



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 2 2022



LaRue Tree's Arbor Day in Vegreville Alberta



Toni Newsham
President

Finally it's spring. It took it's time getting here, but finally we're in it and the Prairie Chapter also has a full roster of events again.

Coming up is the **Tree Climbing Competition** on August 27 & 28 in Regina, SK. After two years, we are thrilled to have the Chapter

climbers back together for competition, camaraderie, education, and pure fun! But this isn't just for climbers. If you are a part of the arboriculture industry, or a student in the industry, we would love to see you there.

This event doesn't happen without an immense amount of work and planning, and to ensure this event runs smoothly, we need a large number of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please check out the ISA Prairie chapter website for volunteer forms or keep an eye out for ISA emails.

In October, in the City of St. Albert, AB, the **Prairie Chapter's annual Conference** is back on! More details will be coming out shortly. This is the first time back in a long while and we look forward to all who will be there, to make connections again, reunite with friends and colleagues, earn CEU's, and learn something new!

Two other important topics to think on...

The Prairie Chapter Board is taking a more deliberate move forward in recognizing our members, organizations, and Arborists through awards. Along with the distribution of this newsletter, there is an **Awards Nomination form** for those who would like to nominate individuals or organizations in our chapter.

Currently, we have five awards to give and we know our chapter contains people deserving of this recognition!

Lastly, in June of 2021, the **Prairie Chapter Women in the Trees** event was more successful than any of us thought it could be and we want to make this a regular event! We'd also like to plan similar events that would offer our chapter something different and new. But like the competition, it takes an immense amount of work, so, thanks to Charlene Scott, we are making a call out to those who would like to be a part of this committee.

Check out the *Call for Volunteers* and contact Charlene if this is up your alley!

I've asked for a lot of help this time, but I do know that there are a lot of you that have already given your time and effort to make these events possible, and for that I thank you!

Don't forget to check out the PCWT call for Committee Members and the Chapter Awards Nomination form, included with this email.



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Save the Date

Certification Exam

There is a paper based exam planned for Sunday October 16 just prior to the conference in St Albert

All Arborist Certification candidates are encouraged to write their exam on line

Apply for eligibility here:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Apply-Now/Apply-for-Eligibility>

Enroll to write the exam here:

TRAQ Workshops

There are no TRAQ Workshops available in the Prairie Chapter at this time.

Please check the Website for upcoming workshops

<http://www.isaprairie.com/traq-workshops>



Save the Date

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Requalification

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<https://www.isa-arbor.com/events/eventscalendar/index?category=ISA+Qualification%20Renewal>

For more information please call the
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866-550-7464



Save the Date

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is planning a live
Conference to be held in
St. Albert, AB
October 17 & 18 2022

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network and bump elbows with your
Fellow Arbs

More information to follow as the planning
unfolds



ASCA's Tree and Plant
Appraisal Qualification
(TPAQ)

This course is being revised and is expected
to be available in 2023.

There are no workshops at this time.



2022 Prairie Chapter



The 2022 Prairie
Chapter
Tree Climbing
Competition
is planned for

August 27, 28 in Regina, SK.

Registration forms for climbers
and volunteers are at:
www.isaprairie.com

By George Szilagyi and Shenae Borschneck

Many trees have a tough time in the urban environment, and Edmonton is no different. From infill homebuilding to road and utility work, various work activities cause stress, damage and even loss of public trees.

The greatest number of instances of tree damage we see is to the roots. This is not surprising; as roots are out of sight, they are more likely to be forgotten or their location misunderstood. Many people know that the mass of roots below ground is approximately the same mass as the trunk and canopy above ground; however, these roots are not a mirror image of the crown. The majority of the roots are located within the top 30 cm of the soil and can extend widely, over twice the height of the tree. This means significant root damage can be caused even when working what seems to be a reasonable distance from trees. This is especially so when working near trees in constricted areas such as boulevards, where the root mass is concentrated in the narrow boulevard, resulting in very dense root presence. This increased root density results in increased root damage per unit area in boulevards.

Related to roots is the soil that current and future roots need to survive. Soil structure near trees impacts the quantity of water, nutrients and oxygen available to tree roots, as the pore space between soil particles provides room for water and air flow within the soil. Pore space is where the fine feeder roots access air and water. The weight of vehicles, equipment, and construction materials can easily destroy soil structure by compacting the soil.

