



NWTS NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- COMPOST TEA TO BALANCE YOUR LANDSCAPE
- 2011 BRINGS NEW CHANGES TO NWTS
- WINTER IS TIME TO PLAN
- LANDSCAPE CALENDAR
- TREE PESTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Once-a-year spray 2
- Bronze Birch Borer 2
- Anthraxnose 2
- Landscape Calendar 3
- No Job is too big 3
- Winter Woes 3
- Atlas Cedar 4

COMPOST TEA

Looking for the Greenest of the Greens? Compost tea is a 100% organic solution brewed from composted vegetation, humus, worm castings and other nutrients, perfectly safe for your family, pets and landscape. Compost tea replaces the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers.

For centuries growers have been using compost tea as a spray or drench to combat insects, diseases and to make nutrients more available to plants.

Soil is the heart of any growing plant. In it is a vast community that makes up a food chain that relies on each other to make the community work. This community is made up of micro organisms such as bacteria, fungi, protozoans, mycorrhizae and larger ones such as nematodes and

worms. Some of these are beneficial and some are detrimental.

Unfortunately, urban soils are not balanced due to the overuse



OUR NEW COMPOST TEA BREWER

of pesticides, fertilizers, soil disturbances, pollution and poor drainage.

To bring balance back to your landscape we offer fresh, daily brewed, compost tea.

Our programs are designed to treat your entire landscape or individual trees by enhancing the soil and/or spraying your trees.

Some benefits of using compost tea include: increased plant health and vigor; fewer insects; less disease; reduced drought and planting stress; reduced compaction; more organic matter breakdown and increased worm activity.

Call us for a free consultation or e mail phc@nwtreespecialists.com with your questions.

CHANGES IN 2011

2011 not only brings in our new compost tea program. We spent most of the Fall completely redesigning our website, www.nwtreespecialists.com

To the site we've added a tree inventory feature which will be made available to our customers

later this Spring. You will be able to log in and see the details of the tree work performed on your property, including a map and a list of NW trees with pictures and descriptions.

We also upgraded our computer system to track plant health care

work so we can better manage the health of your trees and shrubs.

Finally, we have set up a Facebook and Twitter account. We encourage everyone to become a fan of Northwest Tree Specialists.

Once-a-year insect control



Bronze Birch Borer damage

Wouldn't it be nice to have your trees treated once, kick back and almost forget about it? Well, you can!

Although we want to be a totally organic company we still don't have the organic tools to meet some of our customer's tree problems.

Modern chemistry and techniques have created less invasive and safer modes of applying insecticides and fungicides.

These methods include spraying just the trunk of the tree

up to 5 feet high, using a bark penetrant, to get the spray material in to the tree so it's taken in to the wood and leaves. Another means is to directly inject the tree with a needle.

These modes of action are quick, takes little time, usually requires one application a year and are less invasive to you and the surrounding environment than a traditional spray. They are also great for large trees which can be hard to

cover with a spray gun or for property line and street trees.

Some disease issues which we treat in this manner include Dutch Elm Disease, anthracnose, scab and brown blossom blight. A few insects include bronze birch borer, aphids, scale and bark beetles.

Remember, we said you almost forget about it. Insect control depends on keeping the tree watered. Come summer just pour 5 gallons on your tree once a week to keep it hydrated and the material active.

Bronze Birch Borer

Although we want to be a totally organic company we still don't have the organic tools to meet some of our customer's tree problems.

Bronze Birch Borer has been on the west side for years and is slowly creeping in to the east side. It's a devastating insect, and if left untreated, will cause mortality to most birch trees.

The larvae of the BBB damages trees by feeding on the inner bark and cambium. The feeding pattern results in small tunnels, or galleries, which disrupt the nutrient transport

between the roots and the rest of the tree. Eventually, branches die and fall off. Repeated attacks result in mortality.

What can you do?

