



AUTUMN PLANT CARE TIPS

Fall is an excellent time to plant many species of trees and shrubs. Root growth continues until soil temperatures drop to near freezing and resumes in early spring when temperatures rise. Planting now will better establish root systems for the next growing season. However, some tree species perform poorly when planted now. Before planting, get list of these species from your Bartlett Arborist.

It's also the time to prepare your landscape plants for winter. Replenish mulch as needed after leaves fall. Ensure soil is moist before ground freeze to minimize winter injuries, especially on evergreens. For high value evergreens or those that are sensitive to low temperatures or desiccation, Bartlett now offers Shrubcoat, a unique covering to protect plants from winter injuries. Fertilize in the fall with slow release products like Bartlett's Boost®. Conduct soil analysis. Results should be the basis for treatments with fertilizer, lime, organic matter or other soil amendment.

Pest management continues to be a major focus during the fall. If leaf disease was present earlier, rake and remove or compost leaves from the affected trees. Spider mites become active especially on conifers in fall and can damage plants during warm winter periods. Plants should be treated now to suppress deer browse. Bartlett has a very effective program to deter deer that includes treatment with naturally derived products. This will not pose a risk to people, pets or the wildlife it deters.

Enroll Now to Receive Tree Tips Electronically!

The Internet has made the world we live in a much smaller and more efficient place. We would like to take advantage of this great tool and offer *Tree Tips* to you electronically. If you're interested in going "paperless" and receiving your future issues of *Tree Tips* via the web, use the link below to enroll. Please use your client code in the yellow box on the reply card included in this mailing. It looks like the sample at right:

www.bartlett.com/newsletter

If you try it and decide you prefer the printed copy, you can always return to mail service. ■



Have you planted a tree lately?

Now's your chance. The Arbor Day Foundation fosters several projects that benefit our green spaces. We've written in the past about the Foundation's reforestation projects in connection with planting memorial and remembrance trees while supporting a vital national effort. If you haven't done so, we still recommend planting a living memorial for someone who has a place in your heart.

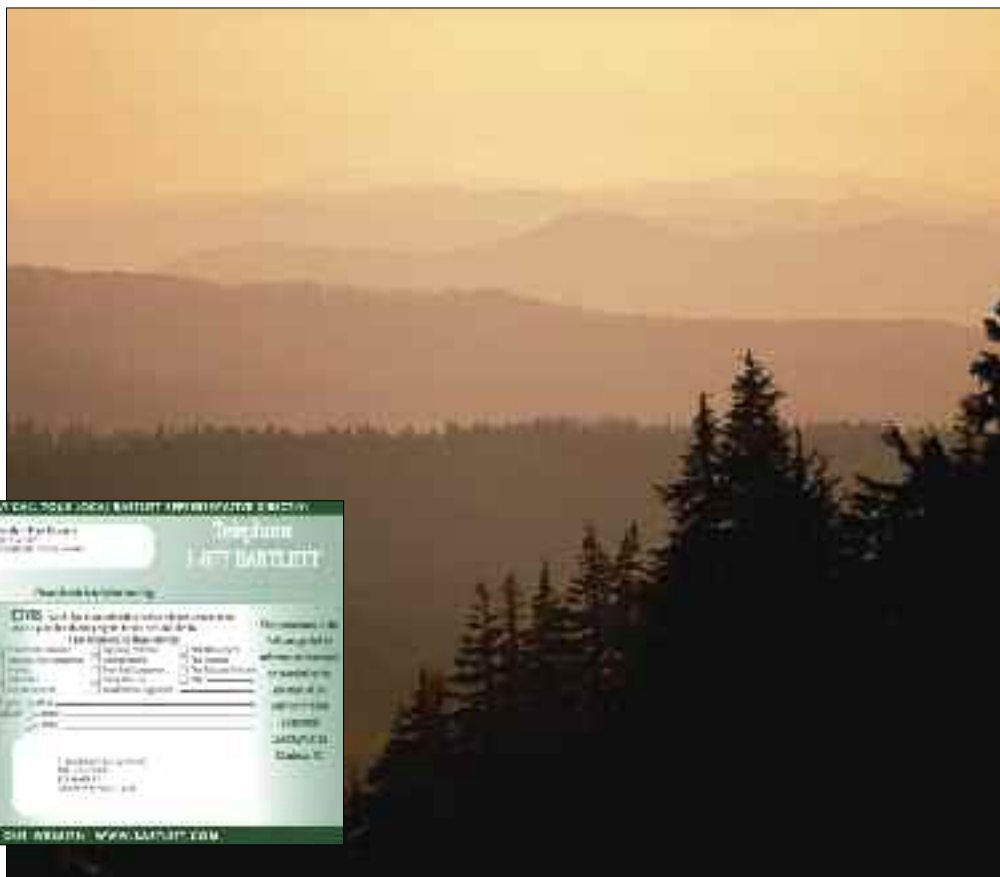
Bartlett has found another way to help the Arbor Day Foundation in its ongoing reforestation project and give our clients the opportunity to help too. We'll donate funds to the Arbor Day Foundation to plant five trees for each client who signs up to receive the electronic version of *Tree Tips*.

