



SPRING 2016

Green Words

THE NEWSLETTER OF TREE • TURF • GARDEN • LAND • FOREST

Quality work takes time. Safe work takes time. Rewarding work takes time. Our



world is moving ever faster, especially in our technological connectedness, and it can distort our expectation of how long things should take. The work we do in your green spaces happens in the physical world, in real time, and though we use the most advanced methods and equipment available, our work for you is performed by old-fashioned humans, rather than microprocessors.

As human beings we have physical, emotional and mental limitations, and the work of our crews is governed by the laws of nature, not by Moore's Law. We encourage our staff to disconnect from work on evenings and weekends to restore their mental and physical energies and to have a balanced life.

At Chippers we're proud that we take the necessary time to do safe, high-quality, and rewarding work for our clients. We're grateful that our clients understand we don't cut corners, put people at risk, or push to rush the work, making it unsafe, or of poor quality, and ultimately joyless. We take the time caring properly for your green spaces so that you can make the time to enjoy your life outside.

—Mundy Wilson Piper

Protecting Your Trees During Construction

Building or remodeling near mature trees should not be taken lightly.

A tree's life below grade is as important as what we see above grade. It is easy to list the benefits of trees but hard to convince people of the need to respect a tree's root zone. Communicating clearly with contractors will preserve healthy mature trees from irreversible and unnecessary damage, which can often take years to show itself, long after the contractor is gone. There are four key steps you can take to protect your trees during construction.

Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time.

—KATRINA MAYER

#1 PLANNING

It is very important to have a plan that includes the trees you value. Any soil disturbance, grade change, or compaction within the root zone is damaging to the tree. The amount of roots you preserve during construction will have a corresponding effect on the tree and its

health. Consider removal of trees within the construction zone that don't rate highly—either aesthetically or practically—such as providing shade. Trees that are in decline or have structural problems such as decay should be removed. Consider the area under the canopy of large trees as sacred ground. Endeavor to preserve the roots from the trunk of the tree out to the drip line (the edge of the canopy). Work within the root zone needs to be carefully planned and executed, and planning early is beneficial so that your contractor can account for the extra care required when the job begins. Many of these accommodations will cost more money—how important are your trees to you? If you have the luxury of planning a year or more in advance, you can root prune the tree and biologically enhance the root system closer to the trunk. This can give you more room for construction and increase the survivability of the tree.

#2 FENCING

Fence around trees to include at least the area within the drip line. Erect a sturdy fence that is not easily removed. Monitor fences to be sure they haven't been moved to make room for a storage area, a path for trucks or a place to rinse off equipment. As the end of the job approaches do not become complacent. Shade-seeking carpenters and trades people will try to park their vehicles under your prize tree—this must be avoided.

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Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On!' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

—J. Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

WE HAVE GROWN!

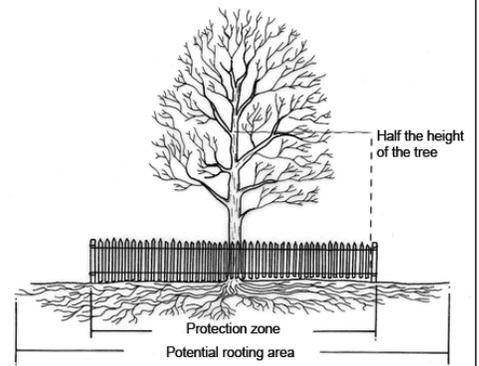
Crew of 8 circa 1996 — to 85 strong in 2015.



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#3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Keep trees watered during hot dry weather and add a layer of mulch to hold moisture and to moderate soil temperature. If you have no choice but to allow workers in the root zone area, provide as much protection as possible. Minimize compaction by laying plywood down for vehicles to drive over. If there is a landscape phase of the project the same rules apply. Irrigation lines installed within the root zone and grade changes, even as little as two inches, can have a negative effect on the health of your mature trees.



