



AUTUMN 2012

Green Words

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



Seriously.
Stop that.

These are the three words and two periods I've decided to recite to myself when I begin to feel too busy, when my task list starts to drive my autumn days too frantically.

I'm trying to think slow this fall... Using my slow cooker, giving myself permission to enjoy slow parenting, having patience for the slow recovery of my landscape from the summer heat, and realizing invasives such as Emerald Ash Borer will mean a long, slow process of preventative care for my important ash trees.

Slow is good. Slow and steady wins the race. Slow means more time for appreciating how lucky I am to live where I do. In every area of life, from the mundane to the high-falutin', when I take it slow, do it carefully, do it right, and take the time to enjoy it, I am healthier and happier.

So 'to do' list, speak to me once too often and I plan to slowly reply...

Stop that. Seriously.

—Mundy Wilson

Tapping a Natural Resource

by Mark Fogarty *Woodstock Operations Manager & Licensed Forester*

IN THE NORTHEAST THERE ARE ACTUALLY FIVE SEASONS IN THE AVERAGE YEAR. We are all familiar with the top four, but my favorite is 'Sugar Season.' This is the time of year when the days start getting longer and the cold embrace of winter begins to let go. This is also the time of year for maple sugaring.

The process and production take us back to a simpler time and evoke images of small farms and families coming together to spend time in the sugarhouse or remembering the taste of sugar on snow. Actual production of maple syrup has been traced back to the early Native Americans and is believed to have been discovered by accident. Nonetheless, the Native Americans soon crafted crude spouts from hollowed-out sumac branches and collected the sap in wooden or bark-lined containers. The sap was then reduced to syrup by placing heated rocks into the liquid. While substantial changes have been made to the methods of collecting sap and the process for boiling, the underlying principles remain the same.

Maple syrup and sugar is a 100% natural and organic product. The demand for syrup has also grown significantly due to this fact and in Vermont, 750,000 gallons were produced this year, leading all other US states. This coming sugar season, Chippers will also be in the production of this natural treat, selling in bulk to the wholesale market.

When you are passionate about your work, it shows in the quality of the finished product. This long standing Chippers value permeates every job we undertake, and will extend to our new sugaring operation. Our experienced staff will collaborate with interested clients to establish lease rights for tree tapping.

As always, we intend to use the most modern technology and consider any and all of our clients' concerns. The lease agreement will pay for the right to tap trees, and will possibly provide additional resources for property enrollment in the Vermont Use Value Program, which often translates into property tax savings.

We install and maintain the sugaring pipeline system, and at the end of the sugar season we pay for the number of installed taps. Throughout the year our personnel will visit the property and periodically inspect the lines

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“There’s no such thing as bad weather; only improper clothing.”
—SCANDINAVIAN SAYING

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**UPCOMING DATES
TO NOTE IN 2012/13**

December *Schedule winter tree work: 10% discount for work performed January 1 through March 31—receive an additional 5% reduction if prepaid by December 1*

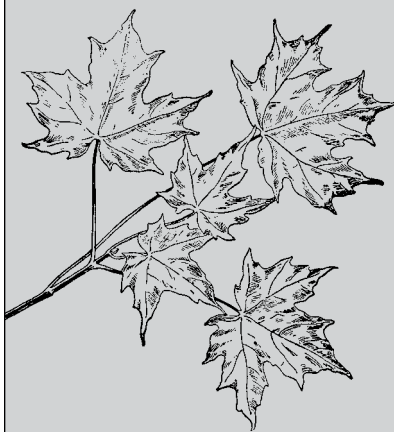
December 21 *Winter Solstice*

December 24 to January 1
Chippers closed—Happy Holidays!

February *Chippers PHC or Turf contracts in your snail mail or email*

March 15-17 *Hanover HomeLife Show, Hanover, NH*

October's Party



October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came,
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

—George Cooper

—continued from page 1

to make sure no fallen trees or branches have affected the integrity of the system. At the end of the sugaring season, storage tanks will be removed and no sugar tubing will block hiking or recreation trails.

Look us up on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/Chippersinc>) to see updates on our sugarhouse, tubing installations, and Sugar Season Open House dates to witness the process of producing this age-old New England treat.

[If you would like more information about a tap lease on your property, please contact Mark: forestry@chippersinc.com.]

ASK OUR TREE & TURF EXPERTS: Customer Forum



Q: Why does my lawn look so bad, even with professional care?

You are not alone! 2012 has turned out to be the hottest and driest summer on record, ever! A mild winter followed by high summer heat caused increased insect damage and activity from grubs, ticks, and chinch bugs. Lack of rainfall caused crabgrass to germinate like popcorn in a microwave with nothing to stop it because the desirable grasses weren't healthy enough to compete. No lawn program can fully combat such adversity even with ideal irrigation and mowing. Your best bet is to do what you can this fall and plan ahead to next spring to address the issues experienced in 2012!

Q: What can I do to help my lawn this fall or should I wait until spring?

