



# Timely Tree Tips



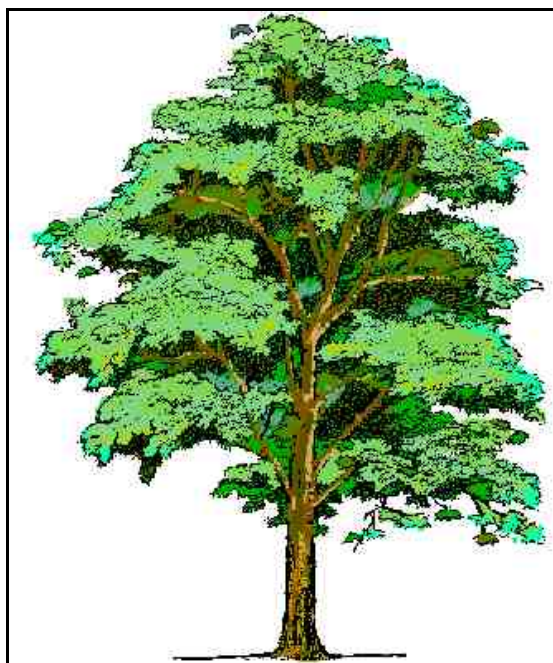
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## Bug of the year award... Ash Saw fly

**W**ow! I've never seen such an infestation of bugs as I have with the Ash saw fly this spring! These worms hatched out in May and started munching ash trees in a hurry. The phones would not stop ringing. In fact, we had to turn them off for a couple of days just to catch up. The insects over winter in the soil and have one generation each year. In the spring, they finish pupation and emerge as the adult saw fly. They fly up to the newly emerging foliage, mate, lay eggs and then die. The newly hatching worms start feeding by chewing small holes in the leaves. As they grow they just start to munch and begin to defoliate the trees. Then the worms start diving out of the



If a tree dies, plant another in its place.  
*Linnaeus (Carl von Linne) (1707-1778)*

*The worlds largest Cottonwood tree grows in Hygiene CO. 105 ft. tall, trunk cir. 432", with a crown spread of 93'!*

trees and that's when people start to notice them. They are easy to kill with tree spray.

If this year is any indication of the future, be prepared for more and heavier infestations next year!

## Monsoon Rains Bring On Leaf Fungus To Aspen and Cottonwood

**T**hose amazing Aspens! The first half of the season they looked good. Then the rains came. Boy did it rain! After it started to dry up in mid August the aspens and cottonwoods started to look bad. Leaves began to to brown and black and then fall off.

What happened? The excessive moisture caused the fungus, which lies dormant in old infected leaves, to become active and send its spores into the air. Wet leaves, spores and a susceptible

host plant equal disease.

We usually do fungicide preventative sprays for aspens first thing in the spring, in anticipation of spring rains and early infections. The treatments worked out fine until the big rains came. By that time the fungicides had worn out and provided no control.

Aspens. Sometimes they look okay in the urban landscape. Most of the time though something is picking on them. Bugs, disease, environmental stress, poor soils are all strikes against them.

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## If you insist on Aspens be prepared for mixed results

**U**nderstanding aspens and what they need helps to have better success in growing them. Obviously, they do not grow natively at Denver elevation. Strike one. In their native environment, they are found growing usually in well drained, organic soils. Strike two. Cool nights and warm days tend to enhance fall color. Strike three.

Indeed aspen are a pretty little tree. Their size and growth habit are ideal for tight locations. When healthy, and in their native habitat, their little leaves quiver to and fro in the slightest breeze and intense yellow fall color is spectacular.

Unfortunately, in the city it's another story. The tree is plagued with innumerable insect and disease problems: Aphids, oystershell scale, tent caterpillars, leafminers, wood borers, Marssonina leaf blight fungus, ink spot leaf fun-

gus, Shepherd's crook fungus, cytospora canker, bacterial wetwood. I can go on and on, but I think you get the point. Some of these pests are controllable, like aphids and scale. Other problems like Marssonina leaf blight and ink spot are sort of manageable, but results vary. Cankers and borers are not controllable at all with sprays.

So what's a person to do? First, before you plant anything it's wise to do a bit of research about that plant to find out its problems as well as assets. What requirements does it need to perform its best?

If you are planting aspens or have them growing try the following:

Add lots of compost to the growing site.

Do not cover the ground with plastic or landscape fabric and rock. Cover the soil with a bark or wood mulch. If the area is covered with rock and plastic remove them and cover with mulch.

Let new root suckers grow into new trees. Inevitably something will kill off the older aspens. By letting sprouts grow the old trees are being replaced by

new ones. They do best in groves.

Spray or treat aspens for their various problems. Aphids are easy to control. Scale control takes a few seasons. Leaf fungus disease controls are "iffy" at best. Many pests are not controllable so be prepared for loss.

Pick up and dispose of fallen leaves as they contain and spread disease.

As you can see aspens are not the easiest trees to grow. Let me rephrase

## When is the best time to trim trees?

A better question would be when is the worst time to trim trees? Avoid trimming trees when they first leaf out. Energy levels are at its lowest point when they leaf out. Any time after that is fine. We prefer dormant trimming because the entire structure of the tree is visible to the trained arborist. **Need tree**

## Plant Health Care renewal proposals

will be mailed out during the next few months. Keep an eye out in the mail!

## Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is making a come back

MPB is on the loose in the mountains. Evergreen, Conifer, Vail areas in the hills are experiencing a resurgence of beetle populations. Control measures include: Preventative spraying to protect against insect attack. Remove and dispose of beetle kill trees. Maintain health, fertilize and water trees where possible. Preventative sprays should be done in May and June but can be done any time during the summer.

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