The project to replant national forests has succeeded in 13 million trees being planted in 20 years. There are still a lot of acres left to cover. Forest Service budgets have been diverted to fight the massive forest fires that are a constant threat to

our national parks and green spaces leaving fewer funds for replanting.

One million acres remain for reforestation. We'll do our part and plant five trees in your name if you sign up for paperless copies of *Tree Tips* and tell us you want to be included in the reforestation program. That way, you'll get the satisfaction of knowing that you not only reduced our paper use but are also restoring natural treasures with the same initiative. Follow the instructions in this newsletter to sign up for electronic *Tree Tips*.

For further information about the Arbor Day Foundation's reforestation project, memorial tree planting and sponsorships you can log on to: <http://www.arborday.org/replanting/> and that will take you right to the reforestation page. Thank you for your support. ■



BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS OFFICES RECEIVE TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION

Established in 1938 as National Arborists Association, the Tree Care Industry Association is a non-profit organization of over 2,000 commercial tree care firms and affiliated green industry companies. Dedicated to safety and education programs, TCIA sets the standard for professionalism in arboriculture.

A new accreditation program administered by TCIA audits companies based on ethics, quality and consumer confidence. Businesses undergo a rigorous application process and an on-site review of facilities and work locations. This review of professional practices is aimed at safeguarding consumers.

We are pleased to announce that Bartlett Tree Experts has been reviewed in this audit and has received TCIA Accreditation for every one of our 78 offices throughout the United States.

The TCIA Accreditation is in effect for 3 years, with annual reviews to ensure that firms continue to employ trained professionals, are properly insured, maintain good safety records and provide customer satisfaction.



According to TCIA President Cynthia Mills, "TCIA Accreditation provides consumers a way to find tree care companies that are trustworthy in their business and tree care practices. Our TCIA accreditation program is the only one of its kind in America and will give consumers piece of mind." As former chair of the board of the Tree Care Industry Association, Bartlett President, Greg Daniels agrees.

"We want consumers to have the utmost confidence in our company and services. Accreditation is another way we confirm our belief in safety and quality."

The green industry can be hazardous. Emphasis on training, strict safety procedures and belief in professional responsibility minimizes these risks and protects both clients interests and industry workers.

As professionals, we do all we can to ensure our staff is up to the varied challenges that our crews face daily. Wires, structures, terrain, proximity to people and road traffic—all must be factored in before a tree is climbed. Then, the tree (or trees) must be assessed for safe climbing. Our climbers



use ground crew, ropes and other procedures to promote safety. Gloves, helmets and safety glasses are mandatory equipment. Wood chippers and chain saws have to be operated properly and

maintained. Even then, unforeseen situations may arise. Insect nests, unsafe limbs and other hazards complicate tree work. Our crews make these procedures look easy, but they most certainly are not.

Unaccredited companies may or may not adopt the sound practices that are basic to Bartlett service. Consumers now have a source to help them compare different companies for quality of service and competency.

When you take all these factors into consideration, you'll see why we are so proud of this achievement and want to share it with you. To have all of our offices accredited was in itself a major undertaking, but we feel that accreditation is an issue vital to our industry and to the consumers of our services. ■

EXOTIC PEST UPDATE:

Exotic pests continue to make the news. Asian Longhorned Beetle was discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts in August. A quarantine zone of over 66 square miles, including the entire city of Worcester, has been established to contain and eventually eradicate this pest. The infestation may have been active, but undetected, for more than 10 years.

Asian Longhorned Beetle



USDA personnel are currently inspecting trees to define the scope of the infestation that now exceeds 1,500 trees, mostly maples. Infested trees will be removed this winter and highly susceptible species will be treated with a systemic product to help control any remain-

ing beetles. Bartlett plans to offer clients bark treatments to help deter beetles from attacking susceptible hosts. In addition to maple, favored hosts include birch, elm and willow.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to spread to areas outside of the Midwest where this pest was initially identified. EAB was identified in Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The infestation has spread to the degree that it probably cannot be successfully eradicated. Efforts have shifted to slowing the spread by removing newly-infested trees and treating trees with insecticides to suppress new attacks on all species of native ash. Landscape trees can be successfully protected with soil application of systemic insecticides. However, these products are most effective as a preventative treatments and effective control diminishes after EAB invades the host.

