



AUTUMN 2006  
Upper Valley Edition

# Green Works

Newsletter of Tree Preservation, Forestry and Land Enhancement



A very small photo of a very large tree! This Sugar maple, located in Hartland, is one of the largest in the state of Vermont.

The vital statistics:

- trunk circumference – at 4.5' above grade: 186"
- height: 83'
- crown spread: 93.5'

Learn more about  
the Vermont Big Tree List:

<http://www.vermonttreesociety.org/aboutlist.htm>

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## Selecting Trees to Last a Lifetime ...and Other Words of Wisdom

One of the most commonly asked questions of our arborists is “What tree do you think I should plant?” There is no single answer for any situation, but we do have a few words of wisdom to offer...

**HASTE MAKES WASTE:** When it comes to trees, a decision in haste really can lead to a lifetime of regret. Many trees grow more beautiful generation after generation but others have the potential to create decades of trouble, dropping messy fruit or bothersome leaf litter. So, take your time and select the tree that offers the best combination of qualities you will enjoy.

**FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION:** Begin your selection process by asking: Why do I want a tree? For shade and cooling? For a windbreak? To

attract and shelter wildlife? For beautiful flowers, leaves bark or fruit? To block the view of the neighbor's less-than-lovely backyard, or to screen your house from the road, or the driveway from the house? The purpose it will eventually serve helps determine the form to select. A tree's growth rate also may have a bearing on your choice. The slower growers are hardwoods and tend to live longer. If it's important to establish shade or have flowers relatively quickly, choose a fast-

*“Knowing trees,  
I understand the  
meaning of patience.  
Knowing grass,  
I appreciate  
persistence.”*

—HAL BORLAND

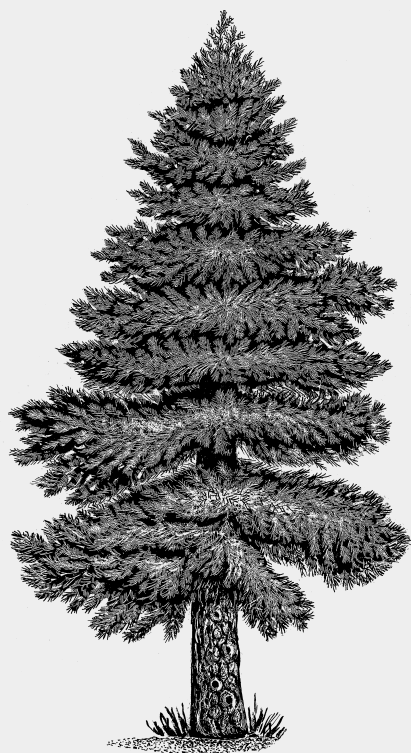
growing tree. They are typically smaller, have soft wood, and don't live as long.

**A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE:**

In general, smaller trees should be placed near the house and taller ones farther out in the yard or at its edge (see our *Ask the Arborist* column on page 3 for an alternate point of view on this issue). Scale trees to their surroundings by using small or medium-sized varieties for smaller houses and yards. And always consider mature tree size when evaluating a planting site. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall and are bare all winter, though the leaves often give a final show of beautiful color before dropping. They are wonderful planted on the south and west

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### The Presence of Trees

I have always felt the living presence of trees

the forest that calls to me as deeply as I breathe,

as though the woods were marrow of my bone as though

I myself were tree, a breathing, reaching arc of the larger canopy

beside a brook bubbling to foam like the one

deep in these woods, that calls

that whispers home

-Michael S. Glaser

sides of houses to provide cooling in summer and yet allow warmth and light in the winter. Evergreen trees retain their foliage year-round for winter interest in the landscape, and are excellent windbreaks on the northern side of buildings.

**TAKE THE BITTER WITH THE SWEET, OR, EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING:** Every species of cultivated tree has assets that suit it for a particular landscape use. Each also has certain requirements critical to its survival in the yard, including cold hardiness, disease resistance, drainage conditions and exposure. Many do best in rich, moist, woodsy acidic soil. Others prefer more alkaline soil that tends to be dry because it's not as rich in moisture-holding organic matter. Some trees, such as Red maple, can even tolerate periodically soggy soil.

Trees also have their liabilities. Some have thorns that make them unsuitable for homes with children or animals. Others are invasive; some are messy; some need a lot of maintenance; some are inherently hazardous over time. However, if you choose the right place for some of these less-desirable varieties, you often can overlook their foibles and enjoy their virtues instead.

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND, THERE ARE PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA:** Always choose disease resistant varieties of trees appropriate to our growing zone(s).<sup>1</sup> Many local nurseries and garden centers can recommend varieties of trees and shrubs that are disease resistant and able to cope with our harsh winters. Another resource we recommend is the website maintained by the USDA Forest Service Northeast Region in cooperation with Rutgers University and University of Florida. The interactive *Tree Selector* program is designed to match specific tree species to particular sites based on a multitude of compatible characteristics. The program presently searches a database of 1,500 trees and provides 50 selection criteria to choose from.

