



NWTS News

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FEBRUARY 2011

SPRING IS THE BUSIEST TIME FOR DISEASES AND INSECTS. SEVERITY DEPENDS ON:

- **How much rain we get (duration and amount)**
- **How warm we get, especially between showers**
- **How long those warm temperatures last**
- **The presence and population of beneficial predators**
- **How healthy your trees and shrubs are will determine how infected they get**

Coming Next Month:

THE DISEASE ISSUE

All the diseases, species effected and what to do about them

Time for spring cleaning

It's no different than your attic or garage; your landscape requires spring cleaning and preparation.

We've had a few gorgeous weekends recently after weeks of rain. Some people took advantage of it by having recreational fun, others found fun working in their yards. Regardless of your definition of fun, from here on out it's time to plan and take advantage of good weather because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Take a trip down memory lane. Remember last year? What grew well? What didn't? Did NWTS treat the birch tree for bronze birch borer? Wasn't the flowering dogwood sick?

Take a walk. With the extra daylight that we experience this time of year, walk around your yard after work and see how things are doing. Check your trees for broken limbs, split trunks or an abnormal lean. Notice if there is any excessive standing water or wet areas. Check all your evergreen trees and shrubs and look for signs of yellowing, wilting or blackened leaves. Right now, most species are showing signs of bud swelling

and all branches should appear the same. Take inventory on weeds and on how much leaf



Good, even buds on a healthy Magnolia tree

litter blew in from the neighbors. Make notes on what you find and when.

Make plans and execute them. One of the first things I do is clean up all the leaf litter and remove protective coverings around bulbs and sensitive plants once the threat of frost is over. Leaf litter harbors overwintering insects, their eggs and diseases. Next, go after the weeds! Many weeds germinate early so pull them now. It takes only a few sunny days to go from one to hundreds so the sooner you start, the easier it will be. While you are doing all this, again, take

a look at your plant health, especially the bases of your trees and shrubs. Look for abnormal swelling, cracked or flaking bark and signs of exposed roots. Also, note where the mulch is thin so you can come back later when it's drier to patch it up.

Spring is a great time to prune, remove deadwood, crown raise and fertilize. Plan ahead. If you can't do the job, we can. Remember, we don't charge for estimates. We also diagnose and treat for fertility, insects and diseases. Don't wait long to decide. A lot of our spring diseases need to be treated in March before they get out of hand.

If you discover any tree defects, don't hesitate, call Northwest Tree Specialists immediately.



A crack which developed due to winter winds

To see this issue or past issues visit our website www.nwtreespecialists.com/newsletter.php



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We offer the following services:

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Hazard Tree Removal

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Stump Grinding

Tree Risk Assessments

Compost Tea Applications

Deep Root Feeding

Insect and Disease Control

We use many organic and green options

Call and one of our arborists will visit

to give you a free estimate

This month's tree... Flowering Dogwood

Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, is one of our most popular trees found in Pacific Northwest landscapes. This is primarily due to the showy pink or white flowers that emerge each spring for 2 or 3 weeks. Come fall, their leaves turn red or purple before they drop. The small, red fruits can overwinter providing forage for birds. Often times you will see these trees planted in the middle of the yard as a spring-time show piece. Unfortunately, this can be a downfall to their health.

Their native habitat is growing as an understory tree or in partial shade. This places them in the category of shade tolerant—they like, and need, shade to grow well. Planting them in direct sunlight causes leaf scorch in the summer. Continuous exposure

stresses the tree and its health declines. To make matters worse, the disease, anthracnose, affects the leaves in the spring, stressing the tree even more. See the January 2011 article on anthracnose.

But with a little care this can be avoided. At NWTS we can properly diagnose and treat for anthracnose and stress. A March treatment before leaf out can prevent most anthracnose cases. Stressed trees can be taken care of with compost tea or deep root fertilization, services we also offer.

Come summer, you can keep the tree stress-free by irrigating it once a week with 5-10 gallons of water or running a soaker hose over the root system.



For more tree species visit our website

WWW.NWTTREESPECIALISTS.COM/TREE_SPECIES_INFO.PHP