



JULY 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

IN THE JULY ISSUE:

DAMP WEATHER BRING CHALLENGES

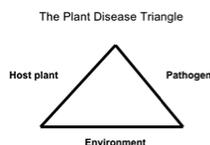


Thanks to [La Nina](#) our summer weather has been a bit under the weather. Cold, wet conditions are perfect for fungal diseases in trees. Anthracnose, rusts, and blights are all encouraged by cool, wet weather. What is a tree-tender to do?

Sycamore anthracnose.
Photo by: Clemson
University - USDA
Cooperative Extension
Slide Series,
Bugwood.org

Controlling a plant disease (disease is defined as a change in the normal structure, function, or development of a plant), involves breaking the "plant disease triangle." Each leg of the triangle, including host plant, pathogen, and environmental conditions, must be present for a disease to occur. It is not always an easy task to break the triangle. It is almost impossible to control environmental conditions, for example (although planting the right tree in the right place helps). If you prefer to use environmentally friendly solutions to attack a disease, options may be limited or labor intensive.

Breaking the triangle involves research and persistence on your part. You can find out more about plant and tree diseases, including where to go for diagnosis of existing diseases, by visiting the links listed in this month's [web-ucation](#) section of Tree Link.



If you are just starting out on the tree selection path, make sure to do your homework and find out if there are any common diseases in your area (for example anthracnose attacks sycamores and native dogwood trees), then select alternative tree species or cultivars that are resistant to the disease.

Remember: July and August are typically warm and very dry in the Pacific Northwest. Make sure to water newly planted trees, and keep an eye out for others that may be stressed from lack of moisture. Oh, and keep those weed whips away from tender young trunks!

Here's to a happy and hopefully warmer July.

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Do you have a story to share in Tree Link? [Contact us!](#)

Oaks are the true conservatives;
They hold old leaves till summer gives
A green exchange.
~Roy Helton, *Come Back to Earth*

COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Now that summer is 'officially' here, my thoughts start to shift from my urban & community forestry responsibilities to my wildland fire responsibilities.

Many of you may not realize that the Department of Natural Resources is the State of Washington's largest on-call fire department. Our 1,200 permanent and temporary employees fight fires on more than 12 million acres of private and state-owned forest lands. I've been involved in wildland fire prevention and information for the past 10 years, and enjoy the different challenges it presents. For the past two years, I have served as an

Information Officer in Washington Incident Management Team #1.

Did you know that 85 percent of the fires on Washington State lands are human caused? When you are out recreating in our abundant open spaces this summer, please be aware of what you can do to prevent wildland fires. [Check restrictions](#) on fireworks, outdoor burning, and campfires BEFORE you light a match; the use of fireworks are prohibited in many jurisdictions and on DNR-protected lands. [Click here to check fire risk](#) in your county.

I also want to remind our readers of what they can do around their homes to make the firefighter's jobs easier in the event of a wildland fire. There is great information available at www.firewise.org about prevention and tips for homeowners. Check it out!

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PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS - COMMUNITY CANOPY COMES TO EASTERN WASHINGTON

By [Garth Davis](#), Forester, Spokane County Conservation District



[Community Canopy](#), a tree care education organization, was started in North Idaho by urban foresters from Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden, and the University of Idaho Extension Program, with grant assistance from the Idaho Department of Lands, in partnership with the US Forest Service. Karen Haskew from Coeur d'Alene and Linden Mead from Post Falls formed the group to try and combat three problems that they saw negatively impacting the urban landscape: improper tree planting, improper tree watering, and tree damage inflicted by lawn mowers and weed whips.

The organization's target audiences are landscape maintenance workers, home owner

associations, churches, and business owners. To educate these audiences Community Canopy hosts workshops twice a year bringing in experts to talk about tree protection, proper tree planting, tree selection, irrigation, insects and disease, pruning, and much more. Community Canopy also publishes a newsletter twice a year to reach people who don't make it to the workshops and keep them informed of upcoming events.

In the past, tree care educators from Community Canopy have offered tailgate education presentations to local landscape maintenance contractors in an effort teach workers about proper tree care on the job site. Community Canopy partners with local Master Gardeners to provide churches with onsite technical assistance for their landscape. They also have a Landscape of Excellence Award that they use to showcase a landscape in the region that demonstrates proper tree care techniques.



