

We have had one of the best growing seasons this year with a lot of moisture this past spring that prompted lush growth of trees. This fall and winter we had an abundance of rain and snow that has been good for the growth of trees and plant material.

The past two years we have had an abundance of bagworms that are usually on evergreens, but have been found on other plant material. I recommend spraying plant material that has the bags on them as this is where many young ones will emerge from this spring. Besides where you see the bags, it is important to spray all evergreens around the first of June with an additional application around the middle of July.

While on the subject of spraying, I recommend spraying Pin Oak and Red Oak with a horticulture oil for the obscure scale, eggs and certain fungi, Male Ash for Ash Gall. Apply one application while the trees are dormant on a mild day when temperature is above 45 degrees. I recommend spraying Austrian Pines and Scotch pines for Diplodia tip blight and Needle cast, this requires two applications, with the first when the first needles begin to elongate (late March to first of April) with an additional application approximately four weeks later. I recommend spraying Crabapple and Hawthorn for rust and scab diseases. This requires two applications starting with the first when leaves begin to emerge (April-May) with additional applications three to four weeks later.

Spring Checklist:

___ Water spring blooming bulbs that you planted last fall during dry periods.

___ It is best not to cut back ornamental grasses or liriope until the end of March or April.

___ Do not allow vines and ivy to grow up into the interior of plants as this can be damaging to the full development of trees or evergreens. Cut out a 3" section of the vine and let die above the cut, and then you can pull out. I do not mind on trunk for landscape appearance up the the first fork.

___ Avoid heavy pruning of spring flowering plants such as forsythia, lilacs, magnolias, quince and crabapples. Pruning at this time removes flower buds set to bloom in the coming months. It is best to prune them after the bloom.

___ Do not be alarmed if recently pruned trees begin flowing with sap from pruning wounds. It may appear that the tree is bleeding to death but sap commonly flows during this time of year in many trees, particularly maples