



tree care professionals dedicated to preserving & protecting your growing investment

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Welcome Back!

As Acr gears up for the upcoming year I have taken the time to reflect back on the past season's crazy weather. As of early Feb. the snow pack I read was at 185%, Dec 05 was incredibly cold, and who could forget the two months of rain in the spring. Last years weather definitely drove a lot of issues for us, more diseases with the moisture, a mild year for mites, but a explosion of scales. In preparing this seasons proposals I hope our individualized proposals meet the demands of the season, I feel strongly as though the PHC programs are the best way to guide us through tree and shrub management in our dynamic environment where we seen to have unique issues such

as little diversity of plants in a high desert environment. ACR has and will always strive to provide the best service available by the best quality trained personal available (photo of company and names) Last year 3 acr staff passed their ISA certified arborist exam. This spring we are expecting all of last years staff to return, I am very excited about this given some of the valleys issues such as housing.

Kris and I continue to enjoy operating ACR and try our best to balance ACR with the family. We feel very fortunate that we have such a good clientele who understand what it takes to run a small business, raise a family, live in, and enjoy the beautiful

wood river valley. We all look forward to a great year and would like to thank everyone in advance for your continued trust, friendship, and business.

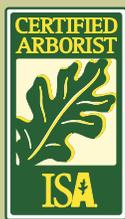
See you soon, Bill
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Lawn Care Division

We are proud to announce that we will be expanding our lawn care department to add to our existing tree care department this spring. The lawn care division will provide fertilization, aeration, over-seeding, soil testing and weed control for wood river valley lawns. As with our tree care division, the lawn division will focus its energy on providing the highest quality service in the most efficient manner. We will achieve this mission by attending on-going training seminars and utilizing cutting edge technology that will allow us to provide superior

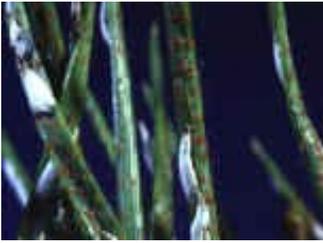
service. We will have a specialized plan for each individual lawn to fit specific needs. Since we realize that there is a growing desire for organic lawn care practices we will also be employing alternative methods for management. We will do everything we can to make sure that the valley's lawns are healthy and green while at the same time being mindful of our impact on the environment and the people and animals that rely on it. Our goal is not to be the largest lawn care company in the Valley. We simply want to

provide our Customers with exceptional products, personalized service and the best results in the industry. We look forward to a great season and hope we can take care of all your lawn care needs.



on staff





Above: Pine needle scale. Photo courtesy of Ohio State University.



Above: Oyster Shell Scale on Aspen. Photo courtesy of Colorado State University.

What's bugging us...

Scale

Oyster shell scale is becoming an increasingly invasive pest into selected areas of the Valley. They appear grayish white and are shaped similar to an oyster shell. This pest has caused considerable damage to aspen stands, but can also affect lilacs, cottonwoods, and willows. Our recommended control program includes an application of non hazardous dormant oil and if needed an application with a contact insecticide.

Another problematic scale in the Valley's landscapes is the

Pine needle scale. They exist as white, oval-shaped insects that are approximately 3 mm in length. Although the name pine needle scale implies it as an insect of pine trees, the most common hosts for this insect is Colorado blue spruce. We have also observed infestations on lodge pole pine, mugo pine, and Douglas-fir trees. Once a healthy tree becomes infected, the branches defoliate and become a grayish color, eventually killing the branch and possibly the tree. Early detection is important to control swift outbreaks.

Scale is a difficult insect to control with insecticides due to a waxy covering over their body. There is roughly a two-week period for control which varies within the different micro climates and environments in the Valley. Our control programs are designed to attack at this most critical time. In the most infested areas of the Valley, it may take a few years to gain the upper hand over these pests, but we feel our research and expertise will drive a successful control program.

“We feel that this is the correct and responsible solution to reduce material in the environment and to keep the cost of tree care under control for our customers.”



Above: White Pine Weevil Injury to Spruce Terminal.

Mites

Mites are once again going to be a prominent pest of Wood River Valley landscapes. These tiny, harmless looking pests can cause an incredible amount of damage in a short period of

time. Plant damage is seen as bronzing of tree and shrub foliage. Single insects are of little concern, the problem arises when large populations invade and quickly infest the

landscape. We believe the key to controlling this persistent pest will be a preventative application in late spring, followed by control applications for sporadic population outbreaks.

