

Spring 2011

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Jones Tree & Lawn, Inc.

Timely Tree Tips



Purple peach flowers covered with ice...burrr

Is Brown the new Green?

Maybe I am being a bit pessimistic here but it seems that I see brown longer than I see green. As I travel around the city the predominant color I see is brown. According to the experts who track this stuff the Front Range is in a drought, even though no one has officially said it yet. As I write, the mountains di-

rectly west of Golden are burning. The result of that will be from brown to black, but when it finally gets some rain or snow it will be incredibly green! The thing about wild fire is that it cleanses the earth, burning off years of accumulated organic debris. This paves the way for new vegetation. For the most part fire is a good thing, unless your house happens to be in the way.

With this lack of snow, rain and soil moisture many trees, shrubs and lawns are showing the effects. Winter desiccation has been observed on pines and spruce. Brown needles on pines and spruce are the first indica-

tors of drought injury. Broadleaf evergreens such as pyracantha, euonymus, boxwood and mahonia can turn brown from winter drought. This browning does not necessarily mean the plant is dead. Often buds are still alive and will sprout new growth. Lawns, especially those on south facing slopes, are being slow to green up due to lack of moisture.

Problems that result from winter drought is that the plant is now stressed. Trees under stress are susceptible to injury from borers such as Ips beetle, Ash borer, Ash bark beetle and Mtn. pine beetle. Other symptoms of drought injury may not show up until this summer. Trees can leaf out on stored energy but when they demand water and if the root system has dried out the plant will wilt and may die. Stressed trees need to be sprayed to help prevent insect injury. If you haven't approved your program now is the time.

Preventing "terminal" drought is as easy as dragging the garden hose out once a month from November through March and giving everything a good drink of water. The successful gardener winter waters.

If we can help answer any questions our phone lines are open.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jones

2011 Season is in full swing! Are you ready?

The horses have left the starting gate! We are in full swing getting your yard ready for the season:

- Meister Plus! lawn fertilizer, prem and weed applications
- Systemic soil injections and soil drenches
- Ips beetle sprays for spruce and pines
- Spring spruce galls
- Ash borers
- Deep root fertilizing
- Pruning and landscape
- Fire blight and fungicide sprays

In the near future we will be doing...

- Aphid/mite control

- Turf aerations
- Tussock moth sprays for spruce and fir
- And the list goes on!

Most of the things we do have a window of optimum opportunity for best results. All we need from you is your okay to proceed and we will take care of the rest. Call with your approval today!

Special points of interest:

- *Drought injury*
- *Difficult diseases*
- *Cold hardy trees*
- *Time to get into Spring!*



Cold Hardy Trees

This list of Cold Hardy trees are the ones that start leaf out last in the spring. As such, they rarely get zapped by spring frosts:

Kentucky Coffee tree

Catalpa

Golden rain tree

Walnut

Cottonwood

American elm

Linden

Norway maples

Pines, most all species

Spruce, fir and junipers

Hawthorns

Oaks, most species

These trees usually experience frost damage:

Ginnala maple

Peach

Apricot

Ash

Locust and Red bud

The Affects of Drought on Landscape plants

The first affect of drought is on plant root systems. Even though roots are not seen they are the first link in getting water to the above ground portions of the plant. If lack of water is prolonged small fibrous feeder roots will die, further inhibiting the plants ability to absorb and transport water. Drought is next noticed on the above ground parts. With deciduous trees and shrubs leaves may wilt. Prolonged drought can also cause leaf blotching, which is where patches of the leaf or leave tissue along the edges just dies and turns brown. Prolonged drought can eventually kill trees, shrubs, lawns and all plant life.

A side affect of drought is to make the plant susceptible to insect and disease. Insects like Ips beetle, Mountain pine beetle, Ash borer and Bronze birch borer are

attracted to trees that are stressed and drought is a stress. Diseases like cytospora canker infect stressed trees. Many people confuse the insect or disease as the primary suspect when in fact they are secondary. The plant is already declining which invites the pests to feed on it.

When dealing with stressed trees one of the first things to do is try to improve health via proper irrigation and root stimulants, then determine what actions can be taken to reduce or stop insects and diseases from causing more damage.

Plant health care is sort of like human health care. If we stay healthy chances of catching something bad are reduced.

So... are your landscape plants getting what they need? For Plant Health Care program information give us a call.

Conserve Water; If you have the time check out this video. It affects us all.

<http://defendthecolorado.org/>



There's a fungus among us! Necrotic Ring Spot

The Disease Dilemma

Trying to manage certain plant diseases is often a frustrating process for ourselves and our clients. The 2 most difficult diseases we encounter are Fire blight of crab and apple trees and Necrotic ring spot disease in lawns. Fire blight is a bacterial disease that affects **all** varieties of crab apples, apples, pears, European Mtn Ash and pome fruit plants in the rose family. Some varieties are more resistant to the disease than are others but none are immune! There is no cure for fire blight. Certain antibiotic sprays can help reduce the potential of getting it, pruning out diseased plant parts can help, but there is no guarantee that they will work. Generally, we have observed that if we have a good bloom year we have a bad fire blight year. The best way not to get fire blight is not to plant a tree that can get the disease in the first place. This is called "avoidance." Don't get me wrong, crabs and apples can perform well. Just keep in mind that if they get fire blight it can be difficult to gain control. — Then there is Necrotic ring spot disease, NRS, of turf. NRS is nearly impossible to eradicate from the lawn once it takes hold. It seems to always start in lawns that are watered too much! (1st Clue) Poor quality, fast release fertilizers can aggravate the disease. (2nd Clue) Improper mowing height, i.e. too short, aggravates the disease. (3rd clue). So, knowing the primary cause and what exasperates the disease we can take precautionary measures to avoid the disease in the first place and what to do if we get it. Fungicide treatments for NRS are expensive. They are only a tool that when used along with the management suggestions above can help reduce the disease. Without proper watering, quality slow release fertilizers and proper mowing (cultural practices) fungicide treatments may have little or no effect.

At Jones Tree & Lawn we have many "tools" at our disposal. Depending on what we are trying to control results may or may not be successful. However, we always try to explain the situation to you, let you know the limitations, and give you options to consider. Often times, changing how you do things is just as important to achieving results as is what we can do.

Thanks for reading... Kevin Jones

