

"YOUR CARES ARE OUR CARES!"

SEASONAL REPORT  
Spring 2007

5926 Fillmore Street • Allendale, MI 49401



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INTEGRITY  
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SERVICES

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**SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!** Spring is always an exciting time to dismiss the cabin fever and step outside to enjoy a new burst of life coming back into your landscape beds and gardens. There is nothing like the smell of fresh cut grass, flowers popping open, and the tender green of young leaves on the trees that keeps us motivated to work at Integrity Tree Services. These are the days we savor. The arborist works extra hard when it is below freezing or above eighty degrees but it's the beautiful spring and fall days when we recognize how truly blessed we are to work outside.

Take a moment and think about what you do and how it affects the plants in your landscape. *Little things add up to make a big difference on how whether your plants will thrive or struggle.*

**What is more destructive? Man or Disease**

Our Tree & Shrub Care Division gets actively involved in educating our clients and enjoys watching their landscape begin to blossom. A client once asked, "What does ITS deal with most in the landscape?" After some thought, considering countless hours of site evaluations on our clients' always changing properties and factoring weather & soil conditions, age of plants, overcrowding light/shade and, of course, new additions and changes to the landscape design itself, our answer was simply...the influence of man.

We dare say that man has as much effect on the landscape as insects and diseases combined. In fact, it is all too often man's influence that weakens landscape shrubs and trees making it possible for diseases to invade. Here are some examples:

- **Improper mulch.** Way too much or none at all. The absolute best start to having healthy trees is a proper mulch bed.
- **Trees and Shrubs buried too deep.** If you cannot see the root collar, you have numerous problems looming around the corner. We have seen many trees that were put in by professional landscape companies that were buried too deep. This needs to change immediately.
- **Too much water.** Many clients in heavy soils are drowning there landscape plants without knowing it.
- **No road map/ fertilizing without a soil sample.** Many clients blindly throw fertilizer down adding to phosphate build-up on the watershed and often still do not address missing elements in their soil. Fertilizers need to be balanced with soil pH and nutrient/mineral deficiencies on your particular site.
- **Plants and trees planted in the wrong location for their biological design.** No consideration was given for light, water, soil type, space and region.
- **Allowing trees to get too stressed before calling an Arborist for help.**

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**-Mission of Integrity-**

To be the leading tree service providing expert guidance and superior quality workmanship that demonstrates the highest integrity in exceeding customer expectations.

**(616) 895-9600**

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# Spring is the time to treat for: Apple Scab

Apple scab, caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*, is generally considered a serious disease in areas where we have a cool spring with moist conditions.

Scab infections are usually noticed first on leaves. Affected leaves become twisted or puckered and have black circular spots on their upper surface. On the undersurface of the leaves, the spots are velvety and may coalesce to cover the whole leaf surface. Severely affected leaves may turn yellow and drop. Scab can also infect flower stems and cause flowers to drop. Later in the season, scabs may be found on fruit. They begin as sooty, gray-black (and sometimes greasy-looking) lesions and may have a red halo. The lesions later become sunken and tan and may have spores around their margins. Infected fruit become distorted and may crack, allowing entry of secondary organisms. Severely affected young fruit may drop.

## Life Cycle

The pathogen over-winters primarily in infected leaves on the ground. In spring, air currents or splashing water carry primary spores from infected leaves to flowers, leaves, or fruit where they germinate and cause infections. New spores, referred to as secondary spores, are produced on the infected leaf or fruit surface 8 to 17 days later, allowing further spread of the disease in the tree until conditions become too hot and dry, or the plant tissue becomes more resistant to infection. Infection occurs most rapidly between 55° and 75°F and leaves or fruit must remain wet continuously for a minimum of 9 hours for infection to occur.

## Disease

In orchards, Scab can destroy an apple crop. In the landscape, Scab causes infected leaves to turn yellow and drop in mid-summer. It looks terrible in the landscape and repeated defoliation stresses the tree making it more susceptible to other diseases.



Defoliation by mid-summer



Lesions and yellowing leaves

## Cultural Control

1. Rake and remove apple leaves from the yard in autumn or winter.
2. Either destroy or thoroughly compost the leaves.
3. For sprinkler-irrigated trees, avoid wetting the foliage with water. If you are using sprinklers that wet any of the tree's foliage, irrigate between sunrise and noon to allow adequate drying before significant infection can occur.
4. Plant "resistant" varieties.
5. Apply Chemical control in Spring to protect from new infection.

## Chemical Control

Successful use of fungicides requires careful attention to application timing. Preventing early infection is the most important step towards successful control of later fruit infections. Once primary infections occur, it is difficult to prevent secondary fruit infections. It is important that a fungicide be applied just as soon as the tips of the green leaves can be seen. A second spray may be needed 10 to 14 days later once the blossom cluster is visible but before it has opened. If rainy weather continues, apply a third spray toward the end of the bloom period when most of the petals have fallen.

## Common Spring Problems to Watch For

Be on the lookout for needle cast on spruce trees, white pine weevils which attack spruce and pine trees, and the moving of firewood which spreads the Emerald Ash Borer.



Needle Cast on Spruce



White Pine Weevil: Attacks Pine/Spruce

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, Proper Tree Planting, or other various Tree & Shrub Care needs, visit our website at:

[WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM](http://WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM)

# SPRING Calendar Chart

Integrity Tree Services provides many additional services not listed in the chart below. If your need is not listed, please contact us.

COMMON SERVICES	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Check trees for past storm damage while leaves are off					
Treat trees that have gypsy moth caterpillars					
Mite control					
Spring fertilization (stressed trees)					
Dormant oil spray to kill over wintering pest					
Treat spruce trees that had galls last year					
Corrective and rejuvenation pruning of shrubs					
Soil injection of MSR to control insect outbreaks					
Check for and control pine sawfly larvae					
Treat oak chlorosis with iron					
Zimmerman pine moth control					
Best time to prune oak and elm trees					
Treat drought stressed trees with Cambistat					
Transplant trees and shrubs					
Mycorrhizal injection to increase root absorption					
Soil injection of merit to control a variety of insects					

\*All dates are approximate and may vary slightly from year-to-year depending on scientific indicators, weather conditions, and treatments. ©2007 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.

*We can help you save money by catching problems early before they get out of control.*

Fortunately through science, man has had great advancement in learning about diseases and how to treat them. We have the tools and knowledge to deal with many situations that would not have been possible 50 years ago. Through a Monitoring Program we can keep your site in balance.

Don't hesitate to ask one of our Certified Arborists for advice or a site evaluation. We enjoy Tree & Shrub Care and have spent many years working on landscapes around the Michigan. We want to assist in causing your plants to flourish.

*“ Here's what our customers have to say...*

This is the best tree service in the West Michigan area. The staff is so nice in the office. They are always there to help with any questions or concerns that you might have. The tree work that they do is always done in a timely manner and they have all the equipment that one might need for even the hardest jobs. I was very impressed with Integrity Tree Services.

R.B., Grand Haven  
Resource: <http://www.insiderpages.com/b/3716248631>

*”*

## \$100 Value Coupon!

Bring this coupon to Booth 2040 at the Home and Garden Show during March 1-4 and sign-up for a

**\*FREE\***

on-site property evaluation. You will also receive \$50 off your first-time Tree & Shrub Care service.

It's our way of saying "Thanks!" to our existing customers.

Our on-site property evaluation includes:

- a walk-through of your property,
- an evaluation report,
- recommendations for your property,
- time to answer any questions you may have.

For residential customers only. Limit one coupon per household, per residence. This coupon cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounted offer. Expires 5/31/07.