

The main challenges for Jim in making the transition from "The Bend" to "The Valley" have been learning the Network 8000's many capabilities, but don't get him started talking about it — you'll be there a long time. I have never known a person more infatuated with and in awe of an inanimate object as Jim is with his irrigation system. Another challenge is that 50 acres of wetlands means 50 acres of goose grease. Jim's control methods include moon rockets with report (I have no idea what this means — I'm just quoting), and "NO GEESE ALLOWED" signs posted throughout the course. My dog is chomping at the bit for an invitation to come over and help out ...

Jim's family (besides the irrigation system) includes his wife Joy; his sons Dan, a senior at ISU, and Matthew, 9, and his daughter Carrie, a junior at Waubonsie Valley High. We all are looking forward to playing his great course this month. See you there.



Diseases

VERTICILLIUM WILT

Verticillium wilt can affect a wide variety of plants, both herbaceous and woody. Symptoms on trees and shrubs often appear in mid-summer. "Flagging" of twigs and dieback of twigs and larger branches are typical symptoms. Verticillium wilt is caused by soilborne fungi, typically *Verticillium dahliae* in the Midwest.

This disease may be confused with other problems. Sudden wilting of twigs, with or without yellowing, is characteristic of Verticillium wilt. This could also be due to various stresses, cankers, insects, or other problems. Entire branches may be killed, including the entire crown of trees. Trees may appear in a state of general decline. Trees may continue to be affected the following year or they may recover. The disease may cause additional wilting and dieback years later.

One symptom which can help greatly in identifying Verticillium wilt is discoloration of the sapwood of twigs and branches that are wilting. Cut into these twigs at an angle, and examine the cross-section for streaks of brown or green. This disease invades the water conducting tissues, which is why wilting and death occur.

Verticillium wilt persists in the soil and typically invades wounds but may also directly penetrate roots. The fungus then invades the vascular tissue and can move within the plant. Wounds to the trunk or branches of trees may also serve as entry sites for spread by insects.

The best control strategy for Verticillium wilt in trees and shrubs is to increase the vigor of the plant. Fertilizing and watering are suggested. However, do not fertilize woody plants now; wait until late fall or next spring to avoid winterkill potential.

Wait until branches are dead on trees before removing, as they may recover if they are just wilting. Once dead, they should be removed. Disinfect pruning equipment between cuts with 70% rubbing alcohol. Wood known to be infected with Verticillium wilt should not be chipped and used as mulch, as it could spread the disease to other plantings.

Many woody plants are susceptible to Verticillium wilt. Among the more common trees include ash, maple, linden, viburnum, sumac, smoketree, catalpa, and boxelder.

Trees not known to be susceptible to Verticillium wilt include arborvitae, aspen, bald cypress, beech, birch, crabapple, ginkgo, hackberry, hawthorn, hickory, honeylocust, juniper, bur and white oak, pine, serviceberry, spruce, willow, and yew, among others.

Credit: Chicagoland Hort Newsletter, July '92

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