

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Illinois WILL BIRCH TREES GO THE WAY OF THE ELM?

Birch trees are some of the most beautiful plants available for gardeners in Chicagoland.

Sadly, these magnificent plants are threatened by an insect pest which can kill the tree outright. This pest is the bronze birch borer. In some localities nearly all white or paper birches even large old trees, have been destroyed by this pest.

Infestation is first noticed when tips of upper branches turn brown. Large branches progressively die back, until the entire tree succumbs. Infested branches often appear swollen and brown, with ridges around smaller ones.

An examination of the inner bark of infested branches reveals numerous burrows, each four to five feet long, crossing and recrossing, completely cutting off circulation of sap. The burrows are tightly packed with sawdust and each contains a slender white grub about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long.

The larvea pupate in spring and emerge in June as greenish bronze beetles which cut their way out of the branches, leaving small, slightly oval holes.

Females deposit eggs in cracks in the bark. Hatching takes place in about ten days and the tiny borers work their way into the tree to repeat the cycle, further injuring the tree.

Control of this pest is difficult. Hatching larvae are the only stage exposed to chemical control. The recommended material is Cygon (dimethoate). It should be applied to trunk and branches the first of June so that the larvae encounter it as they try to burrow into the tree.

Trees should be fertilized and watered to maintain active growth. Some overwintering larvae can be destroyed by pruning out and burning dead branches in early spring.

The most promising control appears to be a small, parasitic wasp which is capable of boring through the bark with its ovipositor to lay an egg on the borer larva. Research is now in progress to find ways of rearing and establishing this beneficial predator.

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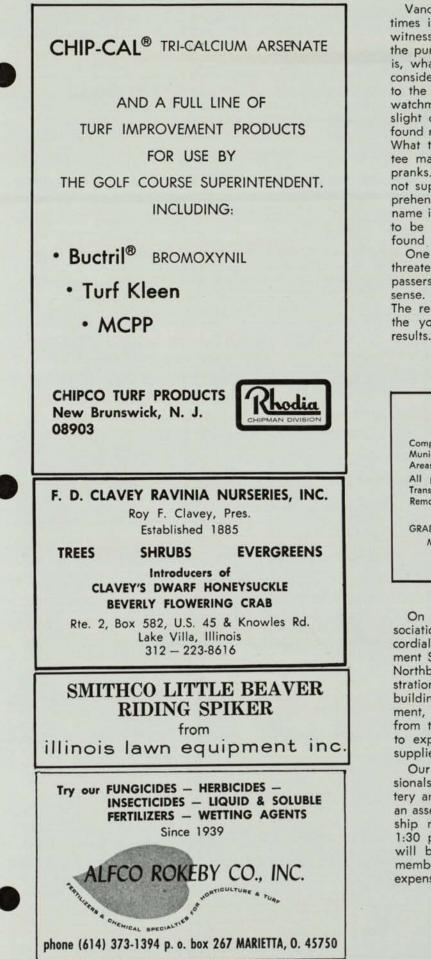
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Vandalism is an oft discussed subject and many times in a "can you top this" manner. Everyone has witnessed varying degrees of damage and it's not the purpose here to describe or itemize. The problem is, what to do about vandalism. If the act is one of considerable damage, it should of course, be reported to the authorities and repeated acts might justify a watchman. More pesky, however, are the thefts and slight damage cases. Usually the stolen pin may be found nearby or heelprints in greens quickly repaired. What to do? Very little! Remove pins, ball washers, tee markers, signs, etc. on nights with a history of pranks. If you find someone on the course who is not supposed to be there, you should not bodily apprehend him, it can only be bad for you. Get his name if you can and explain that he is not supposed to be there and if vandalism is discovered, anyone found in the area will be booked by the police.

One of the worse solutions is to harrass and threaten, this only serves to antagonize the trespassers and they may cause real damage in your absense. Besides, it is very difficult to carry out threats. The reasonable approach is best. Good rapport with the young people in the area will produce good results.

by Roger LaRochelle

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On behalf of the Midwest Park & Recreation Association and the Northbrook Park District, you are cordially invited to attend the 1972 Outdoor Equipment Show on Tuesday, July 11th, Meadowhill Park, Northbrook, Illinois. This show will include demonstrations of all types of turf maintenance equipment, building supplies, turf supplies, playground equipment, etc. We are sure your membership will benefit from their attendance and will have the opportunity to express their needs and interests to the various suppliers.

Our efforts to expand this show include professionals and laymen involved with golf courses, cemetery and school maintenance programs and should be an asset in making the show a success. Your membership may attend this show between the hours of 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guests of the membership will be welcomed. A registration fee of \$3.00 for members and guests will be charged to cover the expenses of the show.

> Very truly yours, NORTHBROOK PARK DISTRICT JOE H. DOUD Park District Manager