

2018 NEWSLETTER



With over 200+ years of combined experience our team of Certified Arborists and Licensed Pesticide Applicators can solve your tree problems. We know trees.

We are the area's leading experts on treatments for insect/disease prevention and cure, and removal of dead and difficult trees. Evaluations are free and services are affordable.

Blue Spruce Problems!

Blue spruce trees are the most commonly planted evergreen trees in WNY. They are also the most problematic. Typically we get called when most of the needles have already turned purple-brown and have fallen off. So what's going on?

Blue spruce are highly sensitive to abrupt changes in weather, especially periods of drought. This is especially true in heavy clay soils and when these trees are planted incorrectly. These are stress factors. Stressed blue spruce are easily invaded by pests and pathogens. If stressed trees experience wet spring weather, needle cast fungus is inevitable and will strip trees of all older needles. Wood-boring beetles and spider mites often follow.

Blue spruce are especially damaged by stress and any loss of needles can be deadly. Sick blue spruce are difficult to heal. It takes expertise and a pro-active approach to manage these sensitive trees. Without a well-managed treatment program all blue spruce eventually fail. At The Tree Doctor, our commitment to education, professionalism, technology and timing makes us the perfect partner for your blue spruce. If you want to keep your blue spruce healthy consider using our preemptive treatment approach.

Serving all of Western New York

Buffalo: (716)759-1138

Rochester: (585)298-4444

www.treedoctorconsulting.com

TREES ARE THE MOST MASSIVE, LONG-EST LIVED AND TALLEST ORGANISM EVER TO INHABIT THE EARTH. TREES SUPPORT MORE COMMUNITIES OF LIVING THINGS THAN ANY OTHER ORGANISM ON EARTH. NOT ONLY DO HUMANS RELY ON TREES FOR MUCH, WE ARE SIMILAR TO THEM IN MANY WAYS. PEOPLE ARE A MAJOR PART OF THE PROBLEMS THAT KILL TREES; PEOPLE CAN BE A MAJOR PART OF THE SOLUTION. THAT IS WHERE THE TREE DOCTOR COMES IN.

OVER THE PAST 20+ YEARS, THE TREE DOCTOR HAS EXCELLED AT KEEPING HEALTHY TREES HEALTHY AND HELPING DECLINING TREES RECOVER. WHILE NOT ALL DECLINING TREES CAN BE SAVED WE KNOW WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T. WE KNOW THAT TREES AND SHRUBS IN WNY STRUGGLE WITH SHORT GROWING SEASONS AND HARSH WINTERS. OUR TREES NEED SPECIALIZED CARE.

THINK OF YOUR LANDSCAPE AS A SINGLE GROWING ORGANISM. YOUR PLANTS WORK TOGETHER AS THEY MATURE. PROVIDING A SMALL AMOUNT OF PROPER CARE TO YOUR NEW HEALTHY PLANTS BENEFITS YOUR ENTIRE LANDSCAPE FOR YEARS TO COME.



Invasives Update:

Emerald Ash Borer is declining in WNY. With the exception of some rural areas, most ash trees are beyond saving now, if they are not already dead. Ash trees in our area will reach the 75% mortality rate this year –most of them will be dead. In another year, nearly all untreated ash trees will be dead. If your ash trees are dying, you should act quickly to remove them. Ash trees become extremely brittle and dangerous within weeks of dying. With millions of dying ash trees, reputable tree companies are booking up quickly. There are lots of fly-by-night companies now. These companies are known for price gouging, working without insurances, being inexperienced and generally dangerous. Please take care to hire the right company. Beat the rush and hire a dependable, local company before it's too late. Call us.

Spider Lift

Two years ago we bought a machine to help us safely remove ash trees—the Spider Lift. This lift fits through a 40" gate and can raise an arborist 90 feet up. With this amazing technology we safely and quickly removed thousands of dangerous trees without incident. Our prices are competitive and our work is professional. We use this device on all types of pruning and removal. Along with our annual education and training courses, our use of modern equipment ensures we deliver the highest quality work and professionalism.



Why Did All My Leaves Fall Off Last Spring?

The short answer is that it never stopped raining in late April and May. Rain for extended periods of time in early spring creates ideal conditions for the spread of leaf diseases (fungi). Leaf diseases show up almost immediately as leaf loss. Often the trees will put out new leaves but these too may become diseased if rain persists (it did). While leaf loss from disease on most trees does not affect their health, other diseases like fireblight can kill trees. Needle diseases of evergreen trees may not show up as needle loss until the following year.

This spring, most trees will make a full recovery. Crabapples and other flowering trees, as well as maples, sycamore and oaks will leaf out as if nothing ever happened. Some trees like pears, apples, crabapples and other fruit trees may continue to decline if a canker disease like fireblight is involved. Evergreen trees (especially blue spruce and Austrian pines) will lose lots of their older needles from fungal diseases contracted last season. It takes a trained eye to know the difference between a harmless disease and a deadly disease so continue to use our free analysis service.

For those of you who have us treat your leaf diseases we do have some improvements to report. Because even aggressively treated trees still contracted leaf diseases we made some changes to our program. On the advice of Cornell University professionals we are adding an acidifier to our fungicides. This will increase their effectiveness allowing these treatments to work longer and break down slower.

FREE WOODCHIPS!

Woodchips are a great alternative to mulch. They are better at suppressing weeds than mulch and they last longer too. We have so many wood chips that we are giving them away. Just come and get them. Feel free to send your landscaper to us as well. We will gladly load their trucks for free.

Consulting

Two years ago I completed the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). I learned a great deal about what makes trees more likely to fail and how to understand the consequences of failure. This past year I completed the requirements to become a Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA). The combination of these designations greatly expands my role as a professional consultant. Whether in the courtroom, living room or boardroom, a professional consultant removes doubt and gets things done. As trees die the expected "standard of care" goes up. When trees fall there will be lawsuits claiming "you should have known". A tree risk assessment will better inform you of "hazards" on your property, or a neighbor's. Tree inventories can alert you to tree hazards and needs. Tree values are determined with certainty. Consultants help preserve existing trees and select new trees. We know your legal rights. Call to learn more.

— Jeremy Sayers



Our pest control division, Pest Rx, is available to all Tree Doctor clients for household pest control. We can help you with bees, spiders, mice and voles as well as disease carrying ticks and mosquitoes. We can also help you with wildlife problems like deer and rabbits. Call Pest Rx today at (716)759-1492.