

SEASONAL REPORT  
Summer 2009

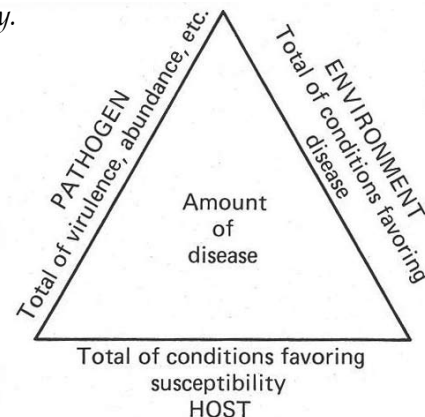
5926 Fillmore Street • Allendale, MI 49401



## Tree Doctors Making Summer House Calls

It is the busy season for our Arborists to make house calls in assisting our clients with a wide variety of situations. This year, we have seen a large amount of rain which brings with it numerous invasive fungal diseases like Anthracnose, Leaf Spot and Needle Casts. In poor drainage areas, we need to protect plants from "Root Rot" diseases which attack plants that sit with "wet feet". Plants need the right balance of water. Too much water can be as bad as too little. Too often, just the opposite occurs in the hot season of July and August when clients forget to give their trees the extra water needed to avoid stress making their trees susceptible to attack by disease and insects. *Weak trees are always attacked first so it is crucial to keep your trees healthy.*

The triangle diagram shows how the landscape is not static. It is always changing. There are so many different situations that may arise that we are not able to cover them all in an article like this. There are literally hundreds of different diseases and insects that can attack your trees when the situation is favorable to them. That is why our Tree Doctors are so busy this time of year. Call right away when you see any signs of stress to your trees. Some insects and diseases move very quick and can take over a plant if treatment does not happen right away. To schedule an appointment, call



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**INTEGRITY  
TREE  
SERVICES**

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### Stressed Rhododendrons:

Stressed Rhododendrons are an all too common problem in the landscape. This situation was a setting next to a walk way where salt is used in the winter months. We have to take several steps including Gypsum (to neutralize salt), Bio-Stimulant (very needed immediate boost), "Holly Tone" for longer slow release results, and spraying foliage with copper based fungicide to stop the spread of the disease.



### Rhododendron with Root Rot:

This client called too late and his plant had to be replaced. With earlier notice, we could have worked to save it. When replacing it, we had them raise up the area a bit to avoid the plant sitting with "wet feet" or water saturated soil around the roots.



### Rhododendron...Wrong Plant/Wrong Location:

This is a scenario where the plant is on the South (sunny) side of the building with two sprinklers overlapping. Solution = move the plant to a shaded location and lessen the amount of water for the other plants in the area. You will never have a healthy plant if you put it in a location that is not favorable for its native conditions. You must work with its natural biology to sustain it.



*If your plants look sick call to have one of our Arborists set up a treatment plan to get you on track.*

### -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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## A few more common diseases...

**Yellowing:** Too much water or mites can cause trees to look off-color. This is a common sight to see and telltale signs when trees are stressed. Arborists must check closer to see whether water or mites are the problem. Solution = adjust sprinklers (if possible), raise up the area they are planted (if tree is small enough), spray for mites (if necessary) and definitely give the tree a Bio-stimulant for immediate boost needed as the tree is stressed and will be vulnerable to attack.



Too much water or mites



Needlecast...a fungal disease



Cytospora Canker

**Needlecast:** Can be one of several fungal diseases lumped into this category. Most are treated with several spray applications to protect new growth from infection. It will take several growing seasons of protection before the plant fully recovers. This disease can overtake trees and will continue to spread if not treated.

**Cytospora Canker:** This disease takes over in the heat of summer as the tree is stressed. It will take over one limb at a time. Solution = remove dead or dying limbs and burn them. Increase vigor of the tree. We have seen this disease stop as the tree's stresses are reduced and have seen it completely take over and kill the tree. It is not treatable other than keeping the tree healthy.

**Gypsy Moth Update:** There are a few areas around West Michigan that have an outbreak of Gypsy Moths this year. Some have already been sprayed from the air by planes using "BT", a bacteria that will leave many skeletons on the trunks of trees as it kills the caterpillars. If you experience this outbreak and do not think your area was treated, please call one of our Arborists to review your situation.



**Tent Caterpillars:** These are often confused with Gypsy Moths. Note the difference is the stripe down the middle of the back vs. the dots on the Gypsy Moth. Tent Caterpillars will make a web and take over one limb at a time. They are usually not a problem until later in the year. Because it is so early in the season, they could cause a lot of damage if not put in check.



**Japanese Beetle Season:** We are at the beginning of the Japanese Beetle season. Make sure you are signed up to protect your plants this year. Our first step is to shut down the appetites of the beetles and and to not harm other beneficial insects. Some feeding on the plants will always occur as the beetles have to ingest some material before they will get the treatment into their system. If your landscape is in a heavily infested area (near heavily irrigated lawns where all the larvae feed underground), you should let on of our Arborists know as he may need to add a more aggressive treatment as beetles start to feed.



**Apple Scab:** If your tree is losing leaves this year you will need to get on our schedule for next season. The treatment window is closed for this season. We can give a soil treatment this fall/spring that will protect it for next season. Ask about Cambistat which will slow the trees growth as well as making it resistant to Apple Scab.

## SUMMER 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 larva					
Spray program for apple scab (3 days if possible)					
Spring fertilization (stressed trees)					
Root zone aerification 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. ©2009 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.

## What's Happening at Integrity Tree Services?

- The company outing in June was a great success. Thank you Glen Eagle Golf Course, Blendon Pines Sporting Clays, and Mancino's for being great hosts. Everyone had a "blast"!
- Tim Guikema will be speaking at the upcoming ASM seminar with Smith Tree Service from Lansing. This seminar is for educating others in the Green Industry and keeping everyone up-to-date on the latest techniques for use in our industry. Tim was also mentioned online in Integrated Pest Management Resources' June 19, 2009 article *Irrigating with Saline Groundwater* by Bert Cregg, Horticulture & Forestry. <http://www.ipmnews.msu.edu/landscape/Landscape/tabid/92/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/551/Irrigating-with-saline-groundwater.aspx>
- Mike VanAbbema will be leaving us to attend a Bible school in Tulsa, OK. Mike and his wife, Nikki, are close friends and we will miss them dearly. God bless you both!
- Several team members have added their Pesticide Applicators License and Class A CDL to their list of accomplishments. Great job guys!
- Two more team members are studying for their Arborist Certification and will take the test in August.
- One team member will take the Board Certified Arborist Test in August.

*Great Job Guys! Continuing to improve is a life-long commitment.*

Matt and I would like to thank our entire team for their hard work and commitment to quality.