



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 2 2020



Photo by Keith Anderson



Bonnie Fermanuik

I hope you are all staying healthy and working safely.

We are working in some strange times as the Covid 19 lockdown comes to an end and the relaunch of "normal" life begins, and all learn new safety protocols.

This season has been different so far. From an excess of work and reduced staffing levels, to little or no work, extreme weather conditions (very wet, dry, cool and severe storms). Sadly, some areas in Calgary have been hit hard once again with some pretty severe weather. It is with all these varied conditions that we look to climate change, plant diversity and new research to help us into the future.

Conference

Both our local chapter and ISA International are looking for ways to assist our membership in services and educational opportunities. International has changed their conference to December 15 -17 and will be offering some virtual components to the Annual conference watch for details.

On the local level we have cancelled the fall conference but we will conduct our AGM virtually. We are investigating the possibilities of also offering some virtual Webinar sessions. Stay tuned.

TCC

Another unfortunate Covid-cancellation is our Tree Climbing Competition that was planned to be on the grounds of the Saskatchewan Legislature this coming August. We are very excited to be in Regina at that same location in August of 2021.

Chapter Bookstore

Our Executive Director, Keith Anderson has been keeping a good selection of Certification study guides, reference books and training DVD's at the office. This saves the membership from the hassles of importing and shipping from the US. Call 866-550-7464 to order.

Don't forget, if you have specific interests, ideas, or questions, contact your provincial Director or the office to those to be considered by the Prairie Chapter Board.

Hope everyone gets a summer holiday and time to enjoy the family.



Submitted by Maureen Sexsmith-West

Meet Professor Elwood Pricklethorn

Happy Spring Time. It seems that the world has been turned upside down and inside out since the conference back in mid February. I am vowing to keep positive about things as our personal health and survival is all about diligence at this point. We have to plan for the long game and listen to the experts.

Harkening back to the conference, my personal highlight always revolves around my Pricklethorn PEP rally at a local school in the host city. This year I was thrilled to have been invited to Mountsfield Public School. We decided that 2 presentations would cover the grade 2 to grade 5 classes. I owe a special thanks to London Horticulturalist, Pamela Cook and principal, Matthew MacGregor.

My PEP presentations are always fast paced, highly interactive and strategically animated with various props. Knowing that attention spans are tight, I quickly drill down to the benefits we get from urban trees and the 101's of how trees work. As a conference presentation bonus, I was able to talk Lethbridge Alberta Arborist (and Canada TREE Fund Director), Maureen Sexsmith-West, into doing a special appearance during my segment "what and who is an arborist". Maureen was all geared up and explained that being an Arborist is both a rewarding and viable career option for both boys and girls. She expanded on some of the various career directions within urban arboriculture.

The Mountsfield students brought excellent energy and that energy definitely elevates the presentation. Any time you can bring laughter and some comic relief into a structured teaching process you will make some long-lasting learning moments.

One of my favourite segments of my presentation is always the Q and A section at the end. I am never sure what quite to expect and I always have to be on my toes. My Q and A caveat is always, "if I don't know the answer, I'll get back to your teacher with the right answer". Although some of the queries tend to be statements and stories, some of the questions literally stop me in my tracks. The in-depth details of the questions will often send me running to Google. Looking back, some of the more memorable ones include:

Q: You said that tree suck up water to grow. Do they also suck up and use the soil?



(Continued on page 3)

A: No. Soil is not taken in by the tree but the tiny microscopic minerals and nutrients within the soil are. A good quality / fertile soil helps the roots grow and stabilize in many ways.

Q: Why do some trees have fruit and others don't.

A: The actual fruit is what protects the seeds. Other trees have seeds with no protection. Some trees even have seeds with wings so that they can "fly" a further distance!

Q: Could you tell me the difference in day time release of Oxygen versus the night time release of CO2?

A: (Directed to the teacher) Why didn't you tell me that these students are PHD undergraduate Students? We're talking net loss right? Well, it is very close but over time the daytime amounts of Oxygen released are higher than the night time release of CO2. Phewww, NEXT QUESTION!

Q: What would happen if there were no trees?

A: We don't even want to think about that! But think about all the benefits and good things that trees do that we talked about today. It would be very difficult to live in a world without trees.