Emerald Ash Borer



In addition to the above borers, many other new invasive pests, including myporum thrips, light brown apple moth, brown marmorated stink bug, and siricid wood wasp have continued to expand their ranges. ■

New for 2009: Shrubcoat for Winter Protection

Protecting evergreens from winter injury is challenging because many factors contribute to damage. It depends on plant species, health, exposure and the severity of winter weather. Some winter injuries can be caused by desiccation. Moisture is lost through foliage but is not replenished because the soil is frozen. This occurs on sunny warm days followed by periods of extended cold temperatures. Lower temperatures freeze plant tissue. Deicing salts deposited on plants from passing vehicles "burn" plant tissue.

Traditionally, we tried to reduce winter injury with latex-like materials that were sprayed on plants to reduce the risk of desiccation. Anti-desiccants were



not consistently effective: during extremely cold and dry weather, winter injury occurred especially on sensitive plants that were growing on exposed sites.

Recently we discovered and evaluated a unique product called Shrubcoat, a lightweight but sturdy fabric that can be rapidly erected over shrubs and small trees. The material protects plants from wind and creates a slight micro-climate around the plant to reduce the risk of low temperature injury. In addition to winter protection, Shrubcoat protects sensitive shrubs from deer browse.

Shrubcoat was developed by a nurseryman in northern New York State and has been effectively used in harsh climates for several years. It is produced in different sizes for plants up to 10 feet in height. Shrubcoat is now available through Bartlett branch offices and can be erected quickly by our Arborists in late autumn. When removed in spring, it can be folded and stored in a small space and will provide you years of service. Ask your Bartlett Arborist Representative for details. ■

How Does a Company Expand its Commitment to the Environment?

We started out with a Bartlett Green Initiative mission document outlining our goals for company-wide environmental responsibility and setting dates for completion of the projects outlined.

Peter Andreucci, Bartlett Western Division Manager is at the forefront of this initiative's management. Based in our San Rafael Division office, Peter is in the right place at the right time. Californians have long been cognizant of

the need for environmental awareness and California has been ahead of its time in setting the pace for the other 49 states regarding sustainability and other environmental issues.

Our plan encompasses our U.S. and Canada operations in entirety. It involves the cooperation of all departments and all offices. Here are our objectives and the progress we've made for each initiative.

BARTLETT GREEN INITIATIVES	GOALS	PROGRESS
Hybrid Vehicles	25% of our Arborist Representative car fleet to be hybrids by the end of 2008.	Goal accomplished and percentage set exceeded. Hybrid trucks and hybrid bucket trucks are being evaluated.
Fuel Initiatives	Replace fossil fuels with: Vegetable Based Bar and Chain Oil Reduced emission 2 Cycle Oil for Saws Biodiesel for our diesel Trucks and Chippers	Old supplies of petroleum-based oil are being phased out by our offices. Reduced emission products are in use throughout the company and future orders will be selected to reduce our fossil imprint.
Woodchip and Wood Waste Recycling & Alternatives	Reduce wood waste in landfills and to recycle into alternative energy sources.	Our offices are locating cogeneration plants to convert wood waste to alternative energy products. All offices are to divert wood waste from landfills and recycle. Clients often recycle the organic mulch we generate on their own properties.
Organic Based Pest and Soil Management	Develop and test natural products. Inform our representatives about the availability of these products/services and their use to maintain clients' landscapes. Provide this information to clients via website and literature.	Our Lab continues to test organic options for pest and soil management. Boost Natural, an organically certified fertilizer is now available company wide. Arborist Representatives have received training from our laboratory and are discussing these organic products and services with clients. Literature is available through the Arborists and our website.
Paper Reduction	Reduce paper use internally and externally using electronic forms and messaging.	The use of computers and electronic messaging has greatly reduced in-house paper flow. Many of our clients now opt for tree care proposals and our <i>Tree Tips</i> newsletter to be sent via email.
Alternative Energy	Reduce our use of fuel oil and adapt alternative energy resources.	Solar Power review for all company owned facilities. Our Osterville MA office has invested in a solar energy system. Tucson AZ will review in 2009.

We're in a green industry. Commitment to and love of the environment comes with the territory. Bartlett's focus has always been on the environment and on finding better ways to provide clients with products and services that work with efficacy without doing harm.

Like any other business, we have waste products to dispose of and are looking at the ways we can improve, recycle and reduce our carbon footprint.

