

Our website is under construction and will be up and running soon! Available features will include current information on all of our services, current and past issues of Tree Talk, and access to an online bill payment system. Look for us soon at:
www.metro-forestry.com

Tree Talk

A publication from the staff of Metropolitan Forestry Services, Inc.

Summer 2009

Landscape Design For Style and Sensibility

At Metropolitan Forestry Services we have always considered ourselves to be conservationists as much as we are arboriculture and landscape professionals. We only recommend products that are effective and ecologically responsible and that restore balance to your home landscape. Our nutrient and pest management strategies are aimed at treating the problem and not just symptoms. Landscape debris collected from tree trimming and removals gets recycled locally as compost and mulch. Where appropriate we plant native trees and plants that provide habitat for wildlife as well as help clean our air and water resources.

In addition to these services being good for the environment they also help add value and character to your home. According to the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, Guide for Plant Appraisal, good **landscaping can increase the resale value of your home by around 5%. Homes with mature trees can sell for up to 20% more than those without.**



With that, planting trees and improving the functionality and beauty of your landscape today will not only improve your home lifestyle but also may be one of the more financially secure investments you can make.

Now is a great time to begin planning for late summer and fall landscape construction. As we progress into the later half of the year, we will continue to meet your tree and landscape service expectations while also providing new landscape feature designs and installations:

• **Hardscapes** • Using brick, paver, and stone for constructing walkways, walls, or decorative creek beds.

• **Water Features** • The element of water can become a very relaxing or powerful feature in the landscape depending on where and how it is used. We build small ponds, fountains, and pond-less waterfalls.

• **Rain Gardens and Bio-Swales** • These landscape features help alleviate storm water issues from local ecosystems by filtering and allowing it to infiltrate into the soils where it recharges groundwater supplies. They can be designed with formal or naturalistic styles while providing habitat for birds and butterflies.

• **Complete Planting Design** • From strategically locating shade trees that extend comfort and usability into your outdoor living spaces to perennial beds that provide seasonal color and beauty.

Storm Damage

In the last several months we have received a few calls about sudden breakage in tree limbs from unknown reasons. These occurred in mostly *Oak* trees after the early June heat wave had transitioned into a cooler late June. We suspect it may be related to pre-existing micro-cracks in the wood which allow gases to expand and contract weakening its integrity and further compromised during stormy weather. Although these incidents are isolated it reminds us of how important it is to look out for and identify hazards in your trees.

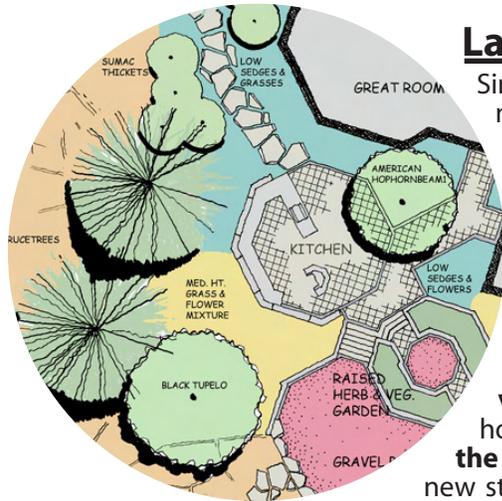
Some things to look out for are: discolored or stripped bark, presence of fungi, wood-boring insects, swarming insects, increase of woodpecker activity, or a general decline in the health and vigor of a tree's canopy.

As always if you suspect any trees threatening the safety or value of your home call us as soon as you can.

Services We Provide:

- Tree Pruning
- Landscape Design and Construction
- Vegetation Insect and Disease Management
- Tree and Shrub Fertilization
- Tree and Stump Removals
- Landscape Evaluation, Appraisals, and Consultation

Landscape Design



Since 1976 Metropolitan Forestry Services has offered some of the best tree and landscape maintenance services in the St. Louis area. **To continue our efforts in providing the highest quality services we have brought in a new landscape manager and are expanding our landscaping services.** Mike Garrett has an educational and working background in Forestry and Landscape Architecture working in the Mid-West. He recently earned a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL. Mike is a great addition to our team and we look forward to seeing some of his exciting designs built in our area.

Mike believes that **a landscape should reflect the taste, vision, and lifestyle of the owners.** He understands how **they add style, aesthetics, and functionality to the home.** That's why he likes designing with and exploring new styles and believes that every landscape can be unique.

Most importantly he aims to design landscapes that reflect what matters to you. Whether it's a traditional garden with articulated beds, hard edges, and a tightly controlled plant palette, a contemporary layout with a bold minimalist landscape statement, or a naturalistic landscape oasis with sweeping curves, loose lines, and colorful perennial arrangements that bloom from season to season, he designs to suit your needs and taste.



Japanese Beetles

MFS has received many calls about Japanese Beetles in your gardens and landscapes. By now Japanese Beetles are finishing their breeding season and adults will soon be gone. Plants that were heavily infested have turned a light shade of brown and foliage has become highly skeletonized. These weakened or defoliated trees will be a bit stressed as we approach the peak of summer. However, by this time of the year most trees have completed the majority of their growth and are directing their energy into storing reserves for dormancy. Trees that haven't suffered as much damage will probably be okay for the rest of the year; although it will be a good idea to watch them closely for signs of stress or other problems.

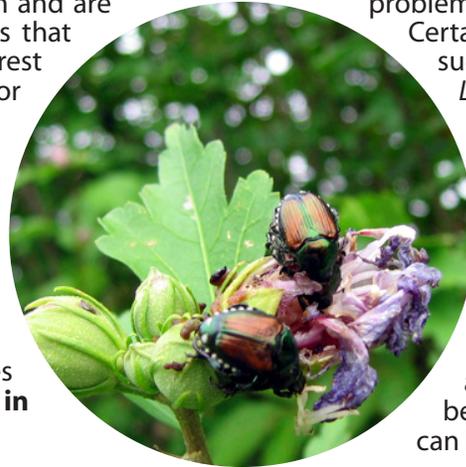
Up to this point our recommendations have largely been to spray highly susceptible species **on an as needed basis.** The treatment however is a temporary fix and only lasts 7 to 10 days. Multiple sprays are necessary for the highest level of control. Highly susceptible species include *lindens* and plants in the rose family (*Cherry, Plum, Crabapples, Roses, etc.*).

If you would like to prepare for next year's brood of Japanese Beetles remember to **make a note on next year's spray contract coming in January 2010.**

Powdery Mildew

With moist and cool conditions in the early spring our staff has noticed more Powdery Mildew present this year than usual. This fungal disease is fairly common however not a major problem for most plants.

Certain trees and shrubs such as *Dogwoods, Lilacs, and English Oaks* have been slightly more affected. While chemical treatments are available they generally aren't warranted. Proper sanitation and pruning to increase airflow are usually better options. If we can help give us a call.



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