Q: Everyone says cutting trees down is a bad thing. So why do arborists cut trees down?

A: In Urban areas the number one reason we cut trees down is for safety reasons. When they simply have no strength to hold themselves up, we have to bring them down safely and then we ALWAYS do our best to replant the right tree in the right place.

Q: What is your favourite tree?

A: The Scots Elm. It's big, bold and majestic. Because of its vase shape, it's also very challenging to climb.

Q: What happens when trees don't get any water?

A: Remember that big word Photosynthesis (it means mixing light)? Water is a crucial ingredient needed for that and if they don't get water (H2O) then they can't photosynthesize and may even die.

As the old saying goes, when you teach you learn! If you ever get a chance to introduce trees to students, I urge you to jump on it. Prepare yourself for some out of the box questions and always brief yourself on the "est" factor. The biggest, smallest, oldest, tallest, strongest and any other "est's" you can think of.

And most importantly, at this time, take care of yourself. Science, research, intelligence and diligence will lead us back to solid ground. In trees we trust!

PEP

<http://www.professorpricklethorn.com/>



Save the Date

These two events have been cancelled due to Covid 19.

Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Competition
CANCELLED

Will be August 28, 29, 30 at Wascana Park in Regina

The Prairie Chapter Annual Conference
CANCELLED

October 19 and 20 in Regina at the Atlas Hotel



Save the Date

The Covid-cancelled **Certification Exam** that was to be held at Olds College on May 2 will be rescheduled shortly.

Check

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/examDatesAndLocations?mode=exams>



Save the Date

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Workshop and TRAQ Renewal

The Edmonton TRAQ Workshop that was Covid-cancelled will be rescheduled shortly.

Check Workshops at www.isaprairie.com



ASCA's

Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification (TPAQ)

Check the Workshops button at www.isaprairie.com for upcoming TPAQ training



Submitted by
Maureen Sexsmith-West

Greetings from the Canadian TREE Fund.

There is no doubt that we are all facing the most challenging times that we have ever experienced. Along with the likes of the Great Depression (4 years), WW1 (4 years), the Spanish Flu - 1918 (2 years), WW2 (6 years) our current crisis threatens our well being on many levels. We are just 4 months into this and there's strong evidence that our daily sacrifices are saving lives as we forge onward into this new "normal".

The Canadian TREE Fund Board of Directors hope that everyone is keeping up with their physical and mental health. Both the isolation and the dark unknowns can take a toll on us and our family, as well as in our workplaces. We are getting bombarded daily with new information and theories about the virus; however, we must comply and act upon the medical advice that we know to be factual from the accredited medical experts. Knowing the ebb and flow of the tree research world, we cannot fathom the amount of collective brain power working on vaccines and related therapeutics that are all generated from intensive research and trials ongoing in every corner of the world. Perhaps some of the prophylactics may even be derived from the plant world.

Fund raising for the CTF will be challenging this year to say the least. Each year we count on you to rally behind our mission of providing funding for innovative basic / applied research and related educational initiatives. It is the constant search for new techniques, best practices and unlocking knowledge that keeps our industry moving forward.

Plans are still moving ahead for the Tour des Trees in Colorado in late August. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RIDERS BY MAKING A DONATION TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

So here we are, spring 2020, facing unprecedented adversity at home, and at work and also with our various passions and commitments. Our "normal" world has been turned upside down and inside out. This is when we have to learn to harvest the value in adversity. There will be value in this colossal episode that perhaps may not reveal itself to us now or even next week, but we will push back on this adversity and strategically work towards our goals all the while keeping our selves a pole pruner away from potential COVIDS contacts.

The value in adversity is that it presents an opportunity to sort the good from the bad and recalibrate our professional and personal values to a system that works best for our own personal and professional circumstances.

We at the Canadian TREE Fund know it will be a challenging year for us as well. We too will be looking inward and recalibrating our goals.

Lastly we would like to recognize both the brave Health Care workers as well as the dedicated frontline workers that have made the world go round in the past few months. This crisis has propagated a new type of hero and they walk amongst us every day.

I hope our next missive won't be as somber. Be diligent and keep healthy.