#4 POST CONSTRUCTION

After all of the crews are completely done, including finish crews, remove construction fences and re-mulch trees. Stressed trees are more prone to

insect and disease infestation and will require more frequent evaluation. A soil injected root promoter and mycorrhizal fungi inoculant should speed recovery and begin to loosen compacted soils.

Hire a certified arborist with the skills and experience to preserve trees during construction—you and your trees will be the better for it.

[**Cal Felicetti** Plant Health Care Manager, ASCA Member Consulting Arborist, ISA & NH Certified Arborist, Got tree questions? cal@chippersinc.com.]

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Neonicotinoids, Bees and Turf Care

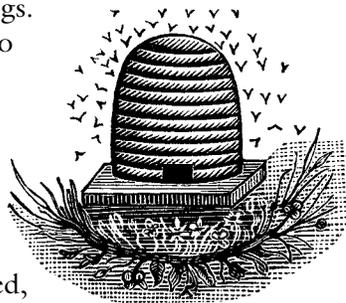


Consumer awareness continues to rise surrounding a specific class of pesticides, known as “neonicotinoids” and their negative effect on bees. This is an important issue and one Chippers takes very seriously. Many of us have attended numerous seminars and other professional classes outlining the complicated relationship between this widely-used class of pesticides and bees. While mites, disease, and environmental factors also have an adverse effect on bee health, there are helpful practices that we have adopted to protect bees while also protecting your lawn.



The most common use for neonicotinoids in turf care is to control grubs. It’s both effective and economical. However, due to the on-going research on this class of pesticides and their probable link to having a negative impact on bees, we decided several years ago to adopt *Acelepryn* as our recommended bee-safe premium product to control grubs in a lawn. Not only does Acelepryn not harm bees, it is safe for use around other beneficial insects such as ladybugs. It is also safer for the Chippers employees who apply it and for you, the homeowner as well.

Because Acelepryn is a patented product, it is notably more expensive than generic neonicotinoids. As with any turf care product, choosing the right tool for the job involves balancing safety, both for the user and for the environment in which it’s used, effectiveness, and of course cost. It’s sometimes difficult to score high, or even well, in all three categories.



Chippers believes in and continues to expand our range of organic and natural options. Many clients have asked about using organic products instead of neonicotinoids, but in the case of controlling grubs, balancing this choice can be problematic. The most common organic used for this application is only moderately effective, at best, and is potentially harmful to bees if they are sprayed directly, a real threat if bees are actively pollinating a lawn with clover.

In cases where a client chooses neonicotinoids over Acelepryn, we employ the best known practices to reduce the impact on bees. For instance, not treating a lawn while clover is in bloom and using granular formulations rather than liquid are proven methods that reduce potential harm when treating for grubs.

Educating our clients, using Acelepryn, and employing best practices are direct and effective steps that we are currently taking toward protecting our bees. It is a proactive policy that will continue to evolve as more information becomes known.



[**Theron Peck** AKA Mr. Grass, *Turf Division Manager* Got turf questions? Please contact mrgrass@chippersinc.com, or visit mrgrassblog.net.]

MEET A CHIPPER



Gabe Kellman has been with us for three years, and was recently promoted to Maple Manager, heading up our wholesale sugaring operation. Gabe began as a chainsaw crew member, earned his ISA Certification to become an Arborist, and topped it off by earning VT and NH licenses for PHC Technician. He was originally attracted to the professionalism and growth opportunities he saw at Chippers, and is now fully committed because of his teammates and the family-friendly atmosphere.

Gabe has a BS in Forest Ecosystem Science from SUNY ESF. Before coming to Chippers he held several positions with the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, first as a Forestry Technician conducting timber inventories, and then as a Forest Health Technician conducting Emerald Ash Borer monitoring and management.

Gabe grew up in upstate New York, but with ancestral roots in Vermont was irresistibly drawn back to the Green Mountain State. He lives with his wife Trista, daughter Piper, and felines Reggie and Delilah in South Royalton. In his free time he enjoys traveling, hiking, canoeing, gardening, cooking, woodworking and doing home renovations.

