



THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

JUNE 2019

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS



pawpaw *Asimina triloba*

Pawpaw is a small, deciduous tree with a mature height and spread of 15 to 25 feet. Excellent for wildlife, it is also useful for naturalized landscaping. The small rose-purple flower adds unique color in the spring. Appropriate for small yards and naturalized areas, the upward arching limbs add beauty to any yard. The edible fruit starts green and ripens to a brown varying from 1 to 6 inches in various rounded shapes. Small and large animals will compete to get to the custard like fruit.



Image: MDC

Range map modified from Virginia Tech Dendrology Web site - www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/main.htm

Tree Care After Storms

Southwest Missouri has had its share of storms this spring. With storms and several tornados, comes damage. Specifically to trees in the case of this article.

Tree damage can range from minor branches broken to whole tree failure. The key is to determine if it is something that needs dealt with now, later, and how.

First all issues that cause an imminent threat to people or property should have been dealt with. These emergency situations require quick response to alleviate the dangerous situation. Things that qualify for this are trees partially pushed over or leaning when they were not before. Large branches or trunks broken, but not fallen to the ground. These hanging pieces can cause significant damage or injury.

After the safety issues are dealt with, all other tree care activities can wait until properly analyzed and prepared for. Now look at the tree and decide if it can be saved. This is not a thought of it can stay for a year, but will become healthy again and be an asset to the landscape for many years to come. A easy rule of thumb is when more than half of the crown is damaged beyond keeping, remove the entire tree and replace later. The remaining trees that do not meet that criteria should be pruned correctly to help it recover. While doing tree work, wear all of the appropriate safety gear. Your life depends on it.

MDC has several useful publications to help with tree care at: <https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care> covering the topics "Tree Care After Storms", pruning, how to hire an arborist, tree selection, tree planting and more.

Tree planting should wait until at least late fall and after all building construction has ended. Otherwise, the new tree will be more stressed than necessary and significantly reduce the likelihood of its survival.

Of course, communities can always contact me for information and tree advice at 417-629-3434 or jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.



Moisture Related Issues to Watch for This Year



Stating we've been very wet this spring is an understatement. With this situation brings on the potential for a myriad of moisture related maladies for trees. Things to look out for this spring and summer include:

Anthrachnose: This has been observed on sycamore already. Leaf defoliation in spring with the tree sending out new leaves afterward. While dramatic, it is usually not life threatening to the tree. Other tree specie are expected to get their version of anthrachnose as well. Most are not life threatening, but occasionally will cause early defoliation of large portions of a tree. If a tree sends out new leaves in late summer or fall, this could cause issues for the tree in coming years.

Root death: Constantly saturated soil leaves no room for oxygen. Roots need oxygen to grow and survive. If in anaerobic conditions long enough, roots will die. When enough roots die, the tree will become stressed. It could become infected with root rots in this situation. This leads to slow decline over years for some trees. Showing up even over a decade later. Some trees could die this season, but this is often a long term issue. Also with diminished root systems, the trees become more susceptible to drought conditions.

Fungus on leaves: There are several fungal pathogens that infect leaves. When we have constantly moist air situations, it makes it more likely these will be able to attack. So, expect unusual leaf maladies related to this over the growing season.

Book Review - Up In the Leaves

The true story of a boy growing up in New York City finding solace in Central Park trees. Building tree houses, illegally, to escape the city. Learn how his love of the trees became a passion and a career as an arborist. This book is perfect for sharing with young readers to inspire their creativity and passion for trees. Order online at several sites.



Gloomy Scale (*Melanaspis tenebricosa*)

Gloomy scale affects primarily red, silver, and Freeman maples. Adult female covers, called tests, are up to 2 millimeters wide grey to brown with a central pale ring and blends in with the bark. Males are even smaller. Heavy infestation can make the bark of infested branches look and feel bumpy. Heavy infestations can cause branch



Gloomy scale on branch.
Image: NC State Extension

dieback and eventually tree death. Females overwinter and lay eggs in the spring. Crawlers start to emerge in early May. Control can be achieved through dormant oil applied during the winter for light infestations. After that, contact insecticides during crawler movement before new tests are made. This requires careful observation during early spring. Systemic insecticides will work as well and should be applied to label directions.

Female gloomy scale with test (dark) and without (pinkish)
Image: NC State Extension



June 8 - 9

2019 MW-ISA Tree Climbing Championship, Wichita, KS, Information at: <https://mwisa.org/tree-climbing-championship>.

June 11

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Little Rock, AR, Registration deadline May 23, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified.

June 18

SWMCFC meeting, 8:30 - 10 AM, Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, Springfield, MO. Meet in the redbud grove. Shrub pruning demonstration.

June 18

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Springfield, MO, Registration deadline May 31, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified.

June 18 - 19

TCIA Legislative Day on the Hill, Washington, DC, Registration deadline is May 31. Information at: https://tcia.org/TCIA/EVENTS/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=LEG2019.

June 21

Kansas Arborist Association Field Day, Olathe KS, Early-Bird Registration deadline is June 17. Information at: www.kansasarborist.com/field-day.html.

June 25

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal Course - Tulsa, OK, Registration deadline is May 28. Information at: <https://mwisa.org/traq-classes>.

June 26

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course - Tulsa, OK, Registration deadline is May 28. Information at: <https://mwisa.org/traq-classes>.

June 27

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO.

June 28

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Lincoln, NE, Registration deadline June 12, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified.

July 16

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

July 25

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO.

August 9 - 14

2019 ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show, Knoxville, TN, Early-Bird Registration due June 14. Information at: www.isa-arbor.com/Events/Annual-Conference/2019-Annual-Conference.

The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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