



tree care professionals dedicated to preserving & protecting your growing investment

March 2006

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Welcome Back!

As ArborCare gears up for the upcoming year I have taken the time to reflect back on the past season's crazy weather. As of early February the snow pack was at 185%. December 05 was incredibly cold, and who could forget the two months of rain in the spring. The weather over the last year definitely drove a lot of issues for us. We experienced more diseases with the increased moisture; a mild year for mites, but an explosion of scales. In preparing this season's proposals, I hope our individualized recommendations meet the

demands of the season. I feel strongly that the PHC programs are the best way to guide us through tree and shrub management. In our dynamic environment, we have many unique issues, including the low diversity of plants in a high desert ecosystem.

ArborCare has and will continue to strive to provide the highest level of service available using our highly trained staff members. This season we are very fortunate & excited to have Jeff, Jordan, Liz, Manny, Nick & Sean all returning for another

season with ArborCare.

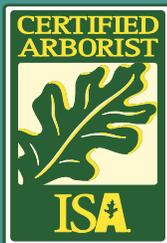
Kris and I continue to enjoy operating ArborCare and try our best to balance work with family demands. We feel very fortunate that we have such a good clientele who understand what it takes to run a small business, raise a family, live in, and enjoy the beautiful Wood River Valley.

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

ArborCare Employees Recognized by ISA!



on staff



We are proud to announce that three additional members of our staff received ISA Certification status over the past year. Jordan Baker, Liz Conrod, and Jeff Beacham were all recognized during the past season as **ISA Certified Arborists**. Certified Arborists are tree care professionals dedicated

to excellence in the field of Arboriculture. These individuals are highly qualified in the care of your valuable trees and shrubs with knowledge of the most up-to-date advances. Please feel free to ask any of the Certified Arborist employees at ArborCare to share their expertise with you when you see them.

Winter Stresses on Trees and Shrubs

Winter's heavy snow and ice, as well as frozen soil conditions, can damage valuable trees and shrubs in suburban landscapes. With the large amounts of snow we have received this winter, you can definitely expect damage to your trees and shrubs.

Damage usually ranges from a few broken branches to a full

downed tree. These injuries result in a change of appearance of the tree and an increase in susceptibility to insect and disease attack. Therefore, it is important that the damage be properly treated and repairs made to maintain the health of the tree.

—Continued Pg3



What's bugging us...



Above: Leaf Spot on Aspen leaves. Photo courtesy of Colorado State University.



Above: Mountain Pine Beetle damage; Tunnels (Galleries) of mountain pine beetles. Photo courtesy of Colorado State University.



Above: Aspen Trees infested with Willow Scale.

Leaf Spot

Many trees in the genus *Populus* (which includes Aspen and Cottonwood) are affected by a leaf spot which is caused by fungus *Marssonina*. Due to the extremely wet spring we experienced last year, we observed an increased presence of this disease in our area.

Many aspens and cottonwoods showed fungal infections resulting from leaf spotting to defoliation.

Leaves are first infected in early spring. Fungal spores are spread by wind and rain to young emerging leaves where small, black spots develop. These spots gradually enlarge and unite to form large dead blotches.

The fungus survives on infected leaves and twigs over the winter. To reduce out-

breaks, leaves should be raked up in the fall and composted or discarded. Spring irrigation of foliage should be avoided since the splashing of water spreads the fungal spores and increases the relative humidity in the area. If spring irrigation is absolutely necessary, following these simple guidelines should greatly decrease the chance of spreading fungal spores.

* Water in early morning so leaves can dry out

* Keep sprinkler patterns adjusted so leaves don't stay wet

* Avoid close plantings and prune lower branches to reduce potential humidity and increase air circulation.

Leaf spot is usually not severe enough to warrant the use of a fungicide, but if symptoms occur year after year, control options are available. Chemical

control can be achieved by applying a protective fungicide at bud break and repeated at 10-14 day intervals as long as wet weather continues in the spring. Spraying will not cure leaves that are already infected but will help prevent new infections if applied at the correct time.

In most cases, leaf spot only reduces the aesthetic value of landscape trees. Occasionally, a severe disease outbreak can cause premature defoliation or dieback of parts of the tree. Although rare, repeated spring defoliation in several successive years may result in the death of the tree.

Our IPM department will be happy to inspect your landscape for this and other disease and insect issues and recommend available treatments.

Mountain Pine Beetle/ Douglas Fir Beetle

If you have been to the Stanley Basin in the last few years, you are aware of the severe outbreak of Mountain Pine Beetle. This insect mainly attacks medium to large Lodgepole Pines. Attacked trees rarely survive

this persistent pest. This bug is here to stay in the Wood River Valley and we suggest preventative treatments to anyone with Lodgepole Pines on their property. These applications are effective only if applied before a beetle attack.

We are also seeing Douglas Fir Beetle kill trees in native stands throughout the Wood River Valley.

ArborCare can provide custom control programs to satisfy all of your concerns regarding these fervent pests.

