Allegheny serviceberry
*Amelanchier laevis*

A small to medium tree, Allegheny serviceberry is appropriate for southwest Missouri. Ranging from 15 feet to 40 feet tall and often half the width. Leaves are single and an elliptical-ovate to ovate-oblong shaped often opening purple turning dark green. Fall color is predominantly orange-red. Flowers are white and develop into edible purple pome. Grows well in full sun to light shade. Naturally grows in rocky soils. The only noted cultivar is ‘JFS-Arb’ with the trade name Spring Flurry®.

**Freeze damage in March?**

There were several light freezes during last few weeks of March. Unfortunately, many of the trees had broken or starting to break bud. While annoying, I do not believe this will be a severe issue for the trees. The freezes were mild and short in duration. Still you need to be aware of the possible issues the trees will have to deal with. Some trees will show no affect, some will have flowers damaged, some may have less fruit, and some may have odd looking leaves.

**Start Watching for Pests**

Every year you may hear about the most devastating pests that may affect our trees. While these super pests will be tough on our trees when they arrive, we should still pay attention to the pests we see every year. Sometimes their populations explode and become the disaster we were looking for. The fall webworm was this problem pest last year. It may or may not come back as strong, but will be here like it is every year. Other insects and diseases can occur at epidemic proportions. In the past, jumping oak gall, bag worms, vein pocket gall, and others have caused concern for our clients.

Be on your guard, and pay attention. You might save a tree from an over abundance of an undesired guest.

**i-Tree Streets webinar - April 20, Noon**

The i-Tree Suite has been around for several years. It is based on research from the U.S Forest Service and universities. They put together the research into a comprehensive set of applications to describe and value the benefits trees give us. Over the years as new research is completed and new technologies have been developed, the i-Tree Suite has been expanded and modified so most of it now operates on the internet. Since January, the Urban Natural Resources Institute has been providing webinars on the current suite. On April 20, they will be offering the webinar on i-Tree Streets. This was one of the first applications of the suite and has been modified a lot with technology changes. It is an easy way for a community to get a snap shot of their community’s street trees. It first came out on a Palm Pilot handheld PDA and worked with a computer. Now, it works off your smartphone and the internet.

The webinar requires preregistration. Register at: [https://goo.gl/qnLO71](https://goo.gl/qnLO71)

**Increase In Tree Canopy Reduces Stress**

In 2014, researchers from the University of Illinois published a report of the stress reduction response people get when viewing video scenes of streets with trees. They tested 80 men and 78 women for changes in stress indicators before and after a set of activities many find difficult. The researchers found men had significant stress indicator reduction when viewing trees. Over the years as new research is completed and new technologies have been developed, the i-Tree Suite has been expanded and modified so most of it now operates on the internet. Since January, the Urban Natural Resources Institute has been providing webinars on the current suite. On April 20, they will be offering the webinar on i-Tree Streets. This was one of the first applications of the suite and has been modified a lot with technology changes. It is an easy way for a community to get a snap shot of their community’s street trees. It first came out on a Palm Pilot handheld PDA and worked with a computer. Now, it works off your smartphone and the internet.

They surmised, a greater amount of connected green space in communities will help people deal with the everyday stresses. All of us should be requesting to maintain trees where we can, insist on better care of them, and planting more for the health and enjoyment of all.

Web Review - Safe Lifting / Back Safety Training

Every spring many of us get outside and lift heavy things. It may be a tree to be planted, fertilizer bag, landscaping materials, and more. While we enjoy working outside for work or fun, we need to be careful about lifting safely to protect our backs. Univ. Of Arkansas, Facilities Management, Office of Environmental Health & Safety developed this slideshow to remind us to think before we lift. See it at: https://ehs.uark.edu/pwrpt/safelifting.pdf

Orange slime

Recently, MDC had a mystery report of an orange slimy patch on a flowering dogwood. Our pathologist identified it as most likely a basidiomycete yeast. The yeast had colonized and grew on sap bleeding from the tree. The orange color is from the carotene in the yeast. Many trees “bleed” during the spring when injured or just from cracks that sometimes develop. This allows insects, yeast, bacteria, and fungi to take advantage of the sap. For a healthy tree, this is not a big deal. As the wound closes, the sap flow will stop ending the source of sap. If you see something similar happening, there really isn’t anything you can do to help the tree. Keep it healthy with proper care and let the tree take care of itself.

April 1 - Missouri Arbor Day

April 11

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance Grant workshop, 10 AM - Noon, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO Register by calling 417-629-3423 or email Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

April 12

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance Grant workshop, 10 AM - Noon, MDC SW Regional Office, Springfield, MO Register by calling 417-895-6880

April 14 - State MCFC meeting, 10 AM—3 PM, Jefferson City, MO

April 16 - Exeter Arbor Day, 9:30 AM, City Park, Exeter, MO

April 22 - Carthage Arbor Day, 2 PM, Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Carthage, MO

April 28

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO

April 29 - National Arbor Day

April 29 - Joplin Arbor Day, Noon, Landreth Park, Joplin MO

May 4

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Jefferson City, MO, Registration deadline April. 20, 2016, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

May 10

Aerial Lift Safety Training, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, Register by calling 417-629-3423 or email Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov

May 11

Aerial Lift Safety Training, SW Regional Office, Springfield, MO, Register by calling 417-895-6880

May 26

JMCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO

June 3

Susan Harwood Grant EHAP workshop, Kansas City, MO, Information and Registration at: http://tcia.org/training/ehap/20160603-sht-grant-ehap-workshop-kansas-city-mo

June 9 - State MCFC meeting, 10 AM—3 PM, Jefferson City, MO

June 22

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Springfield, MO, Registration deadline June 6, 2016, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

In creating, the only hard thing's to begin; a grass-blade's no easier to make than an oak.

~James Russell Lowell