Planting workshop Q'emiln Park
Photo: Garth Davis

Within the last few years Community Canopy began a new phase of its education efforts. They began the Volunteers in Pruning Program (VIP), an effort to help municipalities structurally prune their young trees in order to improve the health and structure of the urban forest. Volunteers attend a pruning workshop and are introduced to proper pruning techniques and the reasons for structurally pruning young trees. Once the volunteers have been trained they are eligible to attend pruning events sponsored by Community Canopy. The volunteers are supervised by arborists from the town they are working in. They are provided with hand pruners, hand saws, ladders, hard hats, gloves, safety glasses and safety vests.

Recently Community Canopy has expanded its geographic reach. Spokane Conservation District, the City of Spokane, and the City of Liberty Lake have joined the organization in an effort to help their communities take better care of their urban forests. There have been two VIP trainings in Spokane and the first pruning event for Spokane is scheduled to take place this summer.

Community Canopy is a great example of a grass roots effort that has resulted in a better educated public and a healthier region-wide urban forest. For more information, visit the [Community Canopy website](#).

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LOW-RISK OFFENDERS HAVE EYES ON THE TREES; FUTURE ARBORISTS IN THE MAKING

By [Ear to the Ground](#)



Arborist Dan Kraus demonstrates how to get into a tree.

With time on their hands, residents from the [Cedar Creek Corrections Center](#) (CCCC) were recently given the opportunity to learn how to manage and care for trees through an arboriculture workshop. The workshop provided an overview of a career option available to offenders when they are released from their sentences. CCCC is a minimum-security facility tucked away in the woods of Capitol State Forest.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joined in this workshop to educate inmates on urban forestry and tree biology. Sarah Foster and Linden Mead from [DNRs Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) illustrated how trees react to stresses and injury in predictable ways based on their biological growth responses. The offenders also learned how to prune trees properly and were given a demonstration on climbing and how to safely work in

trees.

The offenders who participated in this arboriculture workshop are members of the forestry crews at CCCC and have already had some experience working with trees. A long-term goal is to follow this workshop with a series of classes to help prepare offenders for the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) (ISA) certification exam.

Why is it important that low-risk offenders participate in environmental sustainability projects? The hope is that these projects will improve behavior and deepen individual and institutional investment in sustainability. It works toward rehabilitating and re-establishing the inmates into society once their prison term has been completed.

Cedar Creek Corrections Center is involved in multiple projects that support DNR's tree planting and wildland firefighting: recycling, composting, organic gardening, horticulture greenhouse, beekeeping, water catchment basins, low-flush toilets, energy conservation, and field crews.

PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE

The arboriculture workshop is part of an on-going project called the [Sustainable Prisons Project](#). The Sustainable Prisons Project encourages everyone in the community, including incarcerated men and women, to become stewards of the planet. It's a partnership between The Evergreen State College (TESC) and the Washington Department of Corrections. They work to bring science and sustainability to prisons through education, operations, and conservation projects.

Low-risk offenders are reducing their carbon foot print and learning how to become stewards of the environment.

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CALIFORNIA FIVESPINED IPS: A PINE ENGRAVER BEETLE NEW TO WASHINGTON STATE

By [Glenn Kohler](#), Forest Entomologist and Todd Murray, WSU Extension

A pine engraver beetle native to California and Oregon has moved north into Washington State, where it has killed and damaged ponderosa pines in the White Salmon area. The California



Adult California fivespined ips. Photo: Glenn Kohler

fivespined ips (CFI), *Ips paraconfusus*, was recorded for the first time north of the Columbia River in 2010. As of June 2011, CFI has been collected in Washington as far west as Vancouver and ranges east to Lyle and north to Ridgefield. CFI can infest numerous species of pines and has been a serious pest of young ponderosa pine in Oregon's Willamette Valley since it was first reported there in 1999.

In 2010, approximately 100 acres with killed and top-killed ponderosa pine were recorded near the town of White Salmon in Skamania and Klickitat counties. At least 60 mature ponderosa pines were killed from attacks by CFI or the red turpentine beetle, *Dendroctonus valens*. Much of the beetle-kill occurred on private home sites where ponderosa pine is often the only shade tree. Recent small fires in the area during 2008 and 2009 may have contributed to the increased beetle populations.

Funnel traps baited with pheromones specific to CFI were used by Washington State University Extension and the US Forest Service to monitor adult CFI activity along the Columbia River Gorge in 2010. The highest numbers of CFI were collected in the White Salmon area. The number of CFI adults collected in CFI-baited traps was higher than the number of other *Ips* species adults collected in traps baited for native pine engraver, *Ips pini*.

