

## 10 Reasons to Plant Trees This Fall

1. Trees conserve energy in the summer which helps save you money!
2. Trees help clear the air.
3. Trees provide cover to songbirds.
4. Trees planted around your home can increase its value by up to 15% or more.
5. Trees help clean our rivers and streams.
6. Trees conserve energy in the winter.
7. Trees fight global warming.
8. Trees make your home and your neighborhood beautiful.
9. When you plant trees, you support small and large nursery businesses.
10. Benefits from planting trees in your landscape occur immediately and continue on for years.



*Philip McHenry received a WVNLA Scholarship to help with his education at the WVU Landscape Architecture Program. He is in his third year.*

## Tidbits, Updates, Etc.

- We will continue offering a classified ad section in the November of 2009 issue. It's your opportunity to share with the membership and make some cash.
- MANTS (Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show) date: January 6-8, 2010.
- WVNLA 2010 Winter Meeting, Thursday,

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN Oak Wilt Disease

*Ceralocystis fagacearum*  
Prepared by The Davey Institute  
courtesy Ed Legge, Davey Tree

**SYMPTOMS:** This disease is characterized in the **red oak** group (red, black and pin oaks) by a sudden wilting and premature defoliation of the leaves at the top of the tree (Figure 1 and 2). Wilting can progress rapidly downward through the crown. Some oaks, such as the **live oak**, have leaves that develop brown veins

but green tissue remains. Early foliar symptoms are wilting, bronzing, and shredding of leaves at the end of the branches. The bronzing begins at the tip and outer margins of the leaf blade and spreads to the midrib and base. Leaves tend to curl around the midrib. Many leaves fall before they become totally discolored. Trees in the red oak group completely defoliate within three to six  
(continued on page 2)



Figure 2. Early leaf drop of brown, green and monied leaves is a sign of disease.



Figure 1. Sudden wilting of terminal branches in canopy is typical.

January 21, Embassy Suites, Charleston  
Featuring Anne Raver, *The New York Times* Garden Columnist; Daniel & Charlotte Peters, Longshadow Planters; Plants, Trends, and New Ideas; Bugs & Thugs; Becoming a Better & More Creative Thinker and much, much more. Mark your calendar!



*(Oak Wilt Disease continued)* weeks after initial wilt symptoms occur. Live oaks defoliate over a period of three to six months and may live up to a year with the infection. The white oak group is infrequently affected, but symptoms include a slow wilt of individual branches. Leaves usually remain on the tree and only the terminal portion of affected leaves turn brown. Discoloration of annual rings (infected sapwood) (Figure 3) can occur, but is less commonly detected as an internal symptom in the red oak group.

**CAUSE:** Oak wilt is a vascular disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus spreads locally from infected trees to nearby healthy trees through root grafts.

Long distance spread may occur through the feeding and breeding activity of sap feeding beetles and wood boring insects such as the bark beetle. Insects spread



Figure 3. Symptoms are discolored leaves and sometimes vascular streaking ill the sapwood.

the disease by carrying spores from fungal pads formed under the bark of infected trees. Natural wounds or pruning cuts on healthy trees can attract spore-carrying insects during flight periods in the spring.

For laboratory confirmation, send samples of branches (1/2" diameter) that show symptoms, but are still green, from an area that is near a wilting portion of the canopy.

**SOLUTION:** Pruning and trimming oaks in the spring and early summer should be avoided as fresh wounds attract sap-feeding beetles. If pruning is required during spring, the wound should be covered immediately with a tree wound dressing to temporarily minimize attraction of fungus-carrying beetles. An insecticide application to the entire tree would provide better protection.

Mechanically trenching or placing a chemical barrier around infected trees can prevent the spread of this disease through root grafts to nearby healthy trees. Trees that have been positively identified with oak wilt should be immediately removed and the wood removed from the property. Wood to be used for firewood should be covered with clear plastic for at least one summer to heat-kill fungal mats or bark beetles. *(continued)*

Trunk-injections with a registered fungicide labeled for the suppression of oak wilt may be effective on live oak, northern red oak and northern pin oak as a preventative treatment.

## New Season at WVU

A new season of learning has begun at West Virginia University. Monday, August 24th marked the beginning of the Fall Semester at WVU. There is a lot of excitement on campus this fall. We will be interviewing for a new horticulture faculty position and construction will begin on the new greenhouse facility on the WVU Evansdale Campus. We also have hired Dave Davis, WVU Horticulture Alumni, in a teaching faculty position. He is going to assist in increasing current course offerings and creating new courses for the horticulture program.

The new faculty position comes to us from the support of our own Dean Cameron Hackney of the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences. This effort is to strengthen the new Landscape Management emphasis within the Horticulture major. The Landscape Management emphasis is already popular and we are seeing an increase in students entering this major each year. This position will also strengthen our ornamental production emphasis as well by freeing up more of my time to focus on ornamental production. The newly modified major also requires an internship so if you are looking for interns please let us know!