Gabe embodies the core values we strive for at Chippers and we are fortunate to have him on our team. *Thanks for all you do for us Gabe!*

LIVE a chippers LIFE

accountability communication hard work integrity positive professionalism excellence reliability safety

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug. —HELEN KELLER (1880-1968)

Enhancing Your Landscape with Ornamental Grasses

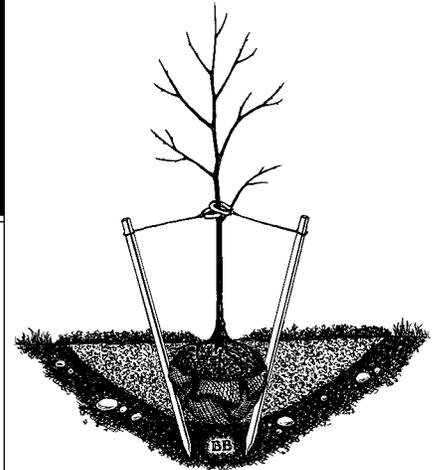
I am constantly looking for ways my clients can enhance the beauty of their New England gardens, not just during the regular growing season, but also into our long winter months. As a result, I have become a big fan of ornamental grasses. Ornamental grasses are easily grown, are tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, can be top performers in both sun and shade environments, and provide needed texture and drama in the winter. There are a plethora of varieties and many different ways you can use these seductive sedges, carexes, rubrums, and their many, many plant cousins.

Tall varieties of grasses, like *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Huron Blush' and *Andropogon gerardii* 'Big Blue Stem' reach heights of 6 feet or more can easily be used to add privacy in a large grouping or act as an annual screen for a less than savory view. These looming varieties can also be used to soften hardscapes such as rock walls and fences and make them feel more inviting. In addition, because these varieties have such an upright form they can be used in containers to create a formal flair for your home's exterior entertaining area.

If you are looking for ways to smother out weeds or create an edge or smaller border look no further than these petite varieties like *Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue Fescue' or *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln Dwarf Fountain Grass'. These grasses reach a manageable maximum height of 2.5 feet. This height allows for planting versatility with an interesting texture year round.

Ornamental grasses can screen, edge, add interest and spill out of containers. They create year-round drama, are low maintenance and tend to be resistant to disease and insects. These cultivars have a long end-of-season bloom time, are widely available and are easy to plant and care for. Ornamental grasses have numerous features to offer and many applications in your outdoor spaces. While you consider what you'd like to install this spring and summer, think about how you'll thank yourself for the interest they add to an otherwise forlorn garden landscape during the late fall and winter months.

[**Monica Collise** Garden Division Manager for Container Design, Maintenance, Installations, Interiorscapes and Special Events **Garden questions?** monica@chippersinc.com]



CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Friday, April 29
in New Hampshire
(state tree is *Paper birch*)

Friday, May 6 in Vermont
(state tree is the *Sugar maple*)

Planting a tree is a lasting and personal way to celebrate the life of a loved one, a new home, the birth of a child, or any special occasion.

Visit the Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.org for more ideas and to learn more about this 144-year-old unique holiday.



In January of 1986 William A. Russell Jr. began Chippers Inc. with a tractor and a chipper, and his very first client was Dr. Hugh Hermann of Pomfret. Will lived the principles of hard work and perseverance, the guiding core values we still follow today. We are very grateful for both his legacy and for the loyalty of our clients who have made our success possible.

chippers

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We're All About Your Life Outside



Recent Company Promotions/Hires: Jill Arthur, *Office Manager*; Jason Eaton, *VP of Sales*; Greg Greene, *HR Manager*; John Keefe, *VP of Operations*; Gabe Kellman (*see page 3*); Jeremy Kingsbury, *Enfield Operations Manager*; Bill Murphy, *Sales Representative*