Warmest wishes to all - Board of Trustees

NOTE: The Tour des Trees has since been Covid-cancelled for 2020.



Support Urban Forests by supporting the Canadian TREE Fund

By Toso Bozic of Yard Whispers www.yardwhispers.ca

Springtime needle discoloration on previously healthy evergreens is often a result of some form of winter injury. There are many reasons why evergreen trees and shrubs turn brown and change colour or loose needles. Many environmental conditions such as winter desiccation, salt, frost, drought, flood, soil deficiency and many others environmental factors are sometimes the cause of needle and leaf discoloration and not necessarily insect or diseases.

Key to correctly diagnosis of evergreen browning is careful tree or shrub examination. You may start with branches as colour change of the foliage may be the most obvious symptom. Following branches examination next thing to check are the roots and trunk as they may give clues as to the exact cause of the problem. If tree is large using binoculars you may perform careful inspection of the tree crown to see if there is any physical damage by porcupine, birds and hail. Next examination should be performed on the ground to look for any roots and trunk damage but also possible soil compaction, salt



and chemical damages may also be necessary to find the possible reason for the discoloration.

Winter damage and its severity can look different depending on tree the species. Cedar leaf scales fade from green to light tan or reddish-brown, while needle tips of spruce and pine turn brown. Winter damage may occur on different part of trees and affect a just few branches, at the treetop, on one side or even the entire tree. The tree could lose most of its needles and die.

It is very important to keep in mind that many trees and shrubs even after losing many needles may survive winter damage and recover after few growing seasons. The best way to find out if branch is dead or alive is using following simple method. If tree branches are still bending and green they will flush out and new needles will grow back. If tree branches snaps they are dead and no new growth will occur.

Winter hardiness as well as plant species, soil drainage,

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5)

location and environmental conditions are some factors to consider for tree selection choice regarding to winter damages on trees and shrubs.

Winter injuries can include:

Winter desiccation – is caused when water leaves the tree needles faster than it is taken up. During winter, coniferous needles still lose a miniscule amount of moisture into the air. Meanwhile the root system is frozen in the soil and cuts off water supply to the tree. Water loss is greater on windy days and mild sunny days. Heat from the sun increases the temperature of the air causing the stomata to open and lose that water. This injury can damage or be deadly to many species of coniferous trees.

Sunscald – is happened when winter temperature fluctuations cause injury by damaging the bark of hardwood

trees. It rarely kills the tree, but the damaged bark then becomes an entry point for insects and disease. Young trees with thin bark can suffer from sunscald, but many types of fruit trees, as well as ash, oak, birch and



willow are also affected.

Cold temperature damage – is happened when high fluctuations in temperatures during the winter

months causes this damage, and not a prolonged winter. In Alberta we experience a temperatures shift from – 40 C to 10 C relatively quickly. Generally dry soils are more likely to damage roots than soils that contain a good moisture supply. Root injury may be worse during winters with little snowfall. Winter root damage may not be noticed until the following summer when the plants suddenly turn brown and die.

Tips to minimize winter injury:

- First help is to water evergreens in the fall. Adequate fall watering is the most beneficial for the tree. A slow water flow around the trees' drip line for several hours will provide enough water for those roots to survive winter and early spring.
- Water in the early in the spring once the ground thaws.

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(Continued from page 6)

- Use mulch to keep moisture around trees. Wood chips or other mulch – five to 12 cm thick – will keep moisture longer in the roots zone.
- Use hardy plant varieties recommended for the specific horticultural zones of the province.
- Do not plant trees and shrubs around near buildings or other reflective structures.
- Consider fertilizing trees following harsh winter conditions, but stop using nitrogen or any other fertilizers after June.
- Do not wrap evergreens with burlap or plastic. Warm and sunny winter days will increase the internal temperature. This high temperature may damage warmed tissue when severe cold follows. Plants wrapped this way may also break dormancy.

Yard Whispers is a consulting company owned and operated by Toso Bozic Edmonton



Salt Tolerant Tree and Shrub Species

By Toso Bozic of Yard Whispers
www.yardwhispers.ca

Planting trees along roads and driveways requires an additional consideration due to potential salt damages and injuries that will occurring during their lifetime.