When soil compaction occurs, the pore space within the soil is reduced as the soil particles are pressed together. Compaction not only destroys existing roots, but prevents future root growth in these areas. The long-term storage of materials including soil during construction can also cause root suffocation.

In light of these ongoing risks and damages, to help preserve and protect City trees, Edmonton City Council passed the **Public Tree Bylaw** on August 30th, 2021. The bylaw came into effect on May 1st, 2022 and only applies to trees located on City-owned land. Under the bylaw, a Public Tree Permit is required for any work done within 5 metres of the trunk of a Boulevard and Open Space Tree or within 10 metres of a Natural Stand boundary.



While public tree permits in some other municipalities focus on steep fees, fines and deposits, Edmonton has developed a system that focuses on protecting the trees before damage occurs, rather than penalties after the damage is done. The intent of the bylaw is not to prevent people from working around or near trees, but to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to preserve and protect trees when working nearby.

Permit applications will include the submission of a Tree Preservation or Tree Protection Plan to be approved by a City of Edmonton Urban Forester.

A Tree Protection Plan is a plan to prevent tree damage by installing physical protection measures immediately around City trees and their root zones (tree protection fencing and anti-compaction measures). The plan will identify all City trees within a defined work area and include details like, minimum protection distance required around the City trees, installation of physical protection measures for trees and their root zones, access points, property lines, and expected timelines. Tree Protection Plans are fairly simple to create, and resources such as videos, templates and examples are being created, and will be available on the City of Edmonton website to assist applicants in the creation of Tree Protection Plans. For additional assistance, applicants can call 311 or email treepreservation@edmonton.ca to consult with an Urban Forester.

A Tree Preservation Plan is a plan to conserve and protect City trees from damage, impacts or loss when work including excavation is occurring nearby.

A Tree Preservation Plan will include the fencing and anti compaction measures of Tree Protection Plan, plus additional measures that will help to promote tree health and survival in the context of excavation. It will include actions to promote tree health before, during, and after the work activities, details about site conditions and the proposed work activities themselves. As Tree Preservation Plans are more in depth and wider in scope, they require professional sign-off from a member of an approved professional designation (including ISA-certified arborists).

Anyone can apply for a Public Tree Permit, through the

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City of Edmonton's online Self-serve portal, where many permits can be obtained. When applying, there will be questions around whether the work is occurring within five metres of the trunk of a Boulevard and Open Space Tree or 10 metres of a Natural Stand. Applicants will be guided to submit either a Tree Protection or Preservation Plan.

The Public Tree Permit-holder will be responsible for ensuring that the conditions under the permit are being met at all times by anyone working on the site, and the permit must be produced on site when requested (digital copies presented on a smartphone will be accepted).

If a Public Tree Permit is not obtained or a Tree Protection or Tree Preservation Plan is not followed, a person may be liable to a fine of \$1000 or more, and can fine up to a maximum of \$10,000 under the Municipal Governance Act. Bylaw Officers will have the discretion to double fines daily, and Foresters can even suspend a permit if activities are seriously damaging City property.

Fine amounts are not intended to recover the value of tree loss or damage. In the event that a City tree is damaged or lost, the City may also seek equitable compensation based on the value of the tree and the extent of

the damage. Equitable compensation is essentially the canopy replacement cost.

With regards to enforcement, the focus when this bylaw comes into effect will be education and engagement rather than enforcement where there are instances of non-compliance. This will be a new process for everyone, and not everyone will have had the opportunity to educate themselves on the new permitting requirements, so it will be a steeper learning curve for some than it is for others as the season progresses. The City of Edmonton Urban Forestry realizes this, the Bylaw team recognizes this, and it will inform our approach moving forward.

Nevertheless, it is a new era for tree protection in the City of Edmonton. None of this happened overnight. Over the past few years, Urban Forestry and other City units, directed by City Council, conducted various jurisdictional reviews, public engagements, stakeholder engagements, pricing studies and service design reviews. Under the bylaw, the requirement of a Public Tree Permit will serve as a consistent, effective and enforceable mechanism for tree preservation and protection when work is taking place near City trees.

If you are interested in finding out more, visit the webpage at Edmonton.ca/TreePermit.