The demolition phase is almost upon us for the WVU Evansdale Greenhouse. A new \$ 5 million (approximately) facility is going to be built on the same site where the current glass greenhouse is located. This facility is a partnership with the US Forest Service allowing the USFS to have research greenhouse space in Morgantown. The new facility will be constructed out of glass and will include a new headhouse with two state of the art teaching classrooms. This facility is also applying for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and will make WVU the second in the nation (Portland State University in Portland, OR is the first) to have an environmentally 'green' academic greenhouse.

Progress has been made on the new WVU Teaching and Research Nursery located in Morgantown. The 2 acre perimeter fence has been installed and cold frame structures will begin construction this fall. We are



going to have a blast in HORT 441 Nursery Management this coming spring. The students are going to get an opportunity to design and install various aspects of nursery production including structures, irrigation systems and plantings. We are also going to begin plant trials in the WVU Nursery this coming year!

WVU Horticulture students had the opportunity to compete in the PLANET Student Career Days (SCD) 2009 events at Cal Poly in Pomona, CA this past March. Our team didn't rank in the top 10 but we still appreciated all of the support that the WVNLA offered our team. This was a second year competing and we ranked higher than last year! I was very proud of our students for the service they gave the community. Prior to attending PLANET SCD 2009, our students decided that it was more cost effective to purchase tools in CA instead of packing them onto the plane from WV. As a faculty advisor, I suggested to the team that we should contact the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter (Pomona Valley) and see if they would accept a tool donation. They were delighted that we thought of them and accepted our donation promise. During the competition I asked other faculty members that had traveled by plane what they were going to do with their tools after the competition. When I suggested that they join our donation to Habitat for Humanity, they told me that it was a great idea. The WVU team collected all of the donated tools following the Landscape Installation Event and delivered them Sunday morning following the closing SCD ceremonies. Instead of just delivering 2 shovels, one bow rake, one push broom and one tamper; we were able to donate 40 shovels, 23 metal bow rakes, 8 push brooms and 2 tampers.



We filled the entire back of their pickup truck. Personally, I was happy to see our students giving back to such a great community organization. While we were in California we were able to tour the Valley Crest Tree Company in Fillmore, CA. Valley Crest

Tree Company is the largest producer of containerized nursery and specimen trees in the west with 800 acres of growing grounds. They produce containerized trees from sizes #15 to 72" boxes. The students were very impressed. After the visit I wished WV was in a USDA hardiness zone 8 so we could grow and use *Arbutus x 'Marina'*. This is a hybrid of unknown origin resembling *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree). I think I will begin working on the hardiness of this tree! I also took them through the Santa Ynez Valley Appellation just north of Santa Barbara, CA for a vineyard tour which was enjoyed by everyone. We stopped at Fess Parker (star of the Davey Crockett TV show) Winery, too bad Fess wasn't around. We wish you were all there with us! We are all excited about this new academic year and thank the WVNLA for all of the support to make such wonderful events happen for the WVU horticulture students. Thanks WVNLA!!!

**Todd West, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Horticulture  
West Virginia University



*above and left: the WVU group, looking like proud Mountaineers in California!*

## Why Not a Rain Barrel?

Did you know that you can save over 1300 gallons of free water during the year, depending on which part of the State you live in? By using a rain barrel, you can easily achieve this goal!

Rain barrels have become a household item when it comes to conserving water, energy, and money. The barrels are designed to collect and store the rain water from your roof which is normally diverted to storm drains or the ground area under your downspout.



*(continued on page 4)*

A basic rain barrel system consists of a covered storage tank (barrel), a secure lid, a basket strainer or screen, and a spigot or a drain valve. A garden hose can then be attached to the spigot for easy use. The most common plastic rain barrel used by a resident is 55 gallons, and with larger commercial sizes designed to hold over 1000 gallons.



The first step in deciding the size of the rain barrel that fits your need or your client's need, is to determine your demand for water and how many plants will need water. A large watering can equals approximately 3 gallons of water. The location of the rain barrel will also determine the size of the barrel.

The rain barrels come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and different materials. (remember, rain barrels are a functional element in the landscape, not a focal point, so choose your style and location carefully if possible).

Why not offer a new service to your clients? Offer a consultation, which will provide them with your advice on location, size, color, and then implementation of the barrel system. By offering this new service, you are providing a better approach to helping the environment plus your client!

#### **Links for Rain Barrels:**

[www.cleanairgardening.com](http://www.cleanairgardening.com)

[www.RainBarrelSource.com](http://www.RainBarrelSource.com)

[www.rainbarrelsandmore.com](http://www.rainbarrelsandmore.com)

[www.ne-design.net](http://www.ne-design.net)

[www.gardenworms.com](http://www.gardenworms.com) (image above is from their site)

## To Treat or Not to Treat that is the Question

By Jody Wilson EAB Regulatory Officer

By now many of us are well aware of the emerald ash borer, arch nemesis of the Ash tree, and if you have an ash tree in your yard you may have been wondering what options are out there for this tree and its future? Should you just go ahead and cut it down now, before it's affected? Replace it with another shade tree? Maybe just wait until it dies naturally? Or are there any treatment options

out there?