Trees affected by salt will have stunted appearance and reduce growth as well as many will succumb due to higher dose of salt in soil or on tree itself. It is very important to plan ahead and plant trees that are best suited to handle higher amount of salt that they can be exposed. You must understand biology, growth, and site requirements for each species planted along roads or driveways.

It is crucial to plant more salt tolerant species along roads and driveways as they will protect less salt tolerant species from salt damages. Less winter hardy plants are more susceptible to salt injuries. If you plant trees along very busy roads, start with salt toler-

ant shrubs if space allows, as first line of defence; following salt tolerant trees and further away the trees that are least salt tolerant.. A little planning ahead will save you a lot of headache down the road and will allow you have a long lasting shelterbelts/trees around your property.

It is important to keep in mind that all species of plants, shrubs and trees are affected by salt; some are able to tolerate greater salt levels than others but it will still affect them.

There is NO tree or shrubs suitable for high and extremely high saline soils or in area where annual road de-icing or dust control will accumulate high level of salt in soil.

Some of these trees and shrub species can be very invasive and it is crucial to check with local authorities to see if you are allowed to plant them on your property.

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 7)

Trees and shrubs rated to salt tolerance as high, medium and low:

High salt tolerance: Silver buffalo berry and Sea buck-



Russian Olive—Google Image

thorn Russian olive, Rocky Mountain juniper and, Austrian pine.

Medium salt tolerance:

Caragana, Spreading juniper, Snowberry, Villosa lilac, Hawthorn, Chokecherry, Mountain Ash, Ponderosa pine, Green ash, Manitoba maple, Siberian elms, Laurel leaf willow, and some apples

Low salt tolerance: Raspberry, Rose, Dogwood, winged euonymus, Spirea, Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir, balsam fir, Cottonwood, Aspen, Birch, Little-leaved linden and Larch

For more information:

Toso Bozic P.Ag, ISA Certified Arborist
Phone (780) 712-3699 bozict@telus.net
www.yardwhispers.ca or www.attsgroup.ca



By the time you get this, DED Awareness Week will have passed, but its still great info to copy and share with your customers anytime. *Editor*

Dutch Elm Disease Awareness Week is recognized annually throughout the province of Alberta from June 22- 28. The intent is to raise awareness on how destructive Dutch elm disease (DED) can be, the importance of elm trees to our communities and landscapes, and that DED can be prevented. The Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) is asking for your assistance to save our beautiful elm trees from this deadly disease and help protect this valuable resource.

At present, Alberta has the largest DED-free American elm stand in the world. However its borders are being pressed from two sides by Saskatchewan and Montana, both of which are battling the disease. Once an elm is infected with DED there is no cure and it must be removed and destroyed immediately.

DED is caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water conducting system, causing the tree to die. The fungus is primarily spread from one elm tree to another by three species of beetles, the smaller European, the native and the banded elm bark beetle. The beetles are attracted to weak and dying trees, which serve as breeding sites for the beetles. Once the beetles have pupated and turned into adults they leave the brood gallery and fly to healthy elms to feed, thus transporting the fungus on their bodies from one tree to the next. Using

(Continued on page 9)

Help keep Alberta Dutch Elm Disease free.

DON'T PRUNE ELM TREES FROM APRIL 1 TO SEPT 30

The elm bark beetle, which transports the DED fungus, is attracted to fresh wounds on elm trees. The Alberta elm pruning ban prohibits pruning when the beetles are most active.

- Do not store elm wood
- Ensure wood is properly disposed of at a landfill or by burying, chipping, or burning it immediately



Prevention starts at home.

www.stopded.org • 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)



Government
of Alberta

(Continued from page 8)

traps and lures, monitoring for the beetles is done annually in municipalities and camp grounds throughout Alberta by STOPDED. The smaller European elm bark beetles have been found throughout the province in low numbers since 1996. In recent years the banded elm bark beetle has been found, first in the City of Medicine Hat in high numbers and now in more municipalities in southern Alberta.

Leaves on a DED-infected elm will wilt or droop, curl and become brown. This appears in mid-June to mid-July. Leaves on trees infected later in the season usually turn yellow and drop prematurely. Leaf symptoms are accompanied by brown staining under the bark. All DED suspect elms must be tested in a lab. A confirmed DED tree must be removed and disposed of properly immediately to prevent further spread.

