

# TREE & SHRUB CARE

A DIVISION OF MEEHAN'S LAWN SERVICE, INC.

[www.meehanslawnservice.com](http://www.meehanslawnservice.com)

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## Early Spring Tree & Shrub Care Visit

### TODAY'S VISIT

\_\_\_\_\_ Dormant/  
Horticultural oil

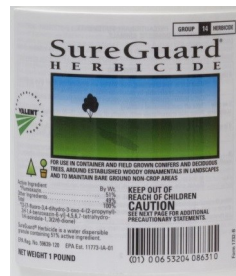
\_\_\_\_\_ Onyx Insecticide

Today I inspected your landscape and applied dormant oil where needed. This application helps to control those insect pests that actually overwinter on your plants such as Scale, Mite eggs, aphids and some other insect pests. For those of you with pines, spruces and firs I'll be applying insect control to the tops of these trees to control/prevent White pine Weevil. This treatment

is not foolproof but it will prevent MOST damage done by this pest. Rarely do Weevils kill entire trees but rather their larvae kill the leader, temporarily stunting the tree's top.

If I noted a problem with scale, this treatment will help. Scale has a waxy covering which prevents easy intake of control products. This also means that even after the insects are dead, the shells can remain on the plants for weeks or even months.

### Two New Herbicides



As part of my flower bed weed control program which some of you take advantage of, I am using 2 new herbicides this season. **Well, Ok, newer,** after the fiasco with Imprelisa a few years ago. I now wait a year or two before tempting fate with new products. Sureguard and Lontrel, the

first is a pre-emergent with a different mode of action. It prevents synthesis within Chlorophyll so weeds germinate and then are killed. It has the added advantage of also killing most weeds under 2 ' tall. Lontrel is a post emergent herbicide that is supposed to be top notch on several of the extremely tough to control weeds like Canada thistle. These should be a nice improvement over the products I have been using. If you'd like to see how they work and have less weeding to do, give me a call for an estimate on the bed weed control program.



### What a Winter...Yet Again!

The polar vortex was bad last year, but at least the lowest temperature I recorded was -15°F. February 2015 was the coldest month in Cleveland since the beginning of record keeping in the mid 1800s. There were more days below zero than any other month and we came close at -17°F to the all time coldest record at Hopkins airport (that record was -20°F set in 1994). I'm not holding my breath for insects controlled by the cold. All the pests those of us in the business had hoped would be killed last winter were not, so I would suspect that it will be the same this year. I think I had less damage to plants this winter, except for the deer and rabbits, but we have yet to have warm weather, that usually is the determining factor on what DID make it.

**If you have a fair number of evergreens, you may want to add the Anti-desiccant to your tree & shrub care service as a precaution.** This is my China Fir. I thought it was seriously damaged last winter, Wrong DEAD. This year I applied anti-desiccant and the evergreens look much better with only a small amount of burn.



## The List of Non-Natives Grows

This is my 26th season doing Tree/Shrub care. Since that time the number of non-native invasive and damaging pests has grown at a very scary rate. Everyone is used to Japanese Beetles, and Gypsy Moths. What floors me is the number coming into this country since the USDA started inspecting material entering the country. Here is a partial list of what is here and what's to come. I'm including the approximate date of entry and where first found for now with the picture. No wonder I spend hours in seminars learning how to deal with these pests! Diseases in another installment. Top row: 1) **Asian Longhorned Beetle - New York, NY. 2002** 2) **Hemlock Woolly adelgid - Richmond VA. 1951** 3) **Spotted Lantern Fly - Pennsylvania 2014** 4) **Marmorated Stink Bug - Allentown PA, 1998** Bottom Row: 1) **Emerald Ash Borer - Detroit MI. 2002** 2) **European Crane Fly (2 species) - 1998 & 2004 Long Island NY.** 3) **Soybean Aphid - Wisconsin 2000** 4) **Walnut Twig Beetle - Native to the Southwest but spreading east spreading a new disease** 5) **Viburnum Leaf Beetle - Ontario, Canada (crossed the border without a Passport) 1947**



## European Crane Fly - A New Pest...

Is coming! Many of you will see this article in the lawncare news letter. I decided to share it here too since a number of you do not have that service. There are two species of non-native Crane flies that have become well established in New York State. It's only a matter of time before these two pests find their way into Ohio lawns. At present all of the crane flies that are seen here in Northeast Ohio are native species that do little or no damage to turf. Adult Crane flies live only a few days and do no damage, the larvae (called Leatherjackets) of the two species of European crane fly *Tipularia oleraceae* and *T. paludosa* can cause significant damage. The damage is similar to that of white grubs but in addition to root feeding the larvae also eat the leaf blades of grass and other plants. In areas where the infestation is high the damage looks similar to grub damage except the grass does not pull up easily or may appear scalped from their surface feeding. In addition, Birds and animals will also go after the larvae in the soil. The good news is that If you have our grub preventer each year, your lawn is safe from Crane fly damage. The Merit is better than 75% effective at controlling this (not yet here) pest!



## The botany Geek

I have been keeping my web site up to date and added new stuff recently. I did this so family and friends can see what's going on in the greenhouse throughout the year and projects I've been working on other than those things I do through Meehan's.

Take another look!

[www.thebotanygeek.com](http://www.thebotanygeek.com)

I'd like your feedback if you do!

## I can easily be contacted!

Office: 440-243-8277

Email:

[fred@meehanslawnservice.com](mailto:fred@meehanslawnservice.com)

**Email comes right to my phone for fast response!**

**Remember I'm on the road most of the day. I'm usually in the office from about 2:30-4:30.**

**A daytime phone number helps too! Helps prevent Phone tag!**

## The boring stuff

Today's application will dry within an hour. Once it is dry it will not wash off. Being an oil based treatment rain has little effect. Later in the season I use special sticking agents to help prevent products from washing off and degrading.



Not every plant needs to be treated each visit, and treating plants that don't need controls can actually cause problems. It's not an oversight, it's proper application. Give me a call if you have questions.