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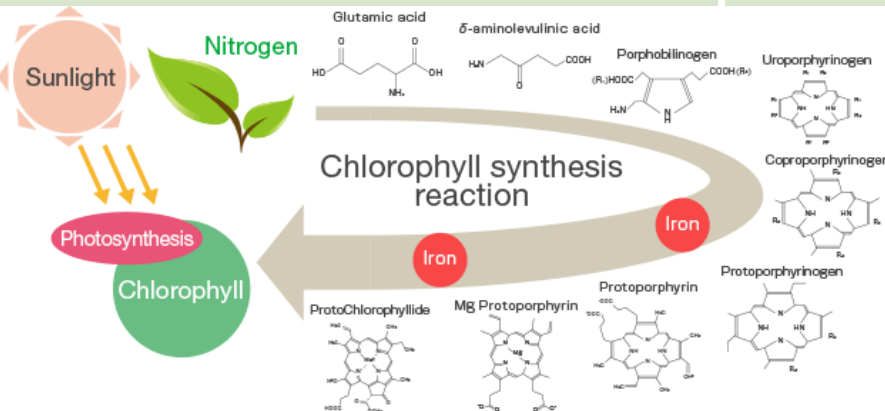
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Submitted by Bob Ermtter

Iron deficiency chlorosis is a common problem in trees and shrubs in western Canada. Plants may have difficulty in absorbing enough iron in our high lime or calcareous soils. Additional conditions which can induce iron deficiency include high soil (alkalinity), excess moisture along with low soil temperature. The first symptom is a gradual yellowing of the tissue between the veins on younger leaves while the veins themselves tend to stay green. If unchecked this condition may advance throughout the plant causing the tips and margins of some leaves to turn brown. It is possible to have an af-

fected and healthy tree of the same species side by side.

Iron is one of the elements that are the building blocks used to create organic compounds that make up plant tissue or drive growth processes. Iron is crucial to plants because it is a component of certain enzymes and proteins that are used during photosynthesis.



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Submitted by Toso Bozic

In the summer of 2020, I received a phone call and pictures of this rust disease from a private landowner in the Slave Lake area. I obtained samples of this rust and sent them to the Alberta Provincial Plant Health Lab as well as the Canadian Forest Service (CFS).

Dr. Tod Ramsfield from CFS took the lead to further investigate this rust with colleagues from the University of British Columbia as it was very unusual to see rust on flowers as well as on larger stems. It usually develops on leaves.

Dr. Ramsfield from the CFS wrote to me "The provincial lab results were the same as the results we obtained, giving it the ID of

Melampsora epitea. We were able to compare DNA sequence data with some herbarium samples and found identical DNA from a sample from Manitoba, and a close match with a sample from the Yukon.

My conclusion was that the pathogen has been collected in Canada before; however, it is concerning that it has recently been observed in Vegreville and Wainwright. The uredia on branches and catkins, as well as leaves, is what makes it interesting / different " .

It seems to me that this rust so far has only been found on ornamental willows and not native willow. We have many ornamental willows planted in shelterbelts, acreages, villages, towns and cities around Alberta. The impact of this rust dis-

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All pictures in this article were taken by Shelby Oracheski

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ease is still unknown on these trees. The only thing that landowners can do is to remove infected branches by pruning followed by disposal. Further information is pre-



sent on the CFS web site.

<https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/diseases/factsheet/287>

Attached are photos taken by Ms. Shelby Oracheski – Assistant Ag-fieldman from MD of Wainwright.

If you notice this rust please let us know so that we can determine where and how far it has spread in Alberta ornamental willows.



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THE PRAIRIE CHAPTER TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 – DAY ONE

PRELIMINARY EVENTS: 9 AM – 5 PM

WORK CLIMB

Contestants climb to five stations in a tree, performing a different task at each station

AERIAL RESCUE

Contestants reach and safely lower an injured climber
(actually a life-sized mannequin)

THROWLINE

Tests contestants' ability to accurately
place lines 30 - 60 feet up in a tree

BELAYED SPEED CLIMB

Contestants ascend a predetermined route from ground to about 60 feet.