During DED Awareness Week, please take a moment and find out how you can help save our elms.

What can you do?

- Be aware of the Provincial elm pruning ban between April 1st and September 30. The beetles are most active at this time and can be attracted to the scent of fresh tree cuts, possibly infecting a healthy elm.
- Keep your elm trees healthy, and vigorous.
- Water elms well from April to mid-August. To allow the tree to harden off for the winter, watering should be stopped mid-August followed by a good

soaking or two before freeze-up.

- Remove dead elm branches as they can provide beetle habitat only between October 1 and March 31st.
- Dispose of all elm wood immediately by burning, burying or chipping.
- Report all suspect trees to the DED Hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS.

What you shouldn't do!

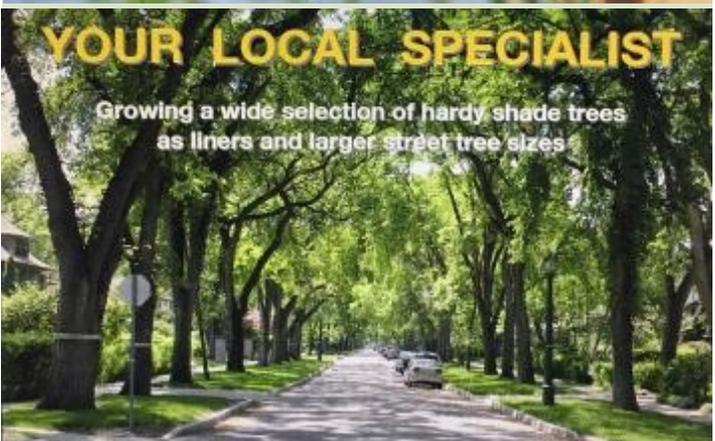
- Do not transport or store elm firewood at any time!
- Do not transport elm firewood into Alberta! Firewood is confiscated at all the Alberta-Montana border crossings.
- Do not prune elms between April 1 to September 30.

DED and the beetles are declared pests under the AB Agricultural Pests Act and these prevention measures are enforceable under this act.

To report a DED suspect elm tree or for more information, call the STOPDED hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS or check out the web site at www.stopped.org.

Our elms are a treasure that we cannot afford to lose. We must stay vigilant to keep our elms healthy.

Janet Feddes-Calpas
STOPDED Executive Director



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How Tree Climbing Competitions Made Me a Better Arborist

By Cory Petry, KYTCC Chair

If I could point to one thing that spawned Limbwalker's culture of safety and professionalism, it would have to be our involvement with the Kentucky Tree Climbing Championship (KYTCC) and the broad community of tree climbers that frequent other chapters' TCCs.

A Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) is not just a recreational event where climbers ring bells in trees and rescue dummies, there are real world applications for a production tree worker.

I started in the tree care industry in 1999, in Louisville, at a company with a good local reputation for quality and safety. I started Limbwalker in the fall of 2004 and became a Certified Arborist in 2005. With six years in the trade under my belt, I thought I was pretty good and had this tree climbing thing figured out.

My good friend and business partner, Chris O'Bryan, who had already been the State Champion for several years, suggested I register to climb in the 2005 KYTCC. I did, and was promptly reminded that I was not as good as I thought I was. But I was hooked...

Since that first TCC, I have spent untold hours focused on tree climbing and how to improve both my production and competition skills. That effort has earned me six KYTCC championships, six trips to the International Tree Climbing Championship to represent the KAA, and a 2012 ITCC medal for the Throwline Event.

For me, competitions and production tree work come together around building safe work practices and using energy efficient techniques that allow us to move through trees quickly and access places we may not otherwise reach.

Thanks to the internet, access to information has opened up new possibilities by connecting with arborists around the globe. More than anything, TCCs have allowed me to meet and problem solve with some of the greatest tree climbers in the world.

4 ways TCCs will make you better...

1. Improving Work Practices...

A common way to dismiss competitive tree climbing is to label its participants as not doing "real" tree work. People who compete and volunteer at TCCs come from the private, municipal, and utility corners of the tree industry. The common thread is that they all tend to be focused on constantly improving the level of quality and safety in the tree care industry.



