



**INTEGRITY
TREE
SERVICES**

2300 Sanford Ave. SW • Grandville, MI 49418

*Spring 2015
SEASONAL REPORT*

"YOUR CARES *are* OUR CARES!"™

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Spring 2015

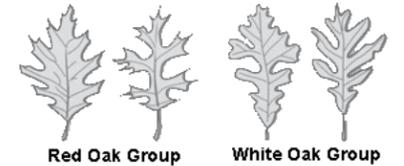
SEASONAL REPORT

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Spring Is (hopefully) Here

Daylight savings, melted snow, brown grass turning green, tree buds swelling—these are all wonderful signs that spring is (hopefully) here. As the temperature in Michigan slowly begins to increase, the time approaches to discourage pruning oak (*Quercus*) trees. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommends to avoid oak pruning between April 15th and July 15th. Although wounding in oaks may be accidental such as severe storms breaking branches or animals scratching or pecking into the bark, oak wilt is most preventable if pruning ceases in spring and summertime.

Michigan climate does indeed vary greatly. Therefore, why between the dates April 15th through July 15th should oak trees remain undisturbed? It is not solely the wounding that makes the tree susceptible to oak wilt, it is the beetles that feed on the oak sap and transmit oak wilt fungal spores from an infected tree to a healthy tree. Mid-April is generally when the beetles become active and they remain active until mid-to-late summer, around July 15th. Although these dates are arbitrary, it does remind us that during this time of year oak trees are most susceptible to become infected with the oak wilt fungus. We recommend if you are going to use these dates, prune or trim your oaks either much earlier than mid-April or much later than mid-July to ensure beetles are not still active. If you're ever skeptical about whether it is a proper time of year to trim your oaks, give us a call. We are more than willing to you determine whether the time of year is right. After all, once an oak (depending on the type of oak) is infected with oak wilt, unless treated immediately, it is likely to die within a few months to a few weeks.



Not all oak trees are extremely susceptible to oak wilt. While red oaks are extremely susceptible to oak wilt, white oak trees are much more resistant. If you're thinking of planting oak trees on your property, depending on your soil type and landscape environment, we strongly recommend planting white oak trees since you will have a better chance of having oak trees with long lives. For some reason unknown to scientists, the oak wilt disease progresses much more slowly in white

-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.

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How to Identify Your Oak Trees

oaks than it does in red oaks. Simple clues in identifying what type of oak tree you have are red oaks have pointed lobes and white oaks have rounded lobes. If you need assistance in identifying your oak tree, please send pictures of the oak leaf, bud, twig, bark and whole tree to KimB@integritytree.com along with your name and phone number.

If you have any questions about the oak wilt disease in Michigan or if you would like to know more, call us or visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources webpage. Oak trees have more of a chance by prevention of infection and a part of prevention is sharing knowledge about oak wilt.

What Spring has in Store for Integrity Tree Services...

Integrity Tree Services treats for a variety of plant fungal diseases such as anthracnose, needle cast, apple scab, powdery mildew, cedar apple rust and tip blight. All of these treatments begin to take place in early spring, before it is warm enough to have airborne fungal spores. As Tree & Shrub Care proposal renewals are filtering in for the 2015 season, customers are making sure to sign up for fungicide treatments early to ensure proper timing of treatment. Timing is very important when dealing with fungal pests and most treatments occur in sets of three applications between 10 and 14 days apart. If you think part of your landscape is subject to fungal diseases, give us a call and we will come out for a free estimate. We will diagnose the fungal issue, prescribe a treatment and execute it depending on the time of season. If a fungal problem is noticed late summer, it is best to wait until early spring the following year for the fungicides to be effective. Not all fungi are bad, but many can cause unsightly appearances and can deteriorate your landscape over time.

Some simple tips in deciphering if your landscape plants have fungal problems:

- Do leaves or stems have black/brown spots or patches?
- While looking up close, do the needles of the evergreens have tiny black spots?
- Is there a white powdery or sooty appearance on the leaves and buds?
- Are the tips of the plant wilted and dying?
- Are there gelatinous gobs oozing from the stems and leaves/needles?
- Is the interior of the plant dying?

If you witness any of these symptoms or suspect fungal problems, let us know and we will be happy to assist you. Many of these issues can stem from over-watering (such as a sprinkler hitting trees and shrubs every day), dark and thick plant interiors (such as a tree that has not been pruned or thinned-out lately), or if a plant is under stress or is in poor health to begin with.

There are some fungal problems that will persist and deteriorate a tree year after year, such as needle cast. These types of fungal diseases are necessary to treat with a fungicide. However, as a reminder, there is always fungus present in the natural landscape. It is possible for a tree or shrub to have a fungal disease but be hearty and healthy enough to withstand it. We can assist in determining if a fungal problem exists and if remedies need to occur in order to sustain the life of your landscape plants.



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. ©2015 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.

Continuing Education

In mid-February, Integrity Tree Services sent their arborists, climbers, and plant health care specialists to ArborCon 2015 in Lansing, Michigan. ArborCon, an annual conference organized by the Arboriculture Society of Michigan and sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the ISA, holds dozens of classes aimed to update arborists on the latest research on plant diseases, problem-causing fungi, insect pests, invasive insects, and common techniques to eradicate such pests. This 2-day conference also hosted classes on climbing and pruning techniques and herbicide stewardship as well as equipment and tools commonly used in the tree industry. All team members walked away with increased knowledge and skills!

In late-February, Integrity Tree Services hosted a training day seminar at Carpenter's House Outreach Church for all ITS team members, including office staff and maintenance workers. This seminar was hosted by Matt Langeler and Shane Herrema. Several team members also lead classes about Lock-Out Tag-Out procedures, Lights & Log Books, and EHAP Refreshers. Matt and Shane talked with everyone about ITS Communication and Culture. Many team members also renewed their CPR certification and learned First Aid. Much thanks to Matt and Shane for hosting this team building event!

