

Alpha Nursery & Garden

Center Newsletter

2018 ISSUE 3

JUNE, 2018

Insects and Disease—What Should I be Looking For?

With spring finally here, along with the grass turning green and needing mowing, flowers beginning to bloom, and leaves appearing on trees, there are insects and plant diseases that will be arriving to attack the grass, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Usually we don't notice them until we notice that something is wrong. Here are some things to keep an eye out for to help you diagnose and treat before it becomes a real problem. Part II



Gray Mold

Scale

Spruce Bud Worm

Insect and Disease- What Should I be Looking For?	1
What's Happening?	2
Your Monthly Checklist	2
Notable Quotes	3
Flowers Build Positive Attitude, Study Shows	3
What's at Stake—Is Tree Staking Important?	4
Did You Know?	5
Coupon	5

Grey Mold is a fungal diseases that attacks the leaves, flowers, and fruit of certain plants. This mold will usually show up in periods of high humidity or a lot of moisture. With the spring rains and thunderstorms, you may see this show up. You can treat with a Fungicidal spray available at the nursery. Try to keep air circulation available around the plant by removing excess leaves and weeds around the plants. Proper air circulation will help to reduce the onset of Gray Mold.

Scale are tiny insects that attach themselves to the plant sometimes forming a tent like 'scale' covering to protect them from insect seeking bugs and birds. They suck the sap from the plant robbing the plant of essential nutrients. If feasible, cut off the branches and burn them. If there are too many, there are effective insecticidal treatments available.

Spruce Bud Worms will be showing up any day in our area. The worms hatch and will eat the new growth on Tamaracks, Spruce, and Fir. The can eventually kill a tree by destroying all of its new growth. After many years if a tree is not allowed to put out new growth, it will severely weaken the tree and make it susceptible to disease, insect attacks, or death. Treating with a spray or a drench for smaller trees and tree injections for larger trees is the best treatment. The sprays and drench are available at the nursery and tree injections are available from our Landscape division by appointment.

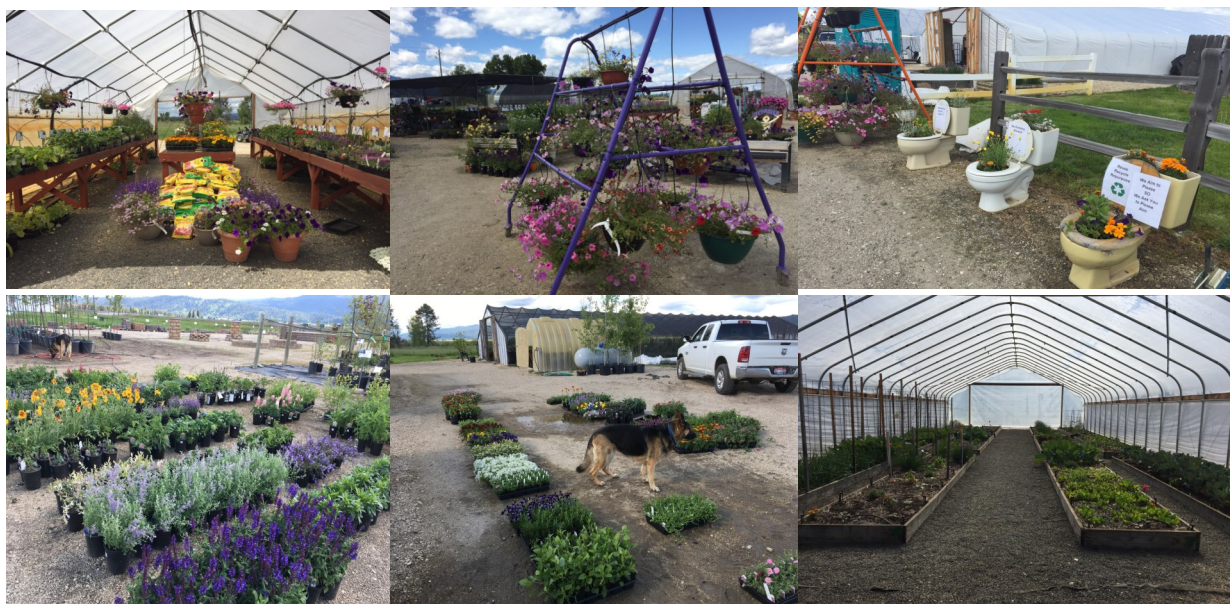
More Pests and Diseases in next month's issue—Part III

What's Happening?

We just received our last Spring Load and plants are quickly coming out of the overwintering Hoop House. Our tables are full with vegetables and annuals.

Our All Organic Garden in the High Tunnel is growing very well. We have fresh lettuce veggies daily. Follow us on Facebook for daily postings of Freshly Picked Organic Produce.

Our 12th Annual Alpha Days is coming up on June 30th!! Free lunch, Music, and buggy rides with the Clydesdale Horses. Don't Miss it!!



Your Monthly Checklist

What should you be doing this month?

This is a checklist of items that may or may not pertain to you or what you do in your yard or garden. It is meant as a guide to help you be better prepared for this month and next.

- Do a check on your sprinkler heads to make sure they are not hitting the house or deck. Adjust as needed.
- Start checking for signs of insect damage, especially borers, pine beetles, pine and spruce tip weevils, and aphids. (See last month's article). Spruce Bud Worm, Woolly Adelgids, Scale and mold diseases. (This month's article)
- It is safe to plant any seeds and planting any seedlings that you haven't planted yet.
- Keep an eye out for frost, Sign up for this newsletter and receive Frost Alerts when they occur. Get your frost protection items ready—check your frost cloth and covers for tears or wear and replace or repair if needed.
- Spray or treat your yard, driveway, and beds for weeds. They will be growing like crazy right now. Set up on a every two week schedule to keep them under control.
- Keep your yard and garden watered when the temperatures warm up. We have been getting fairly frequent rain with the thunderstorms as of late, but we will warm up and the rain will slow down or stop. Within a few days yards and plants can start to show signs of the ground being dry, especially if you have sandy soil.