The truth is that this is a diverse community of professionals, gathered for more than camaraderie and fun. TCCs are an opportunity to come together and share ideas and new developments for safer, more ergonomic work practices. Ultimately, this leads to fewer injuries and longer careers.

2. Exposure to Innovation...

There are not many places besides a TCC where you will see regional and international tree care professionals using the most advanced tools available.

The "tricks" that competitive climbers develop to get an edge can transfer straight to the job site and give the

production climber an edge. Someone has a faster, easier way into the tree. Another climber may have a faster, safer way out of the tree!

The atmosphere of support and creativity that permeates TCCs makes for a unique opportunity for climbers, to learn from experts and build their professional community.

3. Light a Fire!...

Tree work is hard. Every year the trees get taller and we get older. It is easy to get burned out, exhausted, and lose sight of professional goals. TCCs are a great way to rekindle your fire for improvement and inspire your professional career in ways you could have never anticipated.

4. Mentoring...

Since getting involved with TCCs in 2006, I have found myself transitioning from being primarily a learner to becoming the veteran and occasional teacher. Teaching others is an opportunity that can reap rewards for the learner and the teacher. Like a great teacher of mine taught me... a good teacher is also a good learner, and a good learner is also a good teacher.

Lastly, my favorite thing about the KYTCC, is that it is OUR tree climbing championship! It is our opportunity as the Kentucky Arborist Association, to show the world what a professional tree climber in Kentucky looks like and to show ourselves how much better we can become!

At this time, the 2020 KYTCC is scheduled for October 16-17th at Shelby Park in Louisville.

For updates to the KYTCC regarding the novel coronavirus, please check the KAA Calendar.

For information on volunteering, competing, or sponsoring the KYTCC, please contact me via email at: training@limbwalkertree.com

Researchers Turn to 'Sentinel Trees' to Warn of Destructive Pests, is reprinted from Treehugger www.treehugger.com
By Michael d'Estries

China and Switzerland said [in a study published in Plos One](#).

desperate need for new tactics to prevent future losses.

In an effort to receive advanced warning of destructive pests that could wreak havoc on native plantings, researchers from Europe, the United States and China are growing "sentinel trees" in strategic locations around the world.

"Sentinel nurseries represent one potential mechanism to address the current lack of knowledge about pests in the countries from where live plants are shipped and the threats they represent to native flora and crops in importing countries," researchers from universities in Italy,

As global trade intensifies, the risk

The [emerald ash borer](#), introduced into the U.S. from its native range of northeastern Asia, has killed off hundreds of millions of ash trees throughout the country at an estimated cost of nearly \$11 billion. The American chestnut, estimated to have numbered between 3-4 billion trees at the turn of the 20th century, is today represented by only a few hundred specimens due to the accidental import of a destructive bark fungus.

for accidental import and exposure to new invasive pests is a constant worry for entomologists and arborists. Cases past and present illustrate the

The [spotted lanternfly](#), first discovered in the U.S. in 2014 and free from natural predators, continues to feed unchecked on 70 plant

(Continued on page 12)



Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) Photo by Jana Shea

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(Continued from page 11)