We can't do business like we did in the past. We wouldn't want to. In the

sixties, before copiers, faxes and electronic devices provided easier, less paper intensive ways to communicate, businesses generated mountains of paper. Before the EPA and the resulting public awareness about environmental issues, no one thought about fossil fuel output, energy, or better ways of waste management. In today's workplace the goal is to adapt new, better ways to perform the same tasks and reduce the pressure on our environment. That's what our green initiative is all about. ■



Question: I have a nine-year-old leland cypress. It is planted about four feet from a lake and gets good sun. A few months ago, portions of the tree branches began to turn a rust color and die. It appears to be spreading throughout the tree. I took a sample and pictures to the St. John's Agricultural Center and was told that leland cypress trees begin to die at about eight years old. Upon some internet research, I did not find any info that confirmed that. I did find that there were two cankers that can affect the tree. I also noted that there is no known cure or control for them. An arborist told me that it should be sprayed with horticultural oil. I don't know if I should have the tree removed or if there is some way to save it. Can you help me? **Stephanie Lewis**

Answer: Branch dieback on leland cypress is commonly caused by canker disease and this is the likely causal agent for the problem on your trees. Trees that are stressed by drought or excess soil moisture are more susceptible to this disease. We also find that trees that have been planted too deep and have soil over the top of the root flare are more prone to disease.

Pruning out diseased branches and identifying and correcting any stress inducing factors will help prevent further decline. Many homeowners choose to replace leland cypress with more durable species. I recommend that you consult a local arboretum/botanical garden for suitable replacement species.

Horticultural oil will not help the situation unless there is an insect infestation present that is causing plant stress. Leyland cypress can be infested with spider mites and scale insects that can be suppressed with properly timed treatments of horticultural oil. **Dr. Bruce R. Fraedrich**

Question: I have four scrub oaks on my front lawn. A few years ago we had a drought here in Colorado and many of the roots of these trees came to the surface. They are now beginning to take over a beautiful lawn. Cutting them back doesn't help as they only grow back through the grass and with so many it's almost impossible to keep up. Is there any method I can use to kill the roots at the surface of the lawn without killing the entire tree? Any help is greatly appreciated.

Paul Gravelle

Answer: As the tree roots grow in diameter, they will become a bigger problem. Tree roots will proliferate and thrive where there is water and nutrients so the environment created for the lawn is ideal for tree roots as well. Competition will only increase. Unfortunately, there is no way to eliminate the tree roots without impacting the health of these oaks. Consider developing mulched beds in areas where these large roots are evident (usually close to the stem of the tree). Irrigating heavily and infrequently can encourage deeper root development of the tree but I suspect that the trees have developed many shallow lateral roots that will remain near the surface. Sorry I can't offer you better options. **Dr. Bruce R. Fraedrich**

DO IT YOURSELF?

Please Don't

Our present economic conditions make it really tempting for homeowners to take care of projects around the house themselves instead of hiring help. It's the way to go for a lot of handy homeowners who are now mowing their own lawns, cleaning gutters and making stone patios and walkways. These do-it-yourself projects are satisfying, save money and keep your property in good shape. Maintaining property value and condition is important and it's ongoing—a work in progress.

Some situations, however, are better left to professionals.

Tree care (particularly climbing, chainsaw use and chipping), should not be attempted by someone who is untrained in safety procedures and tree risk assessment. The newspapers report tragedies related to tree work on a regular basis. Accidents involving falls, electrocution, lacerations and struck-bys (limbs falling or springing back) result in death and disability for homeowners – tragic consequences for a do-it-yourself project that went terribly wrong.

Tree work is a relatively dangerous occupation, said Patrick Flynn, Division 2 Safety and

Training Coordinator who works with our Danbury and Stamford, Connecticut offices and several New York Bartlett offices. Pat has 30 years of experience in tree care and has dedicated his career to improving employee safety. Pat says that arborists go through extensive training to become competent.

“There are OSHA rules and regulations in place that must be followed. The industry is amongst the top five riskiest occupations that OSHA studies. Tree cutting is a complicated task. It involves several different skills and techniques to avoid injury and death.”

Even with all these regulations in place, there are still untrained tree care workers within the industry who do not follow the basic guidelines of wearing personal protective equipment and who do not take all of the precautions necessary to lessen the risk of injury and death in the workplace.

This is not acceptable at Bartlett. Our safety record is unsurpassed in the industry.

The job description for Pat Flynn and his counterparts, U.S. Divisional Safety and Training Coordinators Rich Herfurth, Joe Bones, Rob Springer, Brian Maxson, Jim Dossett, Fred Fisher, Dave Anderson, Jim Ackerman and Gareth Tudor-Jones are to instruct our workers and oversee projects to make sure they are being accomplished safely and efficiently. Covering Bartlett's entire service area, our Safety and Training Coordinators are instrumental in maintaining our enviable safety record.

We've found through experience that our standard practices including job site risk assessment, regular training for working crews and the use of proper procedures and equipment keep our crews as safe as possible in the workplace.

We want to keep our clients safe too. So let us do it. We have the training, experience and equipment to perform the dangerous procedures involved in limb and tree removal.

It's our job and we're happy to be of service to you. ■



published by

THE F.A. BARTLETT TREE EXPERT COMPANY

(877) BARTLETT (877-227-8538) in U.S. and Canada

www.bartlett.com

