

THE EXTENSION LINE

Bob Mugaas of the University of Minnesota Extension Service is a regular contributor to *Hole Hotes*. As Hennepin County Extension Agent, Mr. Mugaas compiles various articles related to the golf field for our information. Bob is an excellent source for answers to many questions on horticultural problems. He may be reached at 612/542-1420. Written requests should be sent to:

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This month's articles cover Nectria Canker and the Honeylocust tree, Bronze Birch Borer, Concern on Pesticides.

NECTRIA CANKER CAN DAMAGE HONEYLOCUST

by Cynthia Ash
Assistant Extension Specialist
Plant Pathology
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Honeylocusts are beautiful trees which many homeowners are adding to their landscape. Unfortunately, a disease called nectria canker is causing loss of branches or entire trees. The nectria fungus invades

wounds--many of which occur during planting--and continues to invade and kill tissues as long as the tree is under stress. Stress can be caused by transplanting, lack of root establishment, improper care, and adverse environmental or soil conditions.

Several steps can be taken to prevent nectria canker damage to honeylocusts. First, plant fully hardy selections in good locations. Before purchasing the tree check the trunk for mechanical damage. Avoid purchasing damaged trees. Plant the tree properly and encourage its growth and establishment by regular watering. A wood chip mulch around the tree's base helps retain moisture, reduces competition from the grass and keeps lawn mowers and weed whips away from the trunk.

BRONZE BIRCH BORER DAMAGE IS EVIDENT NOW

by Jeffrey D. Hahan
Assistant Extension Specialist
Entomology
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Birch trees under attack by the bronze birch borer should be exhibiting symptoms now. Branch dieback, due to

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