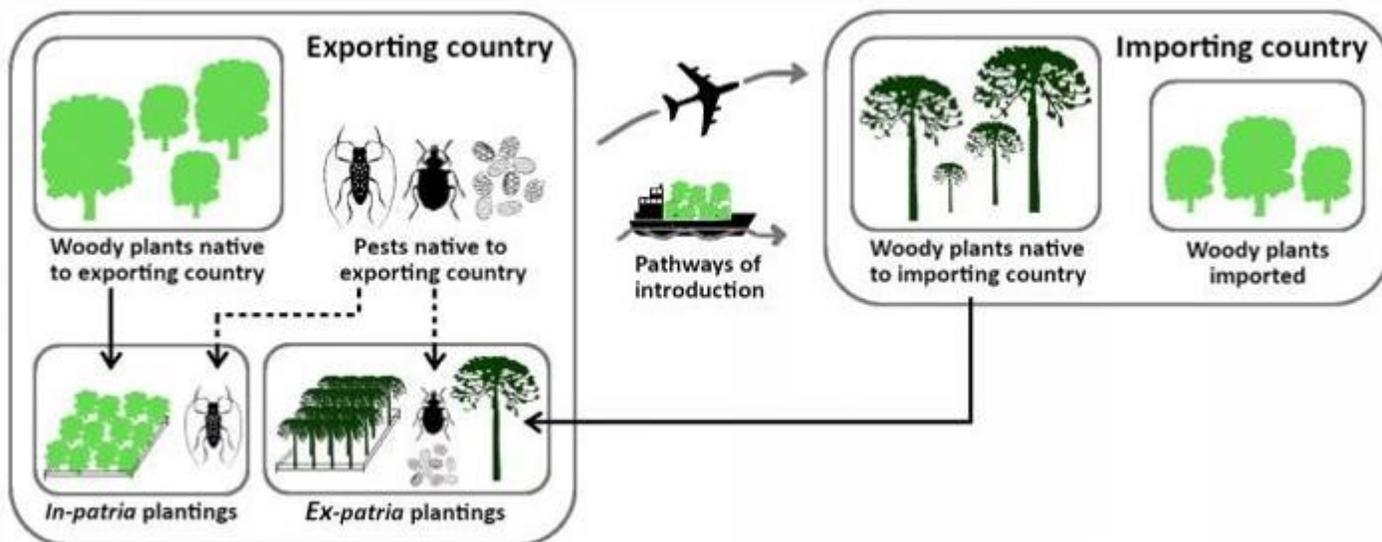
species, including grape vines, fruit trees, ornamental trees and woody trees.

A leafy canary in the coal mine

According to [Gabriel Popkin of ScienceMag](#), scientists

turn, regular observations would help inform a quick response.

"Hopefully, with a strong enough network of sentinel trees, we can achieve early detection of new tree pests and work to eliminate them before they can become established," the group states.



Schematic representation of sentinel planting types in an exporting country, identified by the origin of the planted trees. (Photo: Eschen, R., O'Hanlon, R., Santini, A. et al. Safeguarding global plant health: the rise of sentinels, CC by 4.0)

have established sentinel groves comprised of European and North American trees in China. Plans are also underway in Europe on a \$5.5 million initiative that would fund the collaborative plantings of additional early-warning species in North America, Asia and South Africa. A grove of Asian trees has also been promised for later this year in the U.S.

In addition to gauging the impact of foreign pests on native trees, sentinel nurseries have also helped researchers uncover pests that might arrive with commonly traded species. [A 2018 study of two sentinel nurseries in China](#) containing five popular -- and regularly exported -- ornamental plants discovered that 90% of the 105 insects recorded on the species "had not been found in a previous literature survey of insect pests of the five plants."

Eyes on the forest

In addition to international efforts, local initiatives are also underway to monitor native species for any unusual changes or pest stresses. Michigan State University Extension's "[Eyes on the Forest](#)" program trains volunteers to monitor "adopted" sentinel trees across the state. Should the characteristics or health of these sentinels take a

10 HORROR MOVIES WHERE THE FOREST IS THE MAIN CHARACTER

From 'Blair Witch' to 'Cabin Fever,' these are the films that made you tread lightly in the woods.

What is it about those gnarly branches, those piles of fallen leaves crackling lightly in the breeze, the miles of foliage that seem to conceal a world of foreboding secrets beneath their limbs?

Indeed, there's something about the woods that really ensnares the horror-loving masses. With their ethereal sounds and unpredictable landscapes, forests are often featured as a setting for some of the horror genre's most popular flicks, from the classic "Friday the 13th" franchise of the 1980s to Netflix's "The Ritual" just a couple years ago. If you're looking for an excuse to never go camping again, look no further than these 10 films.

FRIDAY THE 13TH (1980)

What better place to set up camp than a forest with a history of homicide? This stomach-churning slasher from 1980 amassed a huge fanbase, effectively making Jason Voorhees one of the most iconic horror characters in the genre's history. The subsequent franchise served only to prove that viewers just can't stop scaring the bejeezus out of themselves.

