THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

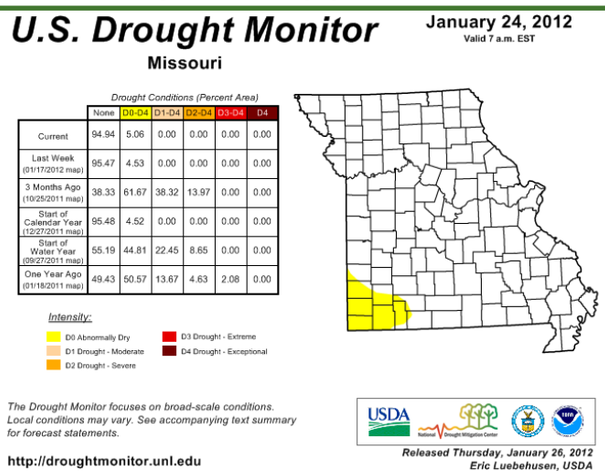
FEBRUARY 2012

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Drought

Last Summer we had a severe drought. It claimed many weak trees and shrubs. It also stressed relatively healthy plants making them susceptible to attack from insects and disease.

Unfortunately, we are still in a moderate drought and the current NOAA long term forecast predicts it will not let up at least until May.



It is important to water evergreen trees and shrubs now. They are always using some water. How much do you water? I have commonly recommended an equivalent of 1.5 inches of rain per week. This is not always easy to measure. So an easy way to determine if enough water has been provided is the "Soil Ribbon test". It is used predominately to determine the approximate soil type (amount of sand/silt/clay). It also may be used to see if enough water or too much is in the root zone of the plant. Dig down in the watered area about 5 to 6 inches, take a clump of soil into your hand. Try to squeeze out a ribbon of soil between your finger and thumb. If it is too dry it will crumble apart. If it is too wet it will be slimy. Ideally, the ribbon will be moist and hold together like in the image. Take the time, water your evergreens, you and they will appreciate it later.

Boxwood Blight: A Threat to Local Landscapes

Boxwood Blight (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) is a recently introduced and found fungus in the United States. It was first found in North Carolina in October 2011 then up the coast to New York, then Washington County, Oregon in December 2011. It has not been found in Missouri, but with large quantities of boxwood shipped into the state, it is possible the fungus will be brought here.

It was first reported in the United Kingdom in the early to mid-1990s and had spread through Europe and New Zealand by 1998. The origin of the pathogen is unknown.

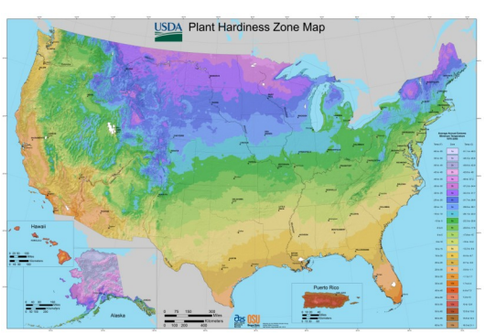
The fungus infects all above ground parts of the plant. It does not appear to infect the roots. Initial symptoms appear as darker light brown spots or lesions on the leaves. The lesions often have dark borders. Spots enlarge, coalesce, often with a concentric pattern. Infected leaves then turn brown or straw colored so infected plants look blighted. Defoliation usually develops quickly after symptoms develop. The fungus also infects the stems, with dark brown to black lesions, sometimes with a angular, diamond like pattern.

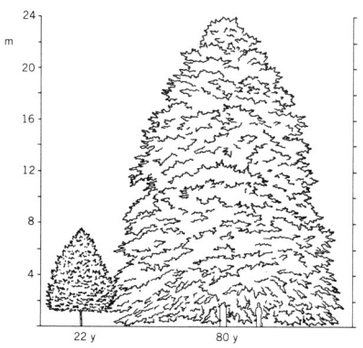
Boxwood blight may spread rapidly in warm, humid conditions. It is spread by water splash and may be carried by the wind or wind driven rain over short distances. People and animals can carry the spores over longer distances on skin, fur, clothes, and tools.

