New Missouri Specific Oak Wilt Research

The research journal *Plant Disease* of The American Phytopathological Society published the paper “Three *Colopterus* Beetle Species Carry the Oak Wilt Fungus to Fresh Wounds on Red Oak in Missouri” by Bruce Moltzan, MDC Research Scientist and two other co-authors. The researchers found that the nitidulid beetles *Colopterus truncatus*, *C. niger*, and *C. semitechne* were the main vectors of oak wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) to fresh wounds of red oak trees (*Quercus spp.*). Additionally, their research suggests the critical period for transmission of oak wilt by the beetles is April and May.

This is important for helping you time tree pruning activities of your red oak trees. Avoid April and May for any pruning. I would encourage you to not prune red oaks March through May to make certain to avoid the higher chance of having your tree infected with oak wilt.

This was an interesting and educational paper. Contact Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov for an Adobe Acrobat copy of the paper for your complete review.

Experts Agree ... Don’t Top Your Tree Magnetic Signs

The Missouri Community Forestry Council came up with the concept “Experts Agree...Don’t Top Your Tree” several years ago. Now they have a way for you to show your support of this important message. MCFC has now created magnetic signs for use on vehicles. It is appropriate for businesses to proudly proclaim their proper tree care; cities, especially Tree City USA communities, to encourage citizens to prune properly; and individuals to let their neighbors in on this public secret.

You can get your sign(s) for a donation of $15 for 1, $27.50 for 2, $12.50 for each additional sign. Send your donation check payable to MCFC and contact information to: Jon Skinner, Dept. Of Conservation, 201 W. Riviera Dr., Ste. B, Joplin, MO 64804.

The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, the Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.

Grants may be used for activities such as mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, and design activities; developing brochures, interpretative displays, audio-visual productions, or public opinion surveys; and hiring consultants, incorporating land trusts, building infrastructure (e.g., a foot bridge or bike path), or other creative projects. In general, grants can be used for all appropriate expenses needed to complete a greenway project, including planning, technical assistance, legal, and other costs.

Grant recipients are selected according to criteria that include the importance of the project to local greenway development efforts; demonstrated community support for the project; extent to which the grant will result in matching funds or other support from public or private sources; the likelihood of tangible results; and capacity of the organization to complete the project.

Awards will primarily go to local, regional, or statewide nonprofit organizations. Although public agencies may also apply, community organizations will receive preference. Most grants will range from $500 to $1,000 each; the maximum individual grant award is $2,500. Applications may be submitted from March 1 through June 15 of each calendar year.

Visit [http://www.conservationfund.org/node/245](http://www.conservationfund.org/node/245) for complete program information.

Emerald Ash Borer is NOT in Missouri

Some recent quarantine violations have given the false impression to some that EAB is in Missouri. EAB is currently not in our State. We all need to be aware of this pest, be watchful, and follow appropriate quarantines for live trees, logs, wood products, and firewood. Current information is available at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). Feel free to contact me with questions at jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov or 417-629-3423.
Web Site Review
University of Florida Extension’s Landscape Plants web site is a wealth of information for tree and shrub care. The site covers nearly everything you would want to know about a tree and many other landscape plants. Nursery production techniques, selection, pruning, care, and biology are just a few of the topics. The two topics of most interest currently of storm repair and selection are covered well in this site. Visit it at: http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/.

How to Kill a Tree!

Never water newly planted trees! The root system is fully established and able to provide all of the water the new tree can absorb. The roots establish so fast that it appears they take over the yard in days.

Of course, the above is incorrect. The root system of new trees is small, and only able to absorb water from the area they occupy. Only in the root ball at first. While some trees roots grow faster than others, it takes time for the system to become large enough to support the tree without supplemental water. I recommend newly planted trees receive one to one and one-half inches of water a week at one time over the rooting area.

April 1
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Jasper County Annex, Carthage, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 7

April 7
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Fire and Police Station, 106 S. Elliott, Aurora, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 10
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.


April 7 – 9
2008 Trees & Utilities Conference, Orlando, FL Early Registration due March 17 Contact NADF at: www.arborday.org/TUconference or 888-448-7337

April 17

April 21

May 12
Tree ID Walk, Kellogg Lake, meet at pavilion on dam, Carthage, MO, 6:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

May 13
Tree ID Walk, City Park, meet near east ball field behind caretakers home, Lamar, MO, 6:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

May 28 – 30
National Conference on Urban Ecosystems: Nature and the Network, Orlando, FL Details at www.americanforests.org/conference/

June 4

June 12
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

June 26
Missouri Landscape and Nurseryman Association Field Day, Elsberry, MO Information and Registration at www.mlna.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/calendar.main/index.htm

July 26 - 30
ISA 2008 Conference & Trade Show, St. Louis, MO Details at www.isa-arbor.com/conference/