THE EVIL DEAD (1981)

In the first of Sam Raimi's groundbreaking trilogy, "The Evil Dead" proves that not only should you never sleep in the woods, but you shouldn't read old books there, either. The

classic supernatural film, originally released in 1981 and remade in 2013, saw five college friends (why is it always college friends?) finding an old book and inadvertently unleashing a world of evil upon reading it out loud. Unspeakable bloodletting ensues.

MISERY (1990)

Sometimes, the forest isn't the source of the evil; it's the people inside of it. In Rob Reiner's movie adaptation of Stephen King's novel "Misery," an author is held captive by an obsessed fan who takes him to her home in the woods and forces him to write stories for her. When she discovers he has tried to escape, she breaks his ankles with a sledgehammer, uttering the now-famous phrase, "It's for the best."

THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT (1999)

As the movie that's widely considered a pioneer in the "found footage" trend, "The Blair Witch Project" put the woods squarely in the role of antagonist. With this technique, the viewer is meant to feel each scene in a more visceral way than has ever been filmed before, from the creepy unexplained cracklings of leaves outside the characters' tent at night to the complete middle-of-nowhere-ness the viewer feels watching the characters try to escape but just keep circling back. All told, "Blair Witch" left you shook, before we knew what "shook" meant.

CABIN FEVER (2002)

The condition that embodies this film's title is supposed to make you feel restless, but it's not supposed to kill you ... or is it? In the horror-comedy "Cabin Fever," released by Eli Roth in 2002 and pointlessly remade in 2016, a group of college grads contract a flesh-eating virus while camping. What follows is perhaps summed up best by Toronto Star film critic Peter Howell: "You've got to love a horror movie that wears its bloody influences so happily on its sleeve, and then proceeds to roll it up and start swinging the axe in a different direction."

The suspense, the gore, the thrills, the chills ... it's all going down in the woods. (Photo: Gabi Moisa/Shutterstock)

THE STRANGERS (2008)

Isolation rules the day in "The Strangers," the 2008 slasher that follows a young couple whose stay at a vacation home is disrupted by three masked criminals. From the very first scene of the film, the home becomes more and more sparse as seen from outside the car window, signifying just how helpless the victims will be. Jeannette Catsoulis of The New York

Times noted the film's ability to "smartly maintain its commitment to tingling creepiness over bludgeoning horror."

CABIN IN THE WOODS (2012)

Sometimes, the best horror movies are the ones that poke fun not only at themselves, but at the genre they represent. In the case of "Cabin in the Woods," first-time director Drew Goddard expertly balanced the unexpected frights of the woodland with the predictable pitfalls of using this setting so frequently. "One of my things about the horror genre in particular is there is no better genre for social commentary without seeming too pretentious," Goddard told The Hollywood Reporter in 2012. "There's something about having zombies in your movie that makes everything OK."

MAMA (2013)

When children are found after a long disappearance, it's supposed to be a happy, joyful occasion ... right? In "Mama," sisters Lilly and Victoria vanish in the woods after the death of their parents. Five years later, the girls are found alive in a decaying cabin, and their aunt and uncle welcome them into their home. What

isn't welcome, however, is the mysterious force that seems to have followed them from their life in the woods, the unknown entity they still call "Mama." Do they want to know who Mama is? Is she even real? Can they send her back from whence she came? It seems only the forest knows.

THE WITCH (2015)

Set in 17th-century New England, "The Witch" follows a banished Puritan family as they're thrown into panic and despair after the disappearance of their newborn son, Samuel. What follows is an anxiety-invoking, progressively palpable series of frights, blame and, of course, murder. The New York Times called it "a finely calibrated shiver of a movie."

THE RITUAL (2017)

If you loved "The Blair Witch Project" but didn't love the nauseating camera work, David Bruckner's "The Ritual" may be the adventure you're seeking. Shot in the woods in Sweden, the psychological horror film follows four young men who reunite for a hike through the Scandinavian wilderness after the sudden, violent death of their friend. They soon realize this is no friendly reunion, as they encounter a malevolent deity that forces them to face the darkness inside themselves.

Compiled by Georgia Pacific



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Some Anderson kids Kellyn, Julie and Jake.
Jake is 6', so is the tree.



She's a beauty, but it is retrenching and coming apart. Her reign has come to an end. Need to find Saskatchewan's new biggest tree.



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