

MAJOR TREE INSECT PROBLEMS

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Did you ever think of a tree as a woody perennial plant with one main stem or trunk which develops many branches? Of course not! Just how important is a tree to you? People's values not only differ, but change and so does their appreciation of trees or of a particular tree. Everybody has a favorite tree whether it is in the backyard or just a memory.

What is a tree to you - - - - ?

Is it a study of time? Big beautiful trees take a long time to grow; or is it a beauty mark on the landscape? Many homeowners regard trees on their property as an investment causing increased property value. How about the shade value a tree provides on a hot day or the enjoyment of swinging from an old rubber tire tied to a big branch; the treehouse you played in as a kid or the heights to which you could climb; or is it the place you received your first nature lesson watching the birds develop; to the golfer, it's a place to keep dry during a cloudburst; and to your wife it's a place to tie the clothesline; to your kids in a summer evening it may provide a home base for a game of tag; and of course, what's Christmas without a tree? So you see, values can be different and varied when you think of a tree.

All trees are subject to insect or disease. The loss of a tree is difficult if not impossible to replace. For the homeowner, tree care is very important. This year northern Illinois has been plagued with **major tree insect problems.**

In the month of May we saw and in some cases are still seeing on the north shore area **the inchworm.** This defoliating little pest has caused many people to seek help — not only for the sake of the tree but to stop them from dropping on their heads while sitting outside in the backyard: Sevin 50% wettable powder is the insecticide of choice.

During the month of June three new problems developed. On the southwest side of Chicagoland locusts have arrived in an off year. In some instances, emerging by the thousands. Why an off year locust? Possibly because of the formation of a subspecies developed from the 13 and 17 year broods. Control on infested trees can be accomplished by using Sevin 50% wettable powder. Spray the branches thoroughly.

On the northwest side of Chicagoland we are seeing in very great abundance on maple trees a popcorn-looking type problem on the tree branches called cottony maple scale. It doesn't confine itself to maple and is found on a variety of other trees and shrubs. Sometimes infestations may be heavy enough to kill twigs, branches, limbs and once in a great while entire trees. Great quantities of honeydew drip from the twigs and branches on parked cars below leaving them a sticky mess. Control in Chicagoland should begin the last week in June and the first couple weeks in July using Malathion. Three applications 4-5 days apart will be needed.

The bronze birch borer is taking its toll of birch trees again this year. It is very widespread causing the tops of the birch tree to die. Eventually the entire tree will succumb. At present, research on this problem is being conducted by the University of Illinois at the Morton Arboretum where almost 100% of the trees are effected. The screening of newer, safer, insecticides is being tried. As of now DDT sprayed on the tree trunks and branches is the only insecticide

recommended. It will do an excellent job of controlling the adults and emerging larvae. Fertilizing your tree and keeping it healthy is very essential in winning the battle against a tree borer problem.

NO CARRYING CHARGE

Once there was a superintendent who never joined the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. All his life he took the benefits won for him by other members of the Association, but refused to join. Then on his deathbed he told his wife: "Dear, please do something for me. I want 6 men from the Association to be my pallbearers."

"But you never belonged to the Association," his wife said. "Why do you want them to be your pallbearers?"

"Honey," he replied, "they've carried me this far I might as well have them carry me all the way."

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart



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