Well, you can do any of the above.

If you elect to treat your ash trees there are a lot of things to take into consideration before you begin to treat your yard trees.

1. Treatments are costly and you don't want to waste your money on unnecessary applications. If emerald ash borer has not been found within at least 10 - 15 miles of you your trees are at low risk, so wait to treat. (Remember, however, that once a county is quarantined, maps for that county are no longer updated).

2. Is your tree a good candidate for treatment? If your tree is severely compromised, regardless of the cause of its poor conditions, it is not a good candidate for treatment, it needs to have at least 50 percent of its canopy.

3. Because pesticides must be applied every couple of years they are best-used to protect high value trees or to keep individual ash alive until non-susceptible replacement trees are large enough to provide shade benefit. (The cost of chemical protection may quickly exceed the cost of removing and replacing them.)

If you elect to treat your ash trees, there are several insecticide options available.

Emamectin benzoate is the only product tested to date that controls EAB for more than one year with a single application. It also provided a higher level of control than other products in side-by-side studies. They should be applied between Mid-May and Mid-June. This type of application can only be done by a tree professional.

Imidacloprid soil drench can be applied by the homeowner. It is applied yearly and the applications made in the spring or the fall has been shown to be equally effective to the imidacloprid trunk injection (which must be performed by a professional). Soil injections should be no more than 2-4 inches deep, to avoid placing the insecticide beneath feeder roots. To facilitate uptake, systemic trunk and soil insecticides should be applied when the soil is moist but not saturated or excessively dry. The advantage to this treatment is it requires no special equipment for application other than a bucket or watering can.

There are also Trunk sprays and cover sprays which are marketed but have not tested as well as the Emamectin benzoate and the imidacloprid

Property owners should take the long term cost of prevention into account when deciding



whether to use pesticides to protect their ash trees from EAB since treatment is required every couple of years for an indefinite period.

## The WVNLA and You

Benefits of WVNLA membership include:

- Networking
  - Certification Programs
  - Scholarship opportunities
  - Member promotion through MANTS attendees
  - Bi-monthly Newsletter
- WVNLA's primary goal is to conduct educational seminars throughout the year. The seminars present internationally recognized authorities, providing inspiration for our members to become leaders in the industry. Seminars are presented at no cost to members and provide you with the opportunity to receive continuing education credits for state mandated certificates.

We cooperate with and support the West Virginia Department of Agriculture programs. We provide a bi-monthly informational newsletter and timely announcements on issues important to our members. We contribute information useful to the Horticultural Research Institute (see [www.anla.org](http://www.anla.org) for research goals).

In order to promote fellowship and share knowledge and expertise among members, we conduct meetings and tours throughout the state.

On a regional level, WVNLA co-sponsors the annual Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show along with the Maryland and Virginia NLA's. This nationally recognized event showcases and facilitates sales of Green Industry products. As a co-sponsor, WVNLA receives funds that directly benefit our members.

On a national level, we contribute to the ANLA Lighthouse, ANLA-PAC and other governmental relations programs that benefit the Green Industry.

We invite you to become a member and take advantage of our benefits. Contact us on the web at [www.wvnla.org](http://www.wvnla.org) (where you can print out an application) or by mail at Box 20284, Charleston, West Virginia 25362

Thank you for your interest in WVNLA.



## Calling All Writers

Several of the articles in the issue were contributed with assistance and encouragement from our members. Thanks.

If any WVNLA member would like to contribute an article and/or photos to the newsletter, please contact Beth Loflin. You may email or snail mail either. Please make sure photos are high resolution for print.

We want to spread the news and share the images of our members businesses and projects. Keep us up-to-date about you. contact:

Box 20284, Charleston,  
West Virginia 25362  
304.553.1234 [www.wvnla.org](http://www.wvnla.org)

## Members Highlighted!

Jeff Edwards and Justin White of Premier Nurseries and Landscape Supply, llc in Westover, West Virginia, pictured below, became members of WVNLA in the past year. Keep up the good work and we are pleased to have you participate. Second photo is of their nursery.



## Awards Received, Memorial Dedicated

The Ohio Guyan District of West Virginia Garden Clubs, which represent 21 clubs in seven area counties, dedicated the state's 58th Blue Star Memorial Marker to honor men and women who have served the country since World War II.

This district also received the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. Presidents Award for placement of the most Blue Star Memorials in a District. Many of these were made possible with grants from the WVNLA!

The marker shown was placed at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Huntington, because of its dedication to serving veterans.

The West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. recognized our organization with special thanks to Mark Springer for his assistance. They have indicated that the garden continues to thrive and is regularly monitored and cared for.

Congratulations and thanks to West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. for their dedication.