Willow Scale On Aspen

Throughout the season I collect samples, bring them to the lab, and look at them under the microscope evaluating control, activity, or egg hatch. Last season I had a difficult time confirming the exact scale affecting aspens valley wide so I sent samples to Colorado State University for positive ID. Dr. Whitney Crenshaw positively ID'd it as Willow Scale, *Diaspidiotus gigas* or formally

Quadrastpidiotus, which is not indigenous to Idaho. Therefore this is an introduced species without natural controls fully established and thus why the epidemic outbreaks are occurring throughout the valley; primarily in residential trees and adjoining aspen stands. If this particular scale goes unchecked the Aspen populations could be significantly affected in the coming years. I hope that natural ene-

mies begin to establish themselves or seasonal weather conditions begin to keep this bug in check. However, until this occurs, the timing of applications to control the spread of willow scale will be critical. I am confident that our control programs will achieve this. Please call if you think your trees have Willow Scale so that we can begin treatments this season.

Bill

Lawn Care Division—Update

Although we have been providing turf fertilization and weed control since the start of ArborCare, we expanded our program in 2005. Our goal is to provide high quality environmental friendly turf care by spot spraying versus broadcast, use of environmentally friendly and organic fertilizers, and proper soil aeration. We will be modifying our program to four applications per year rather than three for better nitrogen dispersal and increased weed control. Knapweed control is an ongoing issue here in Blaine County and surrounding counties. ArborCare designs and implements custom lawn care and weed control programs to fit all customer needs.

Winter Stresses on Trees and Shrub (continued from pg1)

The sooner damaged trees and shrubs are taken care of, the better chance they have of recovery. The majority of damage will be minor, such as cracked or broken limbs; but even with minor damage, it is important to remove all broken, fractured or splintered wood in order to eliminate possible disease and insect attacks. Most minor winter damage should be effectively treated in the spring by a trained arborist.

Conversely, more severe damage such as splitting or pulling apart of branch forks,

removal of large areas of bark, twisting and splitting of the trunk, or even uprooting of entire trees may occur. In this case, consultation and care of a trained arborist is recommended in order to reduce potential hazards of such damage and repair damage properly. Depending upon the severity of the damage the remedy could be light pruning, shaping, or even removal of the entire tree or shrub.

Young, fast-growing trees and shrubs have the best chance to recover from major damage. Previously damaged

or stressed trees are less likely to recover from significant damage. Injured plants should be closely observed over the next growing season to determine the need for additional pruning or fertilization to encourage vigorous growth. Rely on ArborCare to provide the care your landscape requires after this trying winter season.



Management Theories

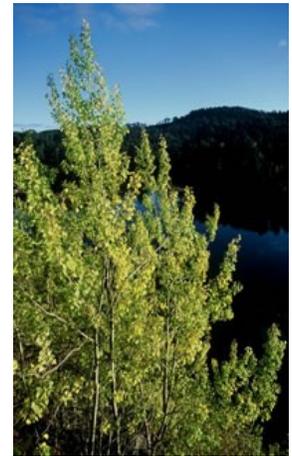
Aspen Stands

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 shortcomings 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 technique that can reduce the need for integrated pest and disease management necessary to maintain healthy trees considers the life cycle of na-

tive 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 the amount of fertilizers and insecticides 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 taller 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 than maintaining a multi-age stand.



Our Services

Plant Health Care (PHC)

The objective of PHC is to maintain or improve the landscape's appearance, vitality and—in the case of trees—safety, using the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive practices and treatments available. PHC involves monitoring, using preventative treatments, and adopting a strong commitment to working closely with you, the tree owner.

Trees & shrubs represent a considerable long-term investment in your landscape. With proper care, these plants will provide beautiful surroundings, cooling shade, and many other benefits for decades. We have the experience and training to detect many potential tree & shrub problems before they become life threatening or hazardous.

PHC first involves inspection and monitoring of tree & shrub health. Second, if problems or potential problems are detected during a monitoring visit, we will develop solutions. Lastly, PHC involves YOU. We will give you information to ensure that decisions about treatment address your concerns and are appropriate to ... —Continued Pg4

Fun Facts About Trees

In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 8700 miles.

Trees reduce annual heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars.

The average tree in a metropolitan area only lasts about 8 years!

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



your landscape budget and goals. Plant Health Care is a program that is tailored to the needs of the client and his or her trees & shrubs. Individualized programs and flexibility are at the heart of PHC and range from a single visit to weekly visits per season. You will find that having an ArborCare Resources, Inc. on site will lead to healthier and happier trees & shrubs. Call today for more information or to schedule an inspection of your trees and shrubs.

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 the use of pesticides 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, clearing 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 and shrubs, which should be trimmed while in dormant periods. ArborCare offers full trimming and removal services, including stump grinding, brush chipping, and cabling. We follow the recommended practices as established by the International Society of Arboriculture and we pride ourselves in using the proper tools and techniques to get the job done correctly and efficiently. Contact us today for an estimate.



2006 Price Schedule

Certified Arborist Consulting

Appraisals, Condition Reports, Preservation, Written Opinions & other special projects \$95/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 - \$65) Certified/Climbing Arborist + Groundsman \$160/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 \$80/hr
Fertilization ~ \$6.00/1000 Ft²
Tree Well Maintenance \$80/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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