

# TREE & SHRUB CARE

A DIVISION OF MEEHAN'S LAWN SERVICE, INC.

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## Summer Tree & Shrub Care Visit

### TODAY'S VISIT

\_\_\_\_\_ Sevin insecticide +  
Bayleton or Rubigan fungicide.

\_\_\_\_\_ Horticultural oil +  
Forbid miticide.

Now's the time when the really difficult pests start damaging landscape plants. Japanese beetles will be about shortly, viburnum leaf beetles, and spider mites. Diseases have been unusually active, mostly due to the continuous rains in May when tree leaves were expanding. See the article below for more on diseases that are out there. Some I can control, others I cannot.

If I note problems that I cannot control, I do my best to let you know what these problems are and what to expect. Please read over the rest of this newsletter. I've endeavored to put in articles about some of the pest problems that are up and coming in the area.

I rather expected this to be an easier season after the very hard winter. I figured that many of the insect pests would have been killed by the cold. I was wrong! I have seen lacebugs earlier than usual and magnolia scale is also active. I will keep you informed as the season progresses!

### The year of Diseases!

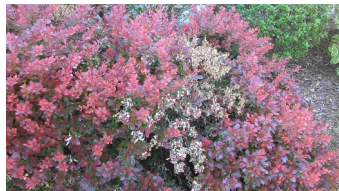
I normally do not spend an entire page of the newsletter on a single topic, but this season I think it appropriate to discuss the diseases that have been out and active because of the winter that stressed plants out, and the very rainy May that promoted outbreaks of many diseases. The one bright note is that trees that leafed out after that rainy period were not as affected by disease as those that leafed out before and during the rains. Here are some of the diseases I have been called about or run into:

**Fire Blight**, a bacterial disease. Fire blight infects twigs and branches causing a "shepherd's crook" bend and often the leaves turn black. This is evident on many pears in the area.



There is no control for fire blight prune out the affected twigs. This is from my apple tree!

**Botryosphaeria Canker**, Barberry all over the area have been affected. Leaves on one or more branches wilt, turn brown and die. Bark on affected branches is darker, cracked, or blistered at the site of the canker. Wood beneath the canker is dark brown and is common on shrubs stressed by drought, winter injury and other factors. Again, this is not a controllable disease. Prune it out. This is from my neighbors barberry hedge.



**Anthracnose**, I got dozens of calls about this disease, especially on Maples. Anthracnose is caused by a fungus. It is controllable, but the disease does so little actual damage that treatment may or may not be warranted. Problem is, I cannot spray when it is raining and rain is exactly what the disease needs to get established. The trees will recover!



**Azalea Leaf Gall**, is a fungal disease I have only seen a few times in my 25 year career. Azalea leaves become distorted and inflated, are pink or whitish and as they age turn brown or black. Where only a few galls are seen they should be removed and destroyed away from other azalea plants to prevent reinfection. My fungicides will also help prevent additional outbreaks as will drier weather.




Hope you found this little foray into spring diseases interesting and informative!

## A few questions I am asked

- ◆ **What am I paying you for?** Some people seem to think that it is my responsibility for anything that goes wrong in their landscape. There are so many factors beyond my control. Environmental conditions, uncontrollable diseases, improper planting or poor location, weather conditions, etc, etc. Remember, I am like an insurance policy, keeping your plants as healthy as possible so as to reduce the chances of pest related damage. I do my best to keep you informed of issues.



- ◆ **Don't you wear a mask?**  No, how comfortable would you be if you saw me like this working in your yard? Actually when spraying in greenhouses I do. In that closed environment it is important that I use protective equipment. In the landscape, however, outdoors where there is plenty of fresh air this equipment is not necessary especially with the types of low toxicity products available today.
- ◆ **Can you give it a little extra shot?** NO! You don't ask your doctor that I hope. The products I use are meant to be applied at a certain rate/mixture. Over application could burn or reduce the effectiveness of the treatment. Over fertilization can likewise burn roots. Again, your doctor doesn't say "go eat something" when you are ill. If a plant is looking poorly, the cause needs to be determined so the proper course of action can be taken. Fertilization won't necessarily help, and in some cases could make things worse.
- ◆ **Are you a plant geek?** Yes, I am and thanks for noticing! I love everything botanical, and I

PLANT  
GEEK

### Update

I said I would post a recent picture of the weeping larch from the re-landscape with specimens article. Here is the tree three years later. Cousin It (and family)?



### Important Vacation Notice!

I will be on vacation from August 8th through the 17th. During that time there will likely be no one to handle your request (license restrictions). Please be patient, I will be handling ALL requests that come in while I am out on Monday the 18th. Thanks for your consideration and patience. I'll be canoeing in New Hampshire again this year.

### Japanese Beetles

Here's what to expect, and actually much of this information goes for most all insects that I deal with, including Viburnum leaf beetle and most other flying insects that damage plants.

1. when I treat, the beetles there are killed. Once treatment dries the beetle must eat a bit of the plant before being killed. Treatment also works to some extent as a deterrent.
2. Japanese beetle traps only attract more than they can catch, so please do not use them. If you must, follow the directions and DO NOT hang it in the tree your trying to protect. That defeats the purpose!!
3. The damage they do is ONLY cosmetic. And even though the tree may look bad it will recover. Beetles have never killed a tree outright!
4. I cannot safely retreat for at least 14 days. If after this time you are still having problems give me a call.
5. If you have roses or small plants you can apply a bit of Sevin dust available at the garden center. It works well but does need to be reapplied after a rain (unlike the products I use that have a sticking agent)



### I can easily be contacted!

Office: 440-243-8277  
Toll Free  
1-888-900-LAWN (5296)  
Email is the best way to contact me! Comes right to my Phone!  
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**I'm on the road most of the day and am in the office from about 2:30-400. A daytime phone number is great too!**