In 2011, additional CFI traps were placed in Trout Lake, and Washington Department of Natural Resources expanded CFI monitoring to include areas where ponderosa pines are growing in Western Washington. Traps were placed in Vancouver, Ridgefield, Toledo, and Fort Lewis. In these areas, the Fort Lewis variety of ponderosa pine has been planted or grows naturally. Like the Willamette Valley variety of ponderosa pine, it is well adapted to conditions west of the Cascades and grows on dry or rocky sites unsuitable for other conifers. The history of CFI outbreaks in the Willamette Valley suggests that managers of Fort Lewis variety plantations would benefit from information on CFI distribution and management.



Ponderosa pines top-killed by California fivespined ips near Bingen, WA. Photo: Glenn Kohler

CFI can rapidly increase its population in small diameter (> 3 inches) dead pine created by storms, fires, logging, or thinning. Offspring can then successfully attack nearby live trees. The risk of outbreak is much higher during drought conditions when live trees are stressed. Outbreaks of CFI typically subside within a year. As with other pine engravers, the likelihood of outbreaks is reduced by assuring that breeding material has time to dry out or is removed before beetles fly in spring.

When thinning trees during periods of adult flight (April through September), be sure to cut slash into small sections, debark, or otherwise chip wood. Scatter slash to allow for rapid drying of material. Do not pile slash. It is best to do tree thinning during dormant seasons when adult beetles are not active. In normal ranges of this beetle, localized outbreaks where tree mortality is experienced only continue for a year's duration. It is expected that CFI will respond similarly in Washington State.

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IN COMMUNITY FORESTS, WE TRUST

By Aaron Everett, Washington State Forester

The link between communities and working forests is stronger than we often take time to realize.

Clean air and water, outdoor recreation, natural resource jobs, and fish and wildlife habitat -- these are benefits of forests, without which life in our communities would certainly be less enjoyable, and in some cases, impossible. Yet it's hard to remember the connection-between the trees off in the distance and, for example, the clean water coming out of the faucet-until the connection has been irreparably damaged.



The linkages between communities and nearby forests have been deteriorating at a faster pace each year. Fortunately, DNR has a new tool to help those ties stay intact.

Since the 1980s, one-sixth of Washington's commercial forests have been converted to other uses. As Washington's population grows and these forests vanish, so do the multiple benefits they provide to our communities.

Many people are familiar with DNR as an enthusiastic partner with conservation tools such as providing technical assistance or setting aside important forested areas through local, state, and federal purchase or easement programs. Readers might be less familiar with DNR as a "state trust land" manager. But DNR has been a trust land manager for more than 100 years.

At Washington's statehood in 1889, every 16th and 36th section of land was reserved in state ownership and managed in trust to generate non-tax revenue for "common schools"

(Kindergarten-12 grade). To encourage settlement, the state's universities also were given lands. These holdings have been consolidated over time, and lands with new beneficiaries have been added. Today DNR manages 2.1 million acres of forested trust lands to provide healthy ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and to earn revenue for the trusts. DNR is required to produce this income, and last year, more than \$160 million was netted from trust land timber sales.

At the request of Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark (who leads DNR), the legislature created a new land management category called the Community Forest Trust. The bill ([HB 1421](#)) was sponsored by Sen. Karen Fraser and Rep. Christine Rolfes, and signed by Governor Gregoire in April 2011. The legislation provides a new tool to help maintain the links between community values and working forest lands.

Community Forest Trust authority focuses on forestlands near urban and other developed areas where the needs of the public are too difficult to balance with the state trusts' income-earning requirements. Under the new law, trust lands transferred to Community Forest Trust status would remain under DNR management, but need only generate enough revenue to reimburse DNR's costs for managing them.

Here's how it works: Forests could be acquired from existing state trust lands or private lands that are at high-risk of conversion or have significant local conservation value. The process begins with a commitment from a local community to preserve the land as a working forest. Communities are required to provide a financial contribution of at least 50 percent of the parcel's development value. Full fair market value, excluding the community's share, must be secured by DNR from state or other sources so that replacement trust lands may be acquired for the original trust.

A local community advisory committee draws up a long-term management plan. Foremost, the plan must include economic performance objectives to cover management costs. Recreation and conservation objectives also are established, including prioritized management actions. Revenue in excess of management costs is used as specified in the plan, including for repayment of the community's initial financial contribution.