Notable Quotes

"You know you are a hard-core gardener if you deadhead flowers in other people's garden" Sue Careless

"What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade" Gertrude Jekyll

"Life begins the day you start a Garden" Chinese Proverb

"There are many tired gardeners but I've seldom met old gardeners. I know many elderly gardeners but the majority are young at heart. Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized. The one absolute of gardeners is faith. Regardless of how bad past gardens have been, every gardener believes that next year's will be better. It is easy to age when there is nothing to believe in, nothing to hope for, gardeners, however, simply refuse to grow up." Allan Armitage

Flowers Build Positive Attitude, Study Shows

People feel more compassionate toward others, have less worry and anxiety and feel less depressed when flowers are present in the home, according to a behavioral study conducted at Harvard University.

Society of American Florists and Flower Promotion Organization partnered with Nancy Etcoff of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School to explore the effects of flowers on people.

"As a psychologist, I'm particularly intrigued to find that people who live with flowers report fewer episodes of anxiety and depressed feelings," Etcoff said. "in all, our results suggest that flowers have a positive impact on well-being."

Study participants reported feeling more compassion toward others, less negativity and experienced an energy boost.

Participants were most likely to place flowers in kitchen, dining rooms and living rooms—areas where they spend the most time at home.

Garden Center Magazine April 2007

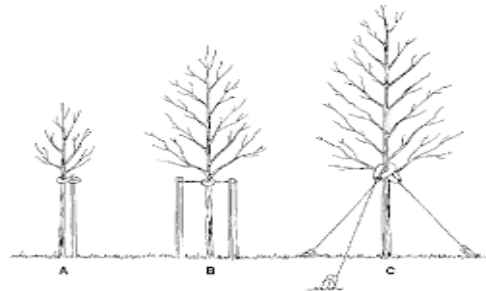
For a list of Flowers for a Cutting Garden that you can grow yourself, go to www.alpha-nursery.com/plants-for-cut-flowers.html

What's at Stake—Is Staking Trees Important?

Newly planted trees do not have the root system yet established to keep the tree from blowing down or leaning in extremely windy conditions. And here in the mountains we can get some strong winds.

Tree stakes will maintain your tree in an upright position while its root structure begins to form. This will take about 1 year. At that time, the tree stakes should be removed and your tree will have a strong root system established.

The proper way to stake a tree is with a tree stake kit or with tree stakes and chain. You may use metal posts or other available posts that you already have. You may use old hose and wire in place of chain. **MAKE** sure that what you use, i.e. wire or cable does not come in direct contact with the tree trunk. It will cut and damage the tree. Allow the tree to have several inches of free movement in all directions. This free movement helps to stimulate proper root development. If you do it too tightly the tree will not properly develop its root system and may topple when the stakes are removed.



Proper Staking Methods

When you purchase a tree at a nursery, remove any stakes that come with the tree. These stakes are for the stability of the tree in the pot and should not be used as staking when in the ground.

Additionally, there are some things that you don't want to do.

- Staking trees too high
- Staking too tightly
- Staking too long (over a year)

Improperly staking a tree will cause the following:

- Tree will grow taller but with decreased trunk size
- Develop less trunk taper
- Develop a smaller root system
- Suffer rubbing injuries on the trunk
- Choking with tight tree ties
- Be more likely to snap in high winds after the stakes are removed.

If you need additional help or instructions we would be glad to help! We carry all of the staking accessories for properly staking trees.

Sue Wisbey

Did you Know? Plants Positively Impact People

- Plants are known to reduce energy consumption, childhood obesity, crime, community infrastructure repair costs and the number of pollutants in the air we breathe.
- Plants increase home values, business appeal, commercial property occupancy rates and community cohesion.
- Plants speed the healing in the sick, help children develop socially and emotionally and make our streets safer to drive on.

Greenhouse Grower August 2013

Nature In, Stress Out

The idea that visiting green spaces lessens stress and improves concentration is not new. Previous studies have shown that children with attention deficits tend to concentrate and perform better on cognitive tests after walking through parks or arboretums.

A new study from researchers at Heriot-Watt, University in Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh published in *The British Journal of Sports Medicine* took these theories to the streets for actual man-on-the-street testing.

For the study, researchers attached new, portable EEGs to the scalps of 12 healthy, young adults that sent brain wave readings wirelessly to laptops carried in backpacks by volunteers. Volunteers were sent on short walks of 1.5 miles winding through three sections of Edinburgh: half a mile through an older, historic shopping district with light traffic; half a mile through a park-like setting; and half a mile through a busy, commercial district with heavy traffic and concrete buildings. Walkers moved at their own pace, finishing in approximately 25 minutes.

The study found that mental arousal and frustration instantly registered on brain wave patterns in the busy commercial district, while meditative, quieter brain waves registered as walkers strolled through park areas.

The brain doesn't shut down in green spaces; it relaxes, study authors explain. The study suggests that one should consider "taking a break...and going for a walk in green space or just sitting or even viewing green spaces from your window", Roe says. "It's likely to have a restorative effect and help with attention fatigue and stress recovery."

Excerpts by Nicole Wisniewski Turf Magazine May 2013



Do you have any suggestions, comments, or would like to see a specific article or information in an upcoming newsletter? Please email your requests or comments to Sue Wisbey. Email address is alphanursery@hotmail.com.