ASCENT EVENT

Measures climbers ability to perform a 50 foot + vertical ascent.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 – DAY TWO

MASTERS CHALLENGE: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

The Masters' Challenge is the championship round of the competition. The top men and top women finishers from the preliminary round advance to the Masters' Challenge to compete for the title.



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Keep Alberta DED free

- Under the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act (APA)* "Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR)" the Dutch Elm Disease (DED) pathogens, smaller European elm bark beetle, and the native elm bark beetle are named declared pests.
- DED prevention/control measures for Alberta are enforceable under the APA and are found on the STOPPED website.
- Elm trees from a DED infected province cannot be shipped into Alberta.
- Elm Pruning Ban is April 1-September 30 annually.



Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease

www.stoppeded.org 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)

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Weight of the World: How Information Overload is Normalizing Climate Change and its Implication for Urban Forestry Communication

Following the release of the latest IPCC report on climate change, TV news programs and newspapers were inundated with information on the current and predicted devastated that will be brought about by climate change. Highlighting pictures of devastating forest fires and flooding, journalists and politicians speak of a best-case scenario which still includes large-scale changes to normal life on earth. The effects of climate change on various forest ecosystems and the Earth more generally are taught in primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools, a widely agreed upon necessity.

For many arborists and urban foresters, knowledge of the climate change mitigation benefits of trees has prompted calls for their protection across the urban area. Public knowledge surrounding the benefits of trees for climate change mitigation is pronounced, and multiple studies have found that people are aware of carbon storage and sequestration benefits. With the hopes of increasing mitigation efforts, tree planting programs

have skyrocketed, ranging from community-scale endeavours, such as those funded by the Canadian TREE Fund, to international, multiorganizational planting projects, such as project started by the YouTuber “Mr. Beast”.

An increasing concern among climate change activists and communicators is the normalization of climate change, an increasingly common feeling amongst the general public. The inundation of news on climate change has led people to normalize the issue. Despite an increased understanding of climate change (to the extent that the vast majority of people recognize and understand its processes and effects), some find their level of concern to be decreasing. People who previously sought significant action to mitigate climate change have either normalized the issue or lost hope.

Normalization is not the only cause for inaction on climate change, however. There are many reasons why people are not acting in response to climate change. People may face mental or psychological barriers that limit actions. But what are these psychological barriers of inaction?

(Continued on page 11)

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In 2011, Dr. Robert Gifford published "The dragons of inaction: Psychological barriers that limit climate change mitigation and adaption" in *American Psychologist*. The Dragons of Inaction are a collection of psychological barriers that people experience, which result in inaction to certain issues, including climate change. There are seven genera of dragons: Limited Cognition, Ideologies, Social Comparisons, Sunk Costs, Discredence, Perceived Risks, and Limited Behaviours. These seven genera are further divided into 36 species, the extent of which can be found on dragonsofinaction.com/

The normalization of climate change is best represented by the Environmental Numbness species of Dragon, which is part of the Limited Cognition genus. The [Environmental Numbness Dragon](#) explains that frequent communication about climate change causes the receiver to normalize the message, causing the impact of the message to be lost. In response to a large amount of communication, perhaps through different sources, the [receiver normalizes the events](#) and no longer actively listen to the message nor acts to mitigate climate change.

Natural disasters, pandemics, and the threatening presence of invasive species are examples of climate change

related topics covered by media. There are consistent messages about climate change being received. While we might not purposely be normalizing the message, research shows that our continued awareness of climate change cause us to experience coping mechanisms. The more frequently we hear about climate change, the less we see it as being threatening.

So, how can we address the Environmental Numbness dragon? One of the most important steps is to recognize our subconscious normalization of climate change. By recognizing our coping mechanisms, we can work to think beyond these limitations. Encouraging people to get outside and interact with nature will help people feel connected to the outside world. Actionable responses to climate change naturally increase as people interact with nature and visualize impacts of climate change on the local scale.

Some signs of climate change are visible in urban trees, including the loss of various species. The movement of pests into the Canadian Prairies has been facilitated by climate change as well. These visual impacts to our urban forests can help provide a way for people to relate to the impacts of climate change in the world around them.