Fall is the best time to seed or over seed a lawn given the warm soil temperatures and the lack of annual weeds, including crabgrass, to spoil results. Aeration is a must to reduce compaction and help your existing lawn put out new roots. Spring ranks second to seeding and aeration only because the soil is cold and annual weeds are just waiting to pop. If you have not limed or put down a winterizer, hurry up before the snow flies!

Q: Skunks are tearing up my lawn, what can I do?

Skunks generally are searching for grubs, especially with the bumper crop in 2012. Any grubs not eaten will overwinter and be ready to continue dining in the spring! You can treat for grubs in the fall or next spring with an array of products ranging from organic oils to more traditional products for a faster knock down. If your lawn has grubs, consider a preventative treatment in 2013: it works well and is cost effective.

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Concord 603.225.9600
Lebanon 603.448.4800
Meredith 603.279.7400
New London 603.526.4500
Woodstock 802.457.5100

chippersinc.com

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Editor: Mundy Wilson
Contributors: Cal Felicetti, Mark Fogarty, Theron Peck
Design: Edie Crocker
Original Illustrations: Betsy Brigham
Printing: R.C. Brayshaw

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Q: I recently read that an insect called the Emerald Ash Borer was found in Massachusetts. Sounds like it may be a real problem. Do tree lovers in VT and NH need to worry?

Thanks for bringing up this timely question. We at Chippers feel that the Emerald Ash Borer is close enough to plan for what appears to be its imminent arrival. Here's a little history along with a simple explanation of this destructive insect's life cycle...

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle from Asia, discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Like the Asian Longhorned Beetle (another destructive beetle), this insect probably arrived in crating materials originating in its native Asia. EAB was detected in Dalton, Massachusetts on August 31st of this year, making it the 18th state in the country to detect EAB. It is likely to arrive into our area in firewood or plant material of the ash genus moved from a quarantined or a yet-to-be detected area.

All North American ash species are susceptible, including our native White and Black ash and the popular planted Green ash. The life cycle begins when the emerging females mate and lay eggs individually in bark crevices on the trunk and major branches of ash trees. The eggs hatch in about a week with the small larvae boring through the bark and into the cambium area where they feed on the phloem creating long serpentine galleries. This disrupts the tree's vital distribution system, causing decline and a thinning of the canopy. Larvae continue development through late summer and into fall when they begin the pupae stage and emerge as adults in the spring, leaving 3-4 mm wide D-shaped holes. The insects can be present in a tree for two years without signs of tree decline, which usually doesn't show up until the third year. At this point, removal may be the only option.

We are working on a plan to educate our clients as to their best options for ash tree management. In other geographic areas this infestation has caused extensive damage. Fortunately, there is a cost-effective way to protect your important ash trees with safe, systemic products.



[Please email your tree related questions to Cal: askthearborist@chippersinc.com, and your turf-related questions to Theron: turf@chippersinc.com]

MEET A CHIPPER



Cameron Couture Cameron Couture is a talented and dedicated Chainsaw Operator and Seasonal Turf Technician for our Chippers team. "I knew I wanted to work outside ever since high school when I took a natural resources course at Hartford Votech. I really like the diversity of my job at Chippers." And diverse Cameron is himself, earning many green industry-specific credentials in a very short period of time: a Class A CDL with Air Brakes endorsement, a NH Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certificate, a VT Turf & Ornamental and Shade Trees Applicators License, and a NH Turf & Ornamental Operational License.

Before he came to Chippers several years ago he was a donkey farmer for three years at Hamilton Rare Breeds Farm in Hartland. When he's not working at Chippers he is often either mowing or plowing to make extra money. When he has real time off, he enjoys hunting and fishing, and spending time with his fiancé Chelsea Melendy, a nursing student who baked the award-winning cake for our annual company picnic dessert contest. Clearly, both Cameron and Chelsea are involved, motivated and talented members of the Chippers family.

Plan Now for Winter Tree Work

Receive a 10% discount on work performed January 1 to March 31. Receive an additional 5% reduction if prepaid by December 1.



Fondly known in-house as ChipEn (as opposed to ChipWood and ChipWinn in Woodstock, VT and Meredith, NH respectively), our new Enfield, NH facility houses our team next to the Montcalm Golf course off Exit 15 of Route 89.



FALL/WINTER Check List

- Seed, aerate and over seed bare spots in lawn
- Schedule fall/winter tree service
- Arrange for a storm damage prevention audit
- Schedule potassium application to reduce winter lawn stress
- Plant and/or transplant trees and shrubs
- Plan deer protection
- Rake and remove or mulch leaves
- Cable and brace trees to minimize storm damage
- Schedule anti-desiccant applications for injury-susceptible evergreens
- Prune evergreen branches for indoor winter decoration
- Remove dead and damaged limbs from trees with maintenance pruning
- Protect roses and other sensitive shrubs with burlap screens
- Remove heavy snow from trees and shrubs after storms
- Prune fruit trees in late winter

*For Storm Damage Assistance,
please call: 866.683.6222*

“Like a plant that starts up in showers and sunshine and does not know which has best helped it to grow, it is difficult to say whether the hard things or the pleasant things did me the most good.” —LUCY LARCOM



We're All About Your Life Outside

1241 Pomfret Road
Woodstock, VT 05091

