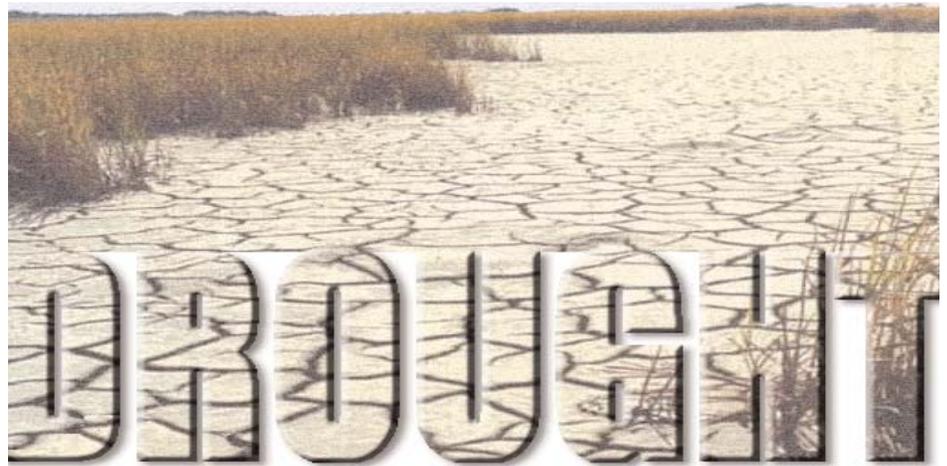


talk
ISSUE NO. 20
SPRING 2006

The Complaint Department Welcomes Your Call



As hard as we try to please all of our valued customers, we can't always get the job done as perfectly as we'd like. There are times when perhaps we overlooked something, and are unaware. An example is when we plow snow from your driveway. Sometimes a new driver does the job, it's dark and snowy, and he misses an area. If you let us know you're not pleased, we can correct the problem. Another example is when we finish a tree removal job. The crew is doing the final cleanup, and inadvertently misses a small pile of branches. This happens occasionally. While it can be unpleasant to call to complain, we do want to hear from you. Otherwise we might never know that there was a problem. So give us a call if you are ever not 100% satisfied with our work. Oh, and if you were extremely happy, we love those calls too. 🌲



How Does The Ongoing Drought Affect Your Trees?

Hopefully, as you read this it's raining or snowing outside, Bear Creek is a raging torrent, and the ground is wet from lots of spring precipitation. But as we write this in late April, the continued dry weather on the Front Range is severely stressing trees and all other plant life. Some reports indicate that tree moisture is lower than in the severe drought year of 2002.

In talking to customers over the past few years, I am often surprised to hear many say that they think the "drought is over." I suppose this is because the definition of drought varies from person to person. What exactly is a drought, anyway? Webster defines it as "a period of dryness that causes extensive damage to crops or prevents their successful growth. While some mountain drainages received much better than average snow pack this past winter, the Front Range did not. Since around the turn of the century, it has been quite dry most years, and extremely dry in some years. In 2002, with fires burning at the Hayman site as well as near Brook Forest and elsewhere, there was a lot of concern about the drought and the danger of wildfire. Since then, it seems most people have forgotten about the situation. The movement to do fire mitigation work has tapered off in the past few years. Just because we are not waking up each morning to the smell of fires burning, as we did in 2002, doesn't mean that the danger of wildfire is gone. State Farm Insurance has



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Drought *(con't. from pg 1)*

taken a very proactive approach to wildfire mitigation by requiring many of their policyholders in the 'urban wildfire interface' area to remove and trim trees around their homes. But the voluntary movement has really slowed down. Don't wait until the fires are burning to react.

Aside from the risk of wildfire, drought affects the health of trees. Ponderosa pines are quite drought tolerant, but begin to stress under drought conditions. Firs and spruces are less tolerant of drought and should be monitored closely. Mature trees have extensive root systems, which allow them to extract available moisture in the soil. Immature trees don't have these extensive roots and are often the first to succumb. Giving trees supplemental water is helpful. Set a garden hose in the root zone early on a warm day. A good rule of thumb is to give the tree ten gallons for each inch of trunk diameter. For high value trees, consider hiring Lam Tree to do root treatments, which can save declining trees. These treatments include a mixture of mycorrhizae for root growth, organic materials including sea kelp and humic acid, slow release nitrogen, and high volume of water.