- Keep your trees watered and healthy. This will be discussed in a future newsletter.
- Hire NWTS to prune out dead and hazardous limbs

- Have NWTS remove dead and high infestation-trees to reduce pest populations
- Have NWTS spray the trunk once-a-year for suppression
- Have NWTS apply compost tea to increase vigor and tree health

River birches seem to be resistant to BBB.

Anthracnose disease



Anthracnose on sycamore

Anthracnose is a group of diseases that cause dark, sunken lesions on stems, twigs, fruit and leaves. This disease affects trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and grass.

Anthracnose spores overwinter on leaf debris and are spread

by rain splash. There they land on a plant part and start to grow. Once rainy periods end so does the spread of the disease.

Symptoms vary between plants, but leaf discoloration and stem dieback occur. This is seldom deadly but repeated attacks can stress plants enough to succumb to other

pests.

In the NW, sycamore, ash and dogwood are the most infected.

We generally recommend a one time systemic application in March, before bud break, to suppress this disease. Sometimes 2 applications may be necessary. Three applications of compost tea, March through May, will also help.

LANDSCAPE CALENDAR

January:

- Prune fruit trees*
- Plant trees
- Plan landscaping needs
- Re-pot house plants

February:

- Prune fruit trees*
- Plan your garden
- Order garden seeds

- Clean beds during our traditional February thaw, pull weeds
- Prune roses, plant roses

March:

- Sow garden starts
- Basal spray for aphids, bronze birch borers, anthracnose, etc.*

Deep root feed trees and shrubs*

Apply compost tea by months end if temperatures allow*

Order and apply mulch
Plant bulbs, thin and divide perennials

*services we offer

NO JOB IS TOO BIG

Well, so far anyway. We are a resourceful company, and when it comes to using our heads and not our backs, we do.

Cranes are a great tool for removing a large amount of debris quickly and safely. Often times a job could take days instead of hours to complete. This is important when preventing water damage when a tree goes through a roof.

Sometimes a job does not have a large drop zone, an area where we can let limbs and trunks land. A crane can “pick” out a large cut piece and put it where we can work on it easier. At the same time we can have a crane load up large pieces of wood for salvage and taken to the mill, instead of us cutting it up and wrestling it on to a truck. See more pictures and videos on our website.



WINTER WOES



Take a lot of rain, some wind, add a little snow and ice, and what do you get? Tree failure. Sometimes it’s just a limb. Other times it’s the whole tree. Unfortunately, sometimes that tree falls on a home.

Winter in the NW can be challenging and so can an emergency tree removal.

We handle emergency tree removals 24/7. If you have an emergency, call us

at 503-645-2242. We have the knowledge, resources and experience to get the job done



"Helping the Northwest one tree at a time"
Serving the Portland and Vancouver Metro areas

2074 NW Aloclek Dr #403
Hillsboro OR 97124
503-645-2242
www.nwtreespecialists.com

We offer the following services:

- Tree Pruning**
- Hazardous Tree Removal**
- Cabling**
- Stump Grinding**
- Tree Risk Assessments**
- Compost Tea Applications**
- Deep Root Feeding**
- Insect & Disease Control**

**Call us and one of our arborists will
assist you with a free estimate.**



10% off your next pruning or removal

Expires 03/15/11

Just mention our newsletter ad

This months tree... Atlas Cedar

The Atlas Cedar, *Cedrus atlantica*, is one of our more striking evergreen trees. It's named for the Atlas Mountain region of Algeria and Morocco, its native range.

A common planting in our area, once you see one you will remember it.

Its limbs are open, almost horizontal, and bear patchy clusters of stiff green or blue-green needles. It can reach 120 feet tall, 40 feet wide but usually grows to half that in an urban environment.

There are two popular cultivars you may see around Portland; the Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* cv. 'Glauca') and the Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* cv. 'Glauca Pendula'). The former is well suited for formal or rock gardens and even grown as a stepover cordon and

trained to grown around buildings. It even makes a good bonsai.

Weeping variety