**VISIT:** <http://orb.at.ufl.edu/TREES/index.html> for more information. Lists of trees generated by *Tree Selector* should be viewed as a guide, not as the final authority in a tree search.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST:** Our ISA Certified Arborists are always available to help you put the "right tree in the right place."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Even within our geographic area of the Upper Valley and Lakes Region, the hardiness zone can vary from between 3b to 5b – know your zone!

<sup>2</sup> International Society of Arboriculture, Champaign, Illinois.

### chippers


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 **GREENWORKS** is provided free of charge to anyone who loves plants. If you know someone who might enjoy this publication, have them call us at (866) 683-6222. Back issues are available.

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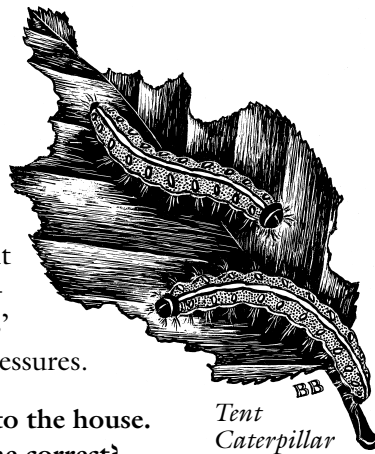
## Customer Forum

**Q: The birch trees at my house lost their leaves early this year. What happened? Can anything be done to prevent this next year?**

Another wet spring and summer brought us continued fungal problems. It sounds like your birch trees were infected by *anthracnose*. Maples, ash, oak and other species were also affected by anthracnose. Rake up and dispose of the spore-filled leaves. We have fungus suppression products (fungicides) that work well if timed properly—usually at or just after bud break in the spring.

**Q: Was it Gypsy Moth caterpillars that defoliated so many hardwoods last summer?**

Most of this past summer's defoliation came from *Forest Tent caterpillars*. Unfortunately, these voracious eaters prefer sugar maples and oaks. Be prepared to treat your important landscape trees with an insecticide next year—continued defoliation seriously limits the trees' ability to survive additional environmental pressures.



**Q: My spouse thinks the trees are too close to the house. I like the way they look and their shade. Is he correct?**

Wow, is this ever a common question! Without taking sides, consider the following factors...

- Are the trees healthy and a sturdy species, such as oak or maple?
- Are the roots a concern (leach field, concrete slab, etc.)?
- Is dense shade on the roof or eaves a concern?

I like trees near houses—being able to see the trunk through the windows, or hear the leaves in the wind or tapping the house is a little bit of heaven.

**Q: The trees at my house have a green coating—like moss. They appear to be healthy trees—are they OK?**

What you're observing is probably *lichen*. It could be moss or some sort of algae but is not a concern as they are harmless to the tree. In fact lichen is not tolerant to pollution and a living testimony to the good air at your property! However, beware of mushroom-like growth on your trees—this is an indicator of decay and a possible hazard tree.

[Please email your tree-related questions to: [askthearborist@chippersinc.com](mailto:askthearborist@chippersinc.com).]



From left to right: Diana Follett, *Accounts Receivable & Human Resources*; Jill Harlow, *Customer Service & Marketing*; and Danielle Godin, *Accounts Payable & Equipment*

**Diana** and her husband, Will, live in the area with their Great Dane Bertha and four cats: Junior, Miss Whitey, Miss Callie, and Sassy Sue. Among her other interests are Nascar racing and camping.

**Jill** loves living in Vermont for the incredible qualities the four seasons provide. She raised her two sons here and they both now live, attend college, and work in Burlington. She spends her free time skiing, horseback riding, gardening, showing her Belgian Malinois puppy, and interior decorating.

Woodstock native **Danielle** spends her leisure time camping, swimming, and cheering on her two elementary aged children in a variety of seasonal sports.

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### Tree Preservation

- Pruning & Cabling
- Natural and Traditional Insect & Disease Control
- Tree & Ornamental Fertilization
- Tree Selection & Acquisition
- Hedge Shearing
- Tree & Stump Removal
- Crane Service

### Forestry

- Current Use Enrollment
- Environmentally Sound Approach
- Forest Management Planning
- Timber Sale Assistance
- Forest Road Construction
- Timber Marking & Mapping
- Low Impact Harvesting

### Land Enhancement

- Forest Stand Enhancement
- Land Reclamation
- View Work
- Nature Trail Layout & Installation
- Vegetation Control
- Brush Chipping
- Stump Grinding
- Field Mowing
- Excavating Service

# Fall/Winter Check List



- Rake leaves from below trees affected by leaf blights
- Apply protective mulch
- Deep fall watering
- Apply anti-desiccant sprays
- Plant and transplant
- Garden rototilling
- Professional inspection of trees
- Rake leaves off lawns
- Apply lime to lawns & gardens
- Thatch and aerate lawns... overseed
- Protect sun & wind sensitive shrubs
- Lawn fertilization & seeding
- Divide spring blooming perennials
- Clean and store outdoor tools & ornaments
- Pick apples and make pie or crisp
- Contact us in early 2007 about establishing a preventative IPM program

*“It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our own life is associated with trees.”*

—WILSON FLAGG



20 YEARS AND  
GROWING 1986-2006

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