

Battling pond weeds

In Landscape Management, Aug 98, there was an article on Storm Water Ponds. We have one and have planted pond vegetation on the edges. My problem is how to kill the undesirable plants that come up in deeper water just out from the desirable plants.

—ARIZONA

According to the people in our Conservation Sciences division, there may be a way to control unwanted aquatic vegetation in your storm water pond with little or minimal damage to the desirable vegetation that you planted. As with any 'weed' problem, it is important to know what the weeds are and then determine the best product for treatment.

If the storm water pond is small, it may be difficult to selectively treat aquatic weeds without impacting the plants you want to keep. However, if it is determined that herbicide treatment can be used, application can be selective by carefully placing the herbicide on target plants and avoiding non-target plants.

There are many publications available on the topic of aquatic plant control. A good place to shop for information is on the web site of the North American Lake Management Society (www.nalms.org). A helpful publication published by NALMS is "Aquatic Plant Management in Lakes and Reservoirs," 1997. Information on how to obtain this booklet can be found on NALMS web site.

(ed note — see another

available reference in Oct. '98 LM Info Center on page 40.)

Tree losing bark

I planted a 5 ft. Katsura tree 3 years ago. The tree has grown about 1.5 ft. and gets full of leaves each spring and new growth. The bark from the ground up to about 1 foot is split and peeling with exposed trunk that is cracking. Part of the lower bark is discolored or darkening. This seems to get worse each year. The tree is located in full sun. Is this from normal growth? If not what do I need to do to save this tree?

—NEW JERSEY

The problem is probably related to sun scald and bark splitting which is common on Katsura and other thin-barked trees.

On sunny days in winter, a tree trunk may be warmed as much as 20°F above air temperature, particularly on the southwest side. If the bark temperature drops quickly to a critical level, injury or death to the bark and cambium of sensitive trees may occur. This is called sunscald though it is actually a freezing injury. Reports indicate that shading a trunk or painting it with white latex exterior paint can moderate daily temperature extremes and reduce the potential for sun scald.

Lower trunk splitting may also be caused by frost cracks although trees 6-18 inches in diameter are more likely to be affected than either larger or smaller trees. From your explanation, the tree in question is

much smaller. Frost cracks are typically associated with internal injury and decay.

Improve plant health through proper fertilizing, mulching and watering as needed. Monitor the plant for any insect and/or disease problems and manage these problems as needed. You may wish to consider wrapping the tree trunk for the winter and removing the wraps in the spring to help protect the tree from temperature extremes.

Ash Flower Galls

Ash trees in our area look bad every year due to a type of gall. We noticed that the problem occurs mostly on male plants. What could this problem be and how can we manage it?

—ONTARIO, CANADA

Sounds like ash flower gall, which is caused by eriophyid mites. This disease attacks the staminate male flowers of white ash. The flowers develop abnormally and form very irregular galls. These galls dry out, forming clusters which are conspicuous on the trees during winter.

Consider treating the plants with Sevin after the buds swell and before the new growth emerges in spring, or apply horticultural oil during the dormancy. Sevin is effective on eriophyid mites. Several applications may be needed.

Read and follow label directions for best results. **LM**



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SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

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