When trees are stressed from lack of moisture, they are very susceptible to insect attack, especially Ips Beetle and Pine Beetle. We encourage our customers to protect their valuable conifers against beetles with an annual preventive spray.

Even if a tree appears to have a nice green color and seems vibrant, it can be starting to stress if there is very little available moisture. Keep an eye on your trees, or feel free to call our office to have an I.S.A. Certified Arborist check your property.

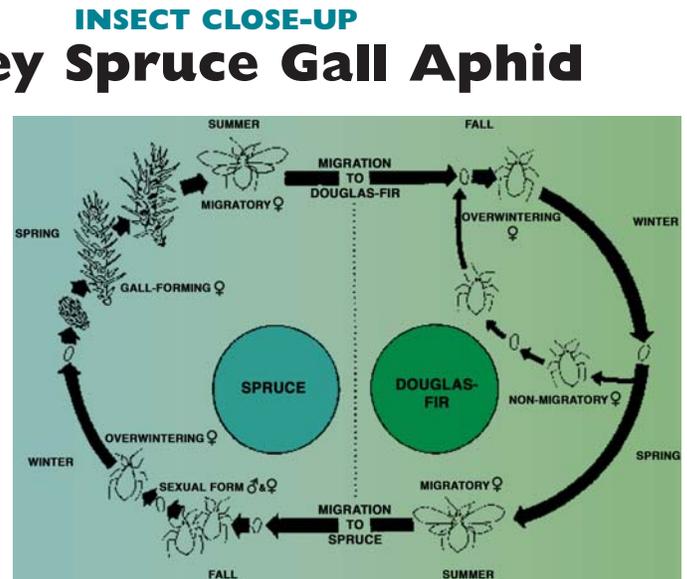
Mike Goldblatt,
President



The Cooley Spruce Gall Aphid is an insect that attacks the new growth on spruce trees. The aphid

(adelgid) forms a gall from the new growth bud. This gall is often mistaken for a "pine cone" (see photo). While never fatal by itself, this insect causes spruce trees to lose an entire year's new growth, thereby stunting the growth of the tree and causing stress to the plant.

This insect actually requires two hosts - the spruce and the douglas fir to complete its life cycle (see chart above). There is sometimes significant damage to the fir, but the most obvious damage occurs to the spruce. Although there are differing opinions on how best to treat this insect, at Lam our approach is do an insecticide spray when the aphid is on the spruce tree in the spring and again in late summer. This technique has been extremely successful. Almost all trees that we've sprayed twice annually for a few years or more are doing very well, with lots of new growth. 🌲



EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Shilo Tennyson

Shilo has been with Lam Tree for just over one year. She has worked her way up the ranks quickly and is our lawn care specialist as well as a crew leader on the tree spraying staff. Shilo is one of our year-round employees and works on the tree cutting crew in the winter. She is currently studying for her State Qualified Supervisor license in ornamental, turf, and weeds. Previous to working at Lam Tree, Shilo worked in the golf course maintenance industry for eight years. Those of you who have met Shilo know she is very enthusiastic about her work, and is a big part of our team at Lam Tree.



She was born and raised in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and moved to Colorado in 2002. When she's not working at Lam Tree, she's usually working on a project at home. Shilo lives in Conifer with her wife Jaime and their 2 dogs. 🌲

Spring 2006 Insect and Disease Update

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

M.P.B. populations have leveled off in the Front Range in the past few years. It is still strongly recommended to spray your high value pines preventively, especially because of the ongoing drought. For our customers in Summit, Grand and Eagle counties, M.P.B. is in epidemic stage, and all pines should be protected. Spray dates are May 1 – July 30.

IPS BEETLE

Ips Beetle populations remain extremely high in the foothills. This is an early season spray, so if you haven't sprayed by the time you read this, give us a call right away.

DOUGLAS FIR BEETLE

We continue to see patches of trees attacked by D.F.B. Usually these are on crowded north facing stands, and/or on firs that are weak from root damage. Preventive spraying in April or May protects against their June emergence.

