

THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

JUNE 2011

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Tree Irrigation Methods

Spring has been cool and wet this year, so most of us have not even thought about watering trees. That is a good thing. Low stress on the tree, translates into good root establishment and tree growth. Unfortunately, summer is coming with high temperatures and normally with dry spells. Periodic soil drying when not to drought conditions encourages deep root growth and drought resistance. Established trees can deal with dry periods and most droughts, but newly planted trees cannot due to a lack of an extensive root system to absorb water. To help newly planted trees and those in the landscape up to three years will / may need additional irrigation to help them not only survive, but establish a healthy root system.

Several different watering methods exist. Some are more labor intensive than others and some are more efficient in getting water where it belongs. This review of methods is to provide options, so the most efficient method for you or your client may be utilized.

The least efficient way to water a tree in terms of both water and time is laying a hose near the base of the tree and letting water trickle from it, then moving it to different parts of the root zone.



Using a sprinkler can cover a larger area, reducing the number of times it must be moved to cover a root zone, but can lead to much water loss due to evaporation.



Soaker hoses are very efficient at delivering water where it is needed. It's major disadvantage is the time utilized to put down and pick it up for storage between watering.



Using buckets with small holes drilled in the bottoms or lower sides can deliver water efficiently, and make best use of time with easy placement of buckets, filling, and pick up and storage.



A commercial product that has been on the market for a while is called the Treegator. It works on the same principle as a bucket with holes in the bottom of the bag. The Treegator is zipped around the tree, filled and left to slowly drain out. It is common for two Treegator bags to be zipped together to water one landscape tree. Setup and pickup are easily done with time in between for other activities. It is not uncommon for homeowners and municipalities to leave bags in place on trees for an entire season with little theft or vandalism.



Periodical Cicada Update

The song of the cicada should start ending in early July. Start watching for browning branches of trees where female cicada of Brood XIX have laid eggs. The ovipositing slits will damage many branch tips to the point they die back. For most trees this is something they can deal with, for small and recently planted trees, this could be a major problem with leaders gone and directional pruning required to re-establish a central leader. In worst case scenarios, death of some small trees is possible.



chinkapin oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

A medium to large tree, chinkapin oak has a mature height of 40 to 80 feet in height and width commonly exceeding height. It has a medium growth rate with youth and slows with age. Appropriate for a medium yard, street and park plantings, it has potential for parking lot islands if adequate planting space is provided. It is tolerant of varying soil conditions and drought resistant. Grows best and found natively in moist bottomlands but will grow and survive in limestone outcrops, but size is smaller. Difficult to find as landscape tree size, but native seedling growers are available and it transplants easier at this size.



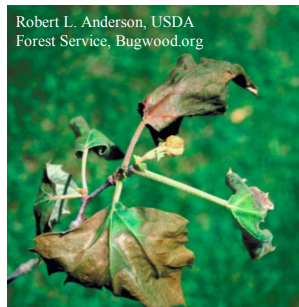
Plant images from Texas A&M Extension and Pursuit Hunting.
Range map modified from USDA Forest Service
Silvics of North America Web site -
www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_2/quercus/muehlenbergii.htm

Web Site Review

Leafsnap is an iPhone/iPod application that uses photo recognition software on its remote servers to return a list of possible matches to the leaf you photographed on a white background. It requires internet connectivity to work. Originally designed for New York City and Washington D.C., most of the plants are found in SW Missouri. Versions for iPad and Android are in the works. Learn more about the app at <http://leafsnap.com>.

Pest Highlight - sycamore anthracnose

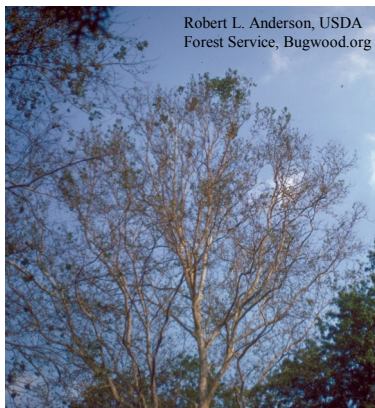
Sycamore anthracnose (*Apiognomonia veneta*) is a fungus that infects buds, leaves, and branches of American sycamore. It occurs every year, but becomes more severe when we have cool springs. It spreads from spores on infected branches by water splashing onto buds, and leaves. It then grows down the leaf petiole into the branch where it will continue to grow while it is cool and then set until the next spring. The most dramatic result of this fungus in heavy infection years often results in leaves expanding,



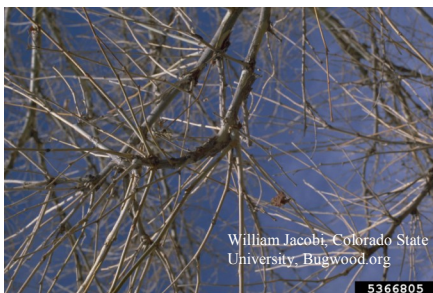
Robert L. Anderson, USDA
Forest Service, Bugwood.org

then falling off due to the damage. Healthy trees usually re-flush new leaves by mid-June. In severe cases, the damage to the branches causes branch dieback and re-sprouting creating a witches broom effect and poor branch structure.

Treatment of the fungus of existing trees may be done by either properly timed, annual fungicide sprays over the period the fungus is active or fungicide injections into the stem every two to three years. Select resistant cultivars of London Planetree when planting new trees for the sycamore appearance.



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June 10

Kansas Arborist Assoc. Summer Field Day, Overlook Park, Clinton Lake, KS, Information at www.kansasarborist.com/events.aspx

June 17

2011 Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbers Competition, Stagecoach Park, Olathe, KS, Information at www.mwisa.org

June 17

ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist and Aerial Lift Specialist Exam, Olathe, KS, Registration deadline June 1, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

June 17 - 18

American Conifer Society Central Region Meeting, Ames, IA, Information at www.conifersociety.org/doc_manager/ select Central, then spring 2011 newsletter

June 18

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Oklahoma City, OK, Registration deadline June 2, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

July 14

2011 MLNA Summer Field Day, Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO, Information at www.mlna.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&eventID=5

July 23 - 27

ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Australia, Information at www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx

August 11

2011 Nursery Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO, Information at www.mlna.org/index.cfm?fuseaction/calendar.main/index.htm

August 26

Missouri Certified Green Industry Stars Certification Professional Testing, Springfield, MO, Information at www.mlna.org/index.cfm?fuseaction/calendar.main/index.htm



Come ye into the summer woods;
There entereth no annoy;
All greenly wave the chestnut
leaves,
And the earth is full of joy.

—Mary Howitt (1799–1888)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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