periodic tree trimming is an essential part of an urban trees life. Trees need to be trained through proper pruning

to fit into their surroundings and not be a liability to your property.

Give us a call today to have your trees evaluated and to discuss any improvements you wish to make around the yard.

303-431-8132

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## Preparing the yard for Fall and Winter

Roses; Don't cut them way back. Instead pile leaves, pine needles, straw, whatever you have available around the crown and stems. In the spring prune back dead wood to live growth.

Mulch: Now is a good time to top dress bed areas with wood mulch. Don't pile mulch on tree trunks.

Sprinkler system: Get on the list for sprinkler blow outs ASAP. Watch the

weather reports. If a freeze is in the forecast wrap exposed system parts with heat tape, blankets and plastic. Then hope for the best.

Fall is an important time to fertilize the lawn. Turf grass spends a lot of its time regenerating its root system this time of year. A healthy root system is the foundation for good top growth next spring.

Cut back perennial flowers.

Services we are doing now include:

Dormant sprays for spruce gall aphid.

Fall deep root feeding

Tree trimming.

Kermie scale sprays for Red oaks.

Fall lawn fertilizer applications and aeration.

If we can help give us a call!