White Pine Weevil Update

White pine weevil is still a serious insect issue in the Wood River Valley, but we feel our experience and unrelenting research over the past seven years has paid off to diminish its threat. As discussed in last year's newsletter, we have achieved continued success

with control of this insect and have been able to reduce the majority of our clients to only one control application per year. In some areas of the valley, our success has lead to lowered pressure from this pest and several large plats are being treated with only cultural methods instead of chemical

applications. We will persist to achieve this reduction with our entire client base in the future. We feel that this is the correct and responsible solution to reduce material in the environment and to keep the cost of tree care under control for our customers.

Our Services

Plant Health Care (PHC)

Plant health care is a service ArborCare provides in order to be proactive in managing trees and shrubs and landscapes overall. It is often expected that we can plant trees that will be self sufficient, long lived, and that the investment is automatically secure. In fact, trees and shrubs can have just as many health issues as our lawns and gardens, yet the loss of trees is felt much more profoundly in the landscape both

aesthetically and financially.

All plant life is connected and can be affected by other plants not only inside your property line, but also in your neighborhood, and even within the Wood River Valley as a whole. Water, weather, soil, insect populations, and disease are all factors that plants have in common.

While we have a fairly small eco system within the valley, we have also created a monoculture with a low diversity of

plants. This is partly due to the constraints of our hardiness zone and partly due to our desire to stick with plants we know will survive (Spruce & Aspen most commonly). When compared to many other areas of the country we have very few maladies that affect our plants, yet due in part to the monoculture, when we have an outbreak of insect or disease it is often valley wide and often explodes in severity. The inci-

dence of mites in our aspen is a good example of this. In the last few years, the mite population has grown and spread very quickly. They have many generations a year that thrive in the hot, dry summers that we have experienced in recent years.

Controlling PHC issues requires consistent monitoring! As we strive to maintain healthy plants and ecosystems we focus on control. Elimination is virtually impossible (and for all we know about nature's systems may even be undesirable). If we can take the proper steps to control insect and disease problems, we will have less impact both environmentally and financially. Managing health properly will help plants to better fight any attack. In addition soil condition, mulching, fertilizing, and a host of other practices all have an effect on plant health. Our

PHC programs insure that all factors get attention.

As we manage our landscapes, whether you have a PHC technician, or you're the manager of your landscape, we need to remember to treat landscapes as a whole. Most often when a problem does develop there are several steps we can take to mitigate the damage.

As we look forward to 2005 season, there are already some trends that can be predicted. After sprinklers systems were turned off in late fall, we had what seemed like good rainfall. Yet when I dug a hole in my yard in late October to plant a tree, the soil below the top 4" was quite dry. We then had a cold spell without any snowfall. This may have helped control some of the insect populations we battle, but may have also damaged root systems of trees, shrubs, and perennials. Finally, we experienced those heavy

wet snows, which were great for skiers, but as these snows have prematurely melted I have seen many trees and shrubs with broken, torn branches, and crushed tops. Most of these will survive, especially if properly pruned in the spring. The current trend of unseasonable warm and dry conditions may or may not continue, thus creating different issues for our PHC department. As we strive to maintain healthy plants and a healthy environment, we may need to adjust our expectations of what health looks like. I am sure that continuing to monitor our plants and environment will pay off for our quality of life and that of our plant life. I look forward to seeing all of our plant health care clients and their trees and landscapes.

Happy Spring, Liz



“As we strive to maintain healthy plants and a healthy environment, we may need to adjust our expectations of what health looks like.”

Integrated Pest & Disease Management (IPM)

ArborCare Resources' IPM program employs every available tool to hold pest numbers below damaging levels. Our strategy weaves together practices such as conservation, cultural and physical controls, and highly selective control applications. When necessary, our spray department employs

spot treatments, the application of materials to only those plants in the 'hot spots' that are affected by the problem and not those plants that are not infested. This is a desirable approach because it limits effects on the environment and beneficial populations already in place. We believe using the lowest acceptable dosage will control the targeted pest and

may be helpful in avoiding toxicity to non-targeted organisms and the environment. Public concerns over pesticides use are extremely important to us. Our IPM program strives to satisfy those concerns as well as gaining satisfactory control over pest populations. We are happy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding materials used on your landscape.

Tree & Shrub Pruning

Proper pruning enhances the beauty of almost any landscape tree and shrub, while improper pruning can ruin or greatly reduce its landscape potential. Although plants in the wild grow quite well with only nature's pruning, landscape plants require a higher level of care to maintain their safety and aesthetics. It is better not to prune than to do it incorrectly. By using improper pruning methods, healthy plants are often weakened or deformed. Pruning, like any other skill, requires knowing what you are

doing to achieve success. The old idea that anyone with a chain saw or a pruning saw can be a landscape pruner is far from the truth. More trees are killed or damaged each year from improper pruning than by pests. Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches, clearance from buildings, disease control, to remove crowded or rubbing limbs and to eliminate hazards. Trees may also be pruned to increase light & air penetration to the inside of the tree's crown or the landscape below. Pruning can actually be done at

any time of the year; however, recommended times vary with different plants. Some exceptions include fruit bearing or flowering trees & shrubs, which should be trimmed while in dormant periods. ArborCare Resources, Inc. offers full trimming & removal services, including stump grinding, brush chipping & cabling and follows the recommended practices as established by the International Society of Arboriculture. We pride ourselves in using the proper tools and techniques to get the job done correctly and efficiently.