We are excited for this new opportunity to partner with and enhance communities. Setting up the program will take some time, but it will soon grow to be a powerful force for retaining working forestlands, the benefits they provide, and keeping Washington State a wonderful place to live.

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SAPSUCKERS! PERSISTENT BIRDS DRILL INTO, BUT USUALLY DO NOT HARM TREES

By [Ear to the Ground](#)

Sapsuckers! Sounds like an invasion of harmful, tree-killing insects, but sapsuckers—a type of woodpecker—are a common bird in Washington State. Sapsuckers do bore holes in trees but, for the most part, the damage is not harmful.

Many people encounter sapsucker damage to trees in the forest or in their yards. Sapsucker damage is easy to identify. The holes are 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter and drilled in a pattern, such as lines or clusters. You'll often see many of the holes close together. It may look like someone took a tiny machine gun to the tree.

Sapsucker damage is often mistaken for insect damage (e.g. barkbeetles or other boring insects), but there are some important visual differences. Trees with bark damage due to insects will



A distinctive pattern of rows or clusters of small holes in the bark of this tree's trunk are the work of a sapsucker--a type of woodpecker. Photo: WSU Extension.

typically have fewer, smaller holes, and the holes will be randomly distributed, not in patterns like sapsucker holes. The presence of sapsucker damage does not mean the tree has insects. Unlike other woodpeckers, sapsuckers are drilling for the tree sap, not for insects living in the tree.

What -- if anything -- should you do?

So what should you do about sapsuckers? In most cases, do nothing. The shallow damage will not be severe enough to cause serious problems to the tree(s). If a persistent sapsucker is causing serious injury to a tree, or making it vulnerable to other problems, try wrapping hardware cloth around the affected area. This might shift the bird's focus to a neighboring but, likely, healthier tree that can sustain the minor damage the bird causes.

Sapsuckers, like all woodpeckers, are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For the most part, sapsucker damage is just part of living with nature, something to be endured as an occasional inconvenience.

Just be glad that they are drilling into your trees, not your house's siding.

(A version of this article appears in the [Forest Stewardship Notes newsletter](#), published by DNR and Washington State University Extension. View the latest issue or [sign up](#) for a free e-mail subscription to any of DNR's e-newsletters.)

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WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[Ohio State University Department of Plant Pathology plant disease factsheets](#) cover diseases found in trees.

[Hortsense](#) is a website by Washington State University Extension where you will find fact sheets for managing plant problems using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. The site includes cultural controls and lists Washington-registered pesticides.

[WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory](#) is the place for Washington residents to send plant samples for diagnosis (fee)

[The University of California Integrated Pest Management Program website](#) lists trees along with diseases, pests, and environmental disorders commonly associated with individual species.

[National Biomass and Carbon Dataset now online](#). The first hectare-scale maps of canopy height, above-ground biomass, and associated carbon stock for the forests and woodlands of the lower 48 United States has been produced by scientists at the Woods Hole Research

Center.

[How long does it take for 2,000 trees to die?](#) An 18 percent mortality rate for newly planted trees brings up a good point about the necessity of tree planting aftercare.

[Katrina trees in trouble.](#) Thousands of young trees were planted in public areas and parks following Hurricane Katrina, but are not holding up well to severe heat and drought. The result is a loss of the trees that could cost the City of New Orleans millions of dollars.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pruning Class: Q&A with a Panel of Experts
Sunday, July 10, 10AM - 12PM; Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

A panel of pruning and gardening experts will be assembled to answer questions from the audience. For more information [email PlantAmnesty](#) or call (206) 783-9813

Pruning Class in Spanish: Tree Pruning
Saturday, August 13, 9:30AM - 12:30PM; Sand Point Magnuson Park; Building 406 (The Brig)

A two-hour lecture (en espanol) on basic tree pruning, followed by an outdoor demonstration. Taught by George Ortiz, CLT, of Signature Landscape Services, Inc. For more information [email PlantAmnesty](#) or call (206) 783-9813

Pacific Northwest Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture
Annual Training Conference - Common Roots to Community Benefits
October 2 - 5, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Tree Climbing Championship, Sunday, October 2, Field Day and Conference Monday - Wednesday, October 3-5. More information to come, or contact the [Chapter office](#) (503) 874-8263

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The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible with assistance from the [USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program](#). The program's purpose is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in Washington State. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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