SPRUCE BEETLE

This insect has done some severe damage to pockets of spruces over the past few years. It is especially bad in spruce riparian zones such as along Bear Creek between Evergreen and Kittredge. Preventive spraying should be done by the end of April.

DWARF MISTLETOE

This parasitic plant attaches itself to pines and slowly kills them. Combined with the drought conditions we are seeing some larger stands of ponderosa pines dying off from many years of mistletoe infection. Spraying is done in July and August, but a forest management plan including spraying, trimming and selected removals is best.

COOLEY SPRUCE GALL APHID

Most of our customers have switched to a twice-annual spray for this insect. April and August sprays provide excellent control for Cooley Gall. See the article on C.S.G.A. in this issue.

ASPEN INSECTS AND DISEASES

Outbreaks of fungus tend to be worse in wet summers. Two or more fungicide treatments after bud break (around Memorial Day, although it may be earlier this year) can help control fungus problems. We add an insecticide and miticide to the mix to control aphids and other insects, as well as mites. Another tool we now have is soil injections with "Merit" which only controls insects, but does so very effectively and without concerns of weather conditions.

POPLAR BORER

This insect attacks aspen as well as cottonwoods, which are both in the poplar family. We have been able to get excellent control by spraying in March- May. The worst areas are North Evergreen and Genesee/ Lookout Mountain.

SPRUCE BUDWORM

This worm defoliates firs and spruces. Bear Mountain currently has a severe outbreak. There is also another isolated outbreak south of Conifer in the Critchell area. Timing is critical, and spraying will probably occur between June 1 and June 20 depending on weather.

TUSSOCK MOTH

This insect is similar to the Spruce Budworm. Current headquarters for this defoliator is along Hwy 285 between Indian Hills and Conifer. The timing for this spray is also critical, and we will be monitoring the insect stages for a June spray. 🌲

Tentative Pine Beetle Subdivision Spray Dates

Week of May 8

The Ridge @Hiwan/
Mt. Vernon C.C./ Timbervale

Week of May 15

Hiwan C.C. 1st –6th filings

Week of May 22

Blue Creek 1, 2, 3/
Upper Bear Creek

Week of May 29

The Woods/ Tanoa/ Elk Summit

Week of June 19

The Greens/ The Island/
The Promontory/ Troutdale

Week of June 26

The Timbers/ Evergreen
Highlands/ Evergreen Meadows

Week of July 3

Idaho Springs/ Evergreen Heights/
Evergreen Park Estates

Week of July 10

The Homestead/ Aspen Park/
Conifer/ Pine Junction/ Bailey

May 1- July 30 each Wed. & Thurs.

Summit, Eagle and Grand Counties

Employee Education Update

We want to recognize the following employees for furthering their education in tree care:

Lucas Hill passed his I.S.A. Certified Arborist test in January, 2006.

Becoming a Certified Arborist demonstrates an excellent overall knowledge of trees.

Nick Close passed his State Qualified Supervisor test. This license allows Nick to supervise pesticide spraying operations at Lam. He is one of four Qualified Supervisors in our company.

Wes Bishop passed his weed and turf categories to add two more categories to his Qualified Supervisor license. 🌲

New Spray Truck to Serve You Better

We have recently purchased and customized this new spray truck. It is by far the biggest and best spray rig we've ever had. With a 1200 gallon nurse tank plus a 400 gallon tank and two separate tree-spraying units, it is designed as our main beetle spraying truck, with the additional ability to supply our other five trucks with water. This unit can spray around 800 trees for pine beetle by itself without refilling at a water station. With the severe beetle outbreaks statewide, this truck will allow us to take on large jobs for the private and public sectors. 🌲



Sometimes clients or even entire neighborhoods stack branches for us to chip. These two pictures show the correct and incorrect way to stack branches for chipping.

Stacking the branches can save you money, by saving us lots of time. Notice how the branches in the picture top left are stacked low to the ground, loosely piled, with parallel limbs, facing toward where the chipper will park. The pile on the bottom right is poorly stacked, and our crew will have to attempt to dismantle the criss-crossed mound of branches. This could easily triple the amount of time we charge you for the job. Hopefully this tip can save you some money next time you hire us to chip tree branches. 🌲

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