Management Theories

Fun Facts About Trees

One tree can produce nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year.

Trees are the longest living organism on earth.

The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.

For more fun facts about trees & other consumer information, visit the International Society of Arboriculture at:



Aspen Stands

Aspens are nice trees and are very popular in high altitude communities and the Wood River Valley is no exception. Aspens represent the largest percentage of deciduous trees in our valley landscapes. However, they do have some short comings in that they are a relatively short lived species, do not store energy well and therefore do not overcome insect & disease adversity without pest management practices. A management technique that can reduce the amount of integrated pest and disease management necessary to maintain healthy trees, considers the life cycle of native Aspen stands. In native stands the trees are interconnected through the root system and they “sucker”. When the suckers are allowed to mature the stand will naturally work towards a multi-aged regenerating stand; as old trees become diseased and die there are new trees growing and thriving that maintain the overall health of the stand. If we manage landscape Aspens in this regenerative method it is logical that the need for management practices will decline while the overall health of the stand remains high. When a tree in a multi-age stand becomes sick or dies it can easily be cut out without too much impact to the overall landscape. Incorporating this type of management into our landscapes will also reduce amount of fertilizers/insecticides being used on the trees. This management style of keeping new trees coming into the stand can also work well when trying to preserve a view or screen by selectively removing the mature trees. We know that there are many times when a large specimen tree is highly desirable, but it usually comes with a higher price tag per tree to maintain than maintaining a multi-age stand.

Turf-grass Stands

A healthy lawn provides an enjoyable and pleasant setting for your home landscape. Whether your lawn interests include low maintenance, better traffic tolerance, or high aesthetic quality, the proper use and mowing of improved turf-grasses along with good soil management provide the basis for a healthy, durable lawn that enhances the environment. Attention to these basic principles will ensure favorable conditions for growth of a healthy and functional. Fertilizing lawns supplies nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and others) that are essential for plant growth. Economical and environmentally sound choices of fertilizer products can be made based on soil testing results. Weeds that may invade lawns can be effectively prevented without herbicides by establishing and maintaining a healthy, dense cover of turf using the best management practices. Effective weed control procedures depend on an accurate and timely identification of the weed problem. Insects and diseases are not always severe pests in a lawn. A healthy and well-managed lawn using the best management practices will be able to tolerate a certain number of insect pests. Nevertheless, high populations of certain insects can threaten a lawn's survival in small to large areas. Likewise, an otherwise healthy lawn will have limited damage from disease and recover more quickly than a sparse turf on infertile and/or acidic soil that is improperly mowed. Under certain climatic conditions however, disease pressure can overwhelm small to large areas of even the best lawns.

2005 Price Schedule

Certified Arborist Consulting

Appraisals, Condition Reports, Preservation,
Written Opinions & other special projects \$90/hr

Plant Health Care Programs

Individualized seasonal site management ranging
from a single visit to weekly visits each season—
call to determine what's best for you Starting @ \$60

Tree Removals, Brush Chipping, Trim Department

(minimum charge - \$60)
Certified/Climbing Arborist + Groundsman \$150/hr

Stump Grinding (average diameter and root flare) ~ \$7.00/inch
Large stumps – contract bids available

Lawn Programs (minimum charge \$65)

Pest & Weed Control varies w/mgmt approach & mat'l
Aeration \$75/hr
Fertilization ~ \$6.00/1000 Ft²
Tree Well Maintenance \$75/hr

Pest & Disease Management for Trees and Shrubs

(minimum charge - \$65)
(Aphids, Leaf Spot, Bores, White Pine Weevil, Tussock Moth,
Pine Tip Moth, Cooley Gall, Mountain Pine Beetle, Fruit Tree
Programs, Dormant Oil, etc.)
Soil injection \$3.50@DBH
Control Sprays varies w/mgmt approach & mat'l

Tree & Shrub Fertilization

(minimum charge - \$65)
Granular Top Dress \$1.75@DBH
Deep Root Fertilize \$3.50@DBH

Plant Protective Animal Deterrence Programs

Repellent Sprays varies w/mgmt approach & mat'l
Tree Cages varies w/mgmt approach & mat'l

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