



Save your tree from summer stress

By Brian Borkowicz, Davey Tree Expert Company

Pests, summer storms, disease and drought all pose a risk to your trees during warmer months, but you can toughen your timber for seasonal stresses.

Bug and pest activity rises in summer months, and among the more common pests in the Midwest are the Japanese beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Signs of damage from Japanese beetles are most commonly seen in foliage of tree canopies of more than 300 species, including birch, littleleaf linden, crabapple, purpleleaf plum, and Japanese and Norway maples. EAB infestation is visible in the bark of ash trees and includes S-shaped tunnels under the bark and D-shaped holes in the bark.

Bite Bugs Back

Adding a predator, even the average songbird, to an insect's environment can help lessen the chances of your trees falling prey to a bug. You can attract birds simply by hanging extra bird feeders in a yard. For severe infestations of harmful insects, pesticide applications may be necessary.

Proactive Pruning

Pruning a tree offers several benefits. Removing dead, weak, diseased, or insect-infested branches can open up the tree canopy to let air and light in for better disease prevention. Trimming also is a good means to thin the tree canopy and reduce the wind, thus reducing the forces that could potentially break branches.

Strong branches will withstand high winds, but weak branches will likely break and fall. A certified arborist can use cables to strengthen weak branches or limbs and reduce the damage caused by high winds.

Drought Management

Signs of drought stress include wilted foliage, yellowing, and premature fall coloration. The solution is slow, deep watering for mature trees every five to seven days and every two to three days for young or newly planted trees.

If you watch for the signs of summer tree stress and take the right steps to keep your trees healthy and relaxed, then you too can enjoy a worry-free summer. For more information, visit Davey.com.