

THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2020

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Caddo Sugar Maples

Sugar maples often have significant problems with our SW Missouri weather. Our hot, often dry summers and windy conditions can shorten the life of these trees. However, some sugar maples are better adapted to our conditions than others. The Kansas State University John C. Pair Horticulture Center has evaluated sugar maples for well over 20 years and has identified selections that are much better adapted to Kansas and our region. Of particular interest are the Caddo sugar maples which originated from an isolated population in Caddo, County, Oklahoma. These are true sugar maples and are considered an ectotype. They are more drought tolerant, better adapted to high pH soils and more resistant to leaf scorch and tatter than the norm. Just how resistant to scorch is impressive. The last three weeks of August in 2003 saw temperatures at the research station over 100 degrees each day with no rain for the month prior. All other sugar maples in the trial had severely scorched leaves. Not a single leaf of any of the Caddo maples was scorched. Leaf water potential readings taken pre-dawn showed all other trees in the trial past the wilting point while the Caddo maples were barely stressed.

'Autumn Splendor' courtesy J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.



well in a heavy clay soil that is frequently saturated. These trees can be damaged or killed if planted in wet sites.

The first selection, 'Autumn Splendor', has the traditional sugar maple growth pattern and needs plenty of room to mature. 'John Pair' is smaller and more compact and more likely to fit a residential landscape. This tree is also noted for a dense, uniform crown. Flashfire is a third Caddo maple that has done well in Kansas. Two other sugar maples not in the research with similar characteristics include 'Legacy' and 'Green Mountain.' If you are in the market for a sugar maple, consider these before making a final decision.

How to Tell Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper Apart in the Winter

During the growing season, these plants are easy to tell apart as Virginia creeper has five-leaflets per leaf and poison ivy has three. However, during the winter, distinguishing between the two vines can be more difficult as the leaves have dropped. The reason it is important to be able to tell the difference is that poison ivy causes a rash in most people but Virginia creeper does not. First, let's cover some facts about poison ivy.

Poison ivy
Images: Virginia Tech



- Urushiol is the oil present in poison ivy that causes the rash.
- Urushiol is present in all parts of the plant but especially in the sap.
- Urushiol can cause a rash from 1 to 5 years after a plant has died.
- The amount of urushiol that covers the head of a pin can cause a rash in 500 people. The stuff is potent.
- poison ivy can grow as a ground cover, a shrub or a vine. We are concerned with the vine in this article.



- Using a saw or breaking a poison ivy vine in the winter can release sap which makes a rash more likely. This is worse on warm days where there is more sap rise.

So, how do you tell the two apart? This is actually easy once you know what to check. Look at the aerial roots on the vines of poison ivy and Virginia creeper. The aerial roots resemble hairs on poison ivy but are plumper on Virginia creeper and are about the size of a pencil lead. The terminal buds of poison ivy are "naked" where Virginia creepers' has scales with a prominent bud scar below it. Both may have fruit in early winter. Virginia creepers' is purplish and poison ivy's is whitish.



Virginia creeper
Images: Virginia Tech



Osage-orange
Maclura pomifera

Osage-orange, hedge, or Bois D'Arc is a small to medium, deciduous tree with a mature height of 20 to 50 feet with equal spread. This tree is appropriate for yards, parks, boulevards or anywhere a durable tree is desired. Native plants have numerous thorns and softball size fruits. The species tolerates a wide range of soil and weather extremes. A few great male cultivars provide fruitless, nearly thornless choices. Look for 'Park', 'Wichita', and 'White Shield.'

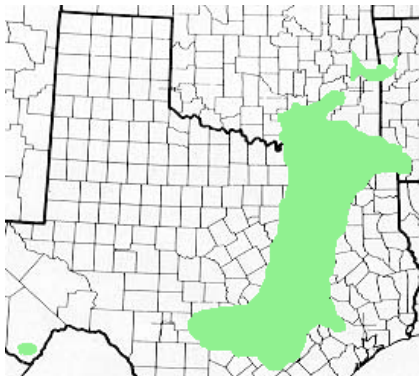


Image: MDC

Range map modified from Silvics of North America web site - www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag_654/volume_2/maclura/pomifera.htm

Book Review - An Illustrated Guide to Pruning, Third Edition

The Third Edition of this all encompassing guide to pruning has been updated with new information, techniques, and color illustrations and images. It covers everything from basic biology that determines how, the various types, timing, and reasons we prune, placement of new trees to reduce pruning need, and even a chapter on root pruning to prevent or deal with stem girdling roots. This book is available on multiple internet sales sites. I consider it a go to when I have an unusual pruning question. Get your copy today!

