



**INTEGRITY
TREE
SERVICES**

2300 Sanford Ave. SW • Grandville, MI 49418

*Spring 2014
SEASONAL REPORT*

"YOUR CARES *are* OUR CARES!"™

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS
PERMIT #1

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LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS

MEMBER
TCLIA
VOICE OF TREE CARE

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONALS
ARBOREAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARBOREALISTS

HOME & BUILDING ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
HOME BUILDERS



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Spring Is Finally Here, Right?

This is the question that I'm sure just about all of you are wondering. With the second highest recorded snowfall and record low temperatures this winter just hasn't let up. Now that it's mid-May and temperatures are starting to warm up, it's more enjoyable to be outside in the landscape. This will start you thinking about how we can take care of it. By now, many of you should have received your proposal renewals and many have sent theirs back in. If you have any questions on these please call our offices or Pat Morren's cell phone at the bottom of the renewal. If you have not received one but you are noticing that you are having some issues with your trees and or shrubs, please call us today and a certified arborist will stop by, at no cost to you, and give you a property evaluation. Tree and shrub care timing is very important. With every disease and insect, there is a specific window of opportunity in order to control it. If your opportunity is missed, you must wait until the next window before the treatment will be effective.

**What the spring has in store for
Integrity Tree Services**

To serve you better, Integrity Tree Services is adding another crew which will allow us to get to your needs more quick than before. We are pleased to announce that are also adding several new and innovative tools that will make the job easier and, more importantly, safer.

Pictured to the right is one of our crews taking out a large dead tree that several of our competitors told the homeowner they couldn't remove. However, with our initiative and equipment, we were able to take down this tree and do it in a timely manner. The homeowner is excited that this tree is now gone and doesn't have to worry about it coming down in the next big storm, possibly resulting in damage to the house.



-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) 301-1300
WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM

Integrity Tree Services strives to not only be a day-to-day operation, but also to bring their team members together as a family unit. In order to do this, the management team, office staff, and individual crews have their own outings as well as come together for an annual company picnic and Christmas party. Some events that have already taken place this year are **bird hunting**, attending a **Grand Rapids Griffins hockey game** and **Michigan Whitecaps game**, and dining at **Carrabba's** and **Rockwell/Republic** for dinner, to name a few.

Integrity Tree Services has hired several new and experienced individuals and is very happy to have them on the team. Please keep an eye out for new faces on your property!

If you know of someone who would like to join our team, they can download an employment application by going to: <http://www.integritytree.com/Portals/0/empapp.pdf>

We are family!

There's Fungus Among Us!

Fungus in the Landscape "What to Watch for This Spring"

With the spring finally here, we're constantly thinking fungus. A wet spring brings about new growth coming on the trees, so we have to think about treating these trees for fungus. The trees that have struggled the last few years are evergreens, mainly spruce trees. Many of the trees we are seeing decline are the older, more mature trees. New research is showing that there is another type of fungal issue to watch for other than needle cast. Phomopsis is a canker causing fungal pathogen known to cause branch death. We now know that a group of Phomopsis strains of unknown species are at the center of the current landscape spruce problems that we are now calling "Phomopsis spruce decline". Normally, Phomopsis, a fungal pathogen, is only found on young trees in nurseries and on tree farms, including Christmas tree farms. For some unknown reason, this pathogenic fungus has moved out of the nurseries and tree farms and is now causing mature tree defoliation, branch death, and, in some rare cases, tree death. Phomopsis appears to cause these symptoms by establishing cankers (bark infections) on older branches, usually on the lower half of the tree. The cankers can be found somewhere on the large branches near the dying small branches extending from the branch. We have also found trees with severe defoliation throughout the trees but without too much branch death (terminal buds are still alive). This would look very similar to a true needle cast disease. Keep in mind that on spruce there are other cankers caused by other pathogenic fungi, such as Cytospora and Diplodia, but the predominant canker-causing pathogen currently appears to be Phomopsis. It may appear as a needle cast problem, but it is a canker disease and finding the canker without skinning all of the thin bark from the branch is difficult.



There is not much outward appearance to the canker infection. That is, there is little in the way of a sunken canker that can be observed without removing the bark. What we believe is occurring is a fungal infection that expands around the branch, girdling the current year's sap-conducting vessels or phloem. As the fungus grows deeper into the resinous branch, the branch begins losing connections with the main stem and the needles begin to drop from the older portions of the branch outward. It is similar to cutting a branch off a tree and putting it in a vase of water. It will stay fresh for a while but, sooner or later, the nutrients and water resources are lost and the branch begins to fail and finally dies. This is why we are seeing so many spruce trees dropping needles which is followed by branch death. The progression of the symptoms will depend on how much of the branch is girdled by the canker caused by the Phomopsis infection and how long the infection has been in present on the tree.

Schedule an appointment today with one of our certified arborists!

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	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Check for and control pine sawfly larvae					
Spray program for apple scab (3 days if possible)					
Spring fertilization (stressed trees)					
Root zone aeration in compacted and fill soils					
Treat oaks for chlorosis with iron					
Soil amendments					
Mite control					
Soil injections of MSR to control insects					
Check trees for tent caterpillars					
Carpenter ants spray					
Hawthorn rust spray					
Control for conifer needle cast/tip blight					
Zimmerman pine shoot moth control					
Water trees (during hot months with less than 1" of rain per week)					
Spray for Japanese beetles, 2 applications needed					

*All dates are approximate and may vary slightly from year-to-year depending on scientific indicators, weather conditions, and treatments. ©2014 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.

Continuing Education

This spring, several team members traveled to Lansing for the annual Arborcon Conference. This conference offered an array of training from proper trimming practices and using the latest climbing gear to the upcoming challenges of trees and shrubs. Integrity Tree Services continues to keep up-to-date with the best there is so we can continue to be the leading tree service in Michigan.

Integrity Tree Services also just held their annual CPR/First Aid training day. Shane Herrema and Matt Langelier also discussed the best ways to handle communication as well as the history and culture of the company. This was a fantastic day which brought the growing company together and even closer. We would like to publicly thank Carpenter's House Outreach Church for allowing us the use of their building.

