

Pests & Diseases Causing Concern

Emerald Ash Borer. EAB is a pest which we have known about for many years, but the populations have grown substantially in PA and NJ since its' introduction. We are seeing:

- ♦ Substantial crown decline
- ♦ "Blonding" due to extensive woodpecker activity as the bark is stripped off the trees in search of larvae
- ♦ More dead Ash trees

Now is the time to act! **Either Treat or Remove your Ash trees.**

Treatments are still a viable option for many Ash trees if you have an interest in saving them. If you are not treating your Ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer, then best to cut them down now.

A dead tree can be a real hazard to nearby structures, people and property. In particular, Ash trees which have been killed by Ash borer become very brittle, unpredictable, and often unsafe to climb. Waiting to remove a dead Ash tree presents an increased risk to you, as well as the arborist. Preemptively removing untreated Ash trees is safer, smarter and more cost effective.



Tick and Mosquito. Risk of illness and disease from ticks and mosquitos is a rising concern. An



incredibly wet 2018 has provided an opportunity for mosquito populations to explode. Additionally, tick populations continue to increase due to tolerable winter weather and growing rodent and deer populations. Out of all the counties in NJ; Morris, Hunterdon, and Somerset Counties were in the top 10 counties with the most reported Lyme disease cases in 2017. You can help protect yourself and your family by implementing a tick and mosquito management program for your property to reduce your exposure.

Boxwood Blight. This disease will likely become more prevalent as it continues to spread and infect new plants. These fungus spores are literally like velcro and cling readily to just about anything including landscape tools, sheers, hand snips, as well as clothing. Numerous properly timed topical applications of fungicide, in addition to very good sanitation protocols, are required for a chance at preventing infection.

We are always available to address questions or concerns you may have regarding your landscape trees and shrubs. Feel free to contact us. We are happy to help.

Feature Foliage *Boxwood (Buxus spp.)*

Due to Boxwood Blight many customers are deciding whether to keep or remove their Boxwoods. It is a personal judgement call.

KEEP: Boxwoods have long been a popular plant. The American Boxwood Society founded almost 60 years ago is a group of amateur and professional boxwood enthusiasts devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus* L. So no doubt, there is a lot to love about boxwoods.

- ◆ Year round foliage
- ◆ Can be used in formal or informal garden
- ◆ Can be used as hedge
- ◆ Deer resistant
- ◆ Responds well to treatments for spider mites, leafminer, and psyllids.



REMOVE: Unfortunately, boxwoods are having a tough go at it these days. They are extremely susceptible to spider mites, leafminer, psyllids, volutella blight, and now the devastating boxwood blight.

- ◆ Costly to treat and protect
- ◆ Might look unsightly if affected by insects and disease
- ◆ No guarantee of survival against boxwood blight even if treated
- ◆ Treatment program against boxwood blight require 12 - 14 applications a year
- ◆ Even boxwood blight resistant varieties available could be a trojan horse for introducing the blight to existing boxwoods.