People (*Homo sapiens*)

Why on earth are people in a section about tree pests? People are probably the biggest pest there is! We are the most likely critter on the planet to change our environment. We move the soil around, mix and compact it. As you may recall, this activity disturbs to destroys the soils ability to support trees, and damages roots of remaining trees. We are extremely mobile. We transport stuff for our own use. Not just around local areas, but across the planet. We have moved invasive and destructive pests from other continents to ours and vice versa. Major ones of note are chestnut blight eliminating nearly all chestnut species in North America, Dutch Elm Disease making elms extremely diminished, and recently Emerald Ash Borer devastating ash populations around the country. There are more of course. We are also very destructive to trees. We damage them with string trimmers and lawn mowers, poison them with chemicals like salt, oil from cars and inappropriate use of other chemicals. We also cut in them incorrectly when “pruning”. The damage we cause is always more than native and most invasive pests.



January 29 - 31

MW-ISA 74th Annual Conf. and Trade Show, Overland Park, KS, Early-Bird Registration due Jan. 15. Information at: <https://mwisa.org/annual-conference-and-trade-show>.

February 9 - 13

TCIA Winter Management Conf., Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Information and Registration at: <https://wmc.tcia.org>.

February 15

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Kirkwood, MO, Information and Register at www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials.

February 18

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 - 10 AM, MDC SW Regional Office, Springfield, MO.

February 18 - 21

MPRA Conference & Expo, Lake Ozark, MO, Early-Bird Registration due Jan. 10. Information at: <https://www.mopark.org/conference>.

February 27

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center, Joplin, MO.

February 28 - March 1

Springfield Lawn & Garden Show - Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, Springfield.

March 3

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Shawnee, OK, Information and Register at www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials.

March 17

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 - 10 AM, MDC SW Regional Office, Springfield, MO.

March 26

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center, Joplin, MO.

March 31

Tree Health Update - Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center, Joplin, 1:00 PM, Registration Required - 417-629-3434 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

April 1

Tree Health Update - Springfield Nature Center, Springfield, 8:30 AM, Registration Required - 417-895-6880.

April 15 - 17

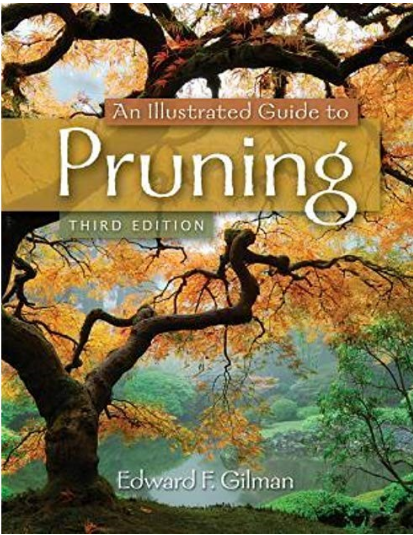
TCIA Executive Arborist Workshop, Milwaukee, WI, Information and Registration at: <https://eaw.tcia.org>.

April 21

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 - 10 AM, MDC SW Regional Office, Springfield, MO.

April 23

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center, Joplin, MO.



To the practicing professional nurserymen, arborists, and horticulturalist who took a chance and began structural pruning early-on to show others the way.

You know who you are!

*Dedication by Dr. Ed Gilman in
An Illustrated Guide to Pruning,
Third Edition*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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<https://thestumpnewsletter.weebly.com>

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Jon Skinner
Community Forester
Forestry Division
MO Dept. of Conservation
201 W. Riviera Dr.
Joplin, MO 64804
417-629-3434
Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov



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