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Edmonton - October 19 - 21
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Caroline - October 16 - 21
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At the same time, urban foresters should be hesitant to spread an excess amount of information on climate change. We recognize that the benefits of trees extend well beyond climate change mitigation and adaptation. The cathedral elms of the Canadian Prairie cities spark greater connection to our urban forests and have become a key feature of our cities. The shelterbelts of trees that dot the rural landscape provide protection from the wind and snow. The fruit and sap of trees provide sustenance and economic ventures. And the branches and hollows of heritage trees provide shelter and prey for wildlife species.

While, undoubtedly, climate change mitigation benefits of trees abound, diversifying our communication around urban trees to include other ecosystem services can help prevent inaction through climate change normalization or numbness. Given the public interest and engagement in urban forestry, recognizing our profession as a component of a larger climate change discourse can help underscore the importance of addressing communication and psychological barriers amongst the general public.

Author Bio: Alexander Martin, BCMA TCSP is Director of Ironwood Urban Forestry Consulting Inc. and Co-Chair of the Canadian TREE Fund



**Dutch Elm Disease
Public Awareness Week June 22-28**

STOP a killer from entering Alberta

Janet Feddes-Calpas
STOPDED Executive Director

Although DED Public Awareness is just about over, this is a really great informative article to review and share.

The Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) is asking for your assistance to save our beautiful elm trees from the deadly Dutch elm disease (DED). Alberta has been fortunate to remain DED free but is constantly aware of the threat of the disease pressing the Saskatchewan and Montana borders. One of the largest spreaders of DED are the elm bark beetles (EBB) that can carry DED on elm firewood. Beetles can hitch a ride on infected elmwood and be carried by unsuspecting campers and homeowners.

DED is caused by a fungus that clogs the elm tree's water conducting system, causing the tree to die. The fun-



Google Image from the Tree Centre

gus is primarily spread from one elm tree to another by one of the three EBBs: the smaller European elm bark beetle, the banded elm bark beetle, or the native 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.

Under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act (APA) "Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR)" the DED patho-

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(Continued from page 12)

gens and the EBBs are named declared pests. All municipalities, counties and MDs in the province of Alberta have the responsibility and authority to prevent and control DED under the APA.

For those municipalities that do not have a DED bylaw in place, the APA provides a means for enforcement. Several sections of the APA and the *Regulation* can be applied. It is an offence not to take “active measures” and not to follow an Inspector’s Notice which can be issued by an agricultural fieldman, community peace officer, a municipal officer that has dual municipal and provincial appointments, or an APA pest inspector appointed by the municipality. They all have the powers and responsibilities outlined under the APA Section 17 to enforce the Alberta DED Prevention/Control Measures to the land owner. The measures can be found at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/dutch-elm-disease-prevention-control-measures-responsibilities-authority-apa>.



Google Image from CBC

Using traps and lures, monitoring for the EBB is done annually throughout Alberta by STOPDED. Only the smaller European and the banded have been found on traps throughout the province in low numbers since 1996. In recent years, higher numbers of the banded EBB have been found in the City of Medicine Hat and now are being found in more municipalities in southern Alberta.

There have been two isolated cases of DED in the province, one in Town of Wainwright in 1998, and the last, in the City of Lethbridge in 2020. The trees were immediately removed and buried. Elm trees in both municipalities were immediately surveyed for signs of disease in elm trees and elm firewood near the detection sites.

What can you do?

- Know the DED symptoms. 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 symp-

toms are accompanied by brown staining under the bark.

- If you feel an elm has DED symptoms, please phone the STOPDED hotline at **1-877-837-ELMS**. All suspect elms must have a sample taken from the infected part of the tree and tested by the Province of Alberta’s Agriculture lab. Lab costs are covered by the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture. In order to prevent an uncontrolled outbreak, the DED positive elm must be removed and destroyed immediately.
- Be aware of the provincial elm pruning ban between April 1 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.
- 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 should NOT 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.

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.stopded.org.

We must stay vigilant to keep our elms healthy.

DED can be prevented.





Prairie Chapter Member, Phil Atkins, took his wife's car down to Ontario to buy a 1ton and a chipper. He loaded his wife's car on the 1 ton got home to Calgary really late. Woke up the next morn and it was all gone. Stolen. He called our office and we put it up on the Prairie Chapter FB page and he probably posted it in a few other places too. It was spotted in Edmonton. Police recovered it. All was totally in tact.

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Peter LaRue's Rope in Vancouver Photo by Peter LaRue