If you receive boxwoods from anywhere, I encourage you to request an inspection by the Missouri Department of Agriculture to protect your stock and prevent it from becoming established here. Learn more at: http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/plant_industry/documents/boxwood-blight-new-disease.pdf

New USDA Hardiness Zone Map

A new USDA Plant Hardiness map has been created. Southwest Missouri is still zone 6. The small pocket around Cassville is now in zone 6b and an area around Mt. Vernon is now 6a. What is really significant is the zone 5/6 border has moved dramatically north and zone 7 has crept a little more north in the bootheel. Learn more and see interactive maps or download your own copy at: http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/





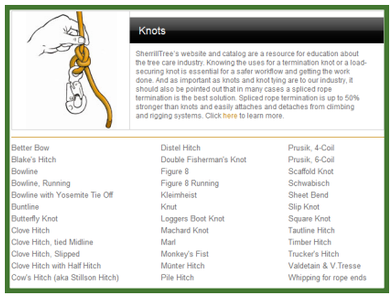
Littleleaf linden

Tilia cordata

Littleleaf linden is a medium to large tree reaching 60 to 80 feet in height and 1/2 to 2/3rds that in width. With a medium growth rate it can grow 10 to 15 feet over a 5 to 10 year period. Specie growth habit is pyramidal in youth to upright-oval to pyramidal-rounded with age, but many cultivars have been developed for columnar, globe, and dwarf shapes. Prefers moist well drained, fertile soil. Found naturally on limestone soils in its native Europe, it is pH adaptable. Needs full sun and does not tolerate shade. These characteristics make this tree common in other areas of the country. A myriad of insects can attack this tree. Locally, the Japanese beetle may become severe. Having multiple cultivars, 'Corinthian' and 'Greenspire' are common. Other cultivars are available for upright, small globe, dwarf shapes.

Plant illustration by Jenny M. Lyverse, from Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd Edition, Harrison L. Flint Author

Web Site Review - Sherrill Tree Knot Tying Site



Do you climb trees with a rope and saddle, go camping and need to support something, or just need to lash something to the truck? If you do, Sherrill Tree has a site for you. Their site provides graphics of dozens of knots. Some come with comments about their history and or use. Sherrill Tree offers this site as a service to the arborist industry to allow individuals to know which knot is best for a specific use for safer working conditions as they get the job done caring for trees. Visit: http://www.sherrilltree.com/Learning-Center/Knots.

Pest Highlight - Hickory Leaf Stem Gall Aphid

Hickory Leaf Stem Gall Aphid (HLSG) (*Phylloxera caryaecaulis*) damages trees by causing the development of galls, or swellings, on petioles and occasionally new shoots of hickory. These critters over winter as eggs in cracks and crevices of the bark and in old stem galls. As new buds open and grow the eggs hatch. Young aphids crawl to newly expanding foliage where they feed on the new growth by piercing the epidermis and sucking cell sap, usually on the leaf petiole (stem). The feeding causes the tissue to grow galls which enclose the aphids. The galls start as green, leathery, and bullet shaped, varying in size from a pea to 1/2 inch or more in diameter, round or irregular in shape. Several generations of aphids develop within the galls during May, June, and into July. In late July, the galls split open, turn black and jagged in appearance, and the aphids emerge to lay eggs. At this time most of the affected leaves fall prematurely. While defoliation may occur in any given year, rarely is this damage a threat to the long term health of the tree by itself.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

February 1 - 3

ISA Midwestern Chapter Annual Conference , Overland Park, KS, Registration and information at http://www.mwisa.org/

February 19 - 24

Municipal Forestry Institute, Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City, NE, Registration and information at http://www.urban-forestry.com/society-of-municipal-arborists-mfi-2012

February 21 - 24

ASCA 2012 Consulting Academy, Philadelphia, PA , Registration and information at http://www.asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consultingacademy.cfm

February 29

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Joplin, MO, Registration deadline February 13, 2012, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

March 1

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Jefferson City, MO, Registration deadline February 14, 2012, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

March 6 - 8

MCFC Annual Conference - "Art and Science of Trees", Blue Springs, MO, Registration and information at http://www.mocommunitytrees.com/conference2012.html

March 26

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, 201 W. Riviera Dr. (Wildcat Park), Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

March 28

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, St. Peters, MO, Registration deadline March 12, 2012, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

March 29

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Meeting Room, Cedar County Medical Clinic, 801 Owen Mill Rd., Stockton, MO, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

April 10

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Lampo Building, 500 E. Spring St., Neosho, MO, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

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