

POST-DROUGHT — *Treat Your Trees Right*

With rainfall levels this spring at the highest in 115 years, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division declared an end to the drought. Thankfully, water resources are recharged, but trees and shrubs may take years to recover.

During drought, trees are forced to use precious carbohydrate reserves to stay alive during dry summers. So year after year, trees weaken, are insect and disease prone, and can become structurally unstable due to heavy rains and wind.

Begin a 5-Step Recovery Program

How to start the recovery process? The best way to do this is through proper irrigation, mulching, soil nutrient management, pruning and pest management.

1. Newly planted trees require, on average, 10 gallons of water per caliper inch (trunk diameter) per week to establish and approximately one inch of water per week during growing seasons thereafter.
2. Mulch consists of natural materials like hardwood chips, pine straw or other organic matter. Apply 2-3 inches thick around the roots of the tree out to the tips of the branches. Mulch should not be applied within three inches of the tree trunk.
3. Soil nutrient management is not a one size fits all process. Your local County Extension Service can analyze your soil and identify which nutrients are missing. Once identified, apply appropriate slow-release fertilizer around your tree when rainfall is adequate.
4. Proper pruning removes dead or dying limbs that may harbor insects or disease.
5. Monitor and address any signs of insect or disease infestation for optimum tree health.

Special thanks to the Georgia Urban Forest Council, Bartlett Tree Experts and the Georgia Arborist Association for contributing to this article.

Healthy Trees are Wealthy Investments

Your trees are worth protecting, for they are protectors themselves. They maximize use of rainfall during drought and reduce flow into waterways and storm water systems during downpours. So come drought or high water, Atlanta's trees are its treasure. And, as Trees Atlanta Executive Director, Marcia Bansley adds, "Trees also increase property value by \$2,000 on average, so including them in your home improvement budget makes good economic sense."

Bored? Then Read This.

Borers are moth-like or beetle-like pests that live off of trees that are young, stressed or damaged. In Atlanta, we deal with flathead borers, dogwood borers, peach tree borers, and southern pine beetles to name a few. Adult borers lay up to 400 eggs at a time.

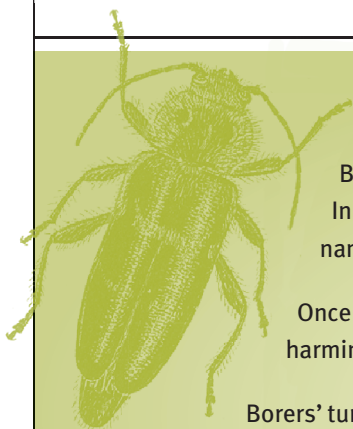
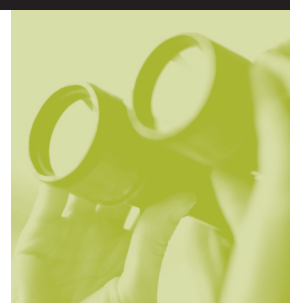
Once hatched, larvae begin feeding off of the tree, tunneling inside the trunk or a large root, potentially harming or killing the tree. They often bring damaging fungi along with them.

Borers' tunnels may be visible on the trunk, with saw dust or oozing in the drilling areas. Canopy may be sparse and the tree will usually show obvious distress.

If you suspect that your tree has been attacked by borers, contact a certified arborist. These trained professionals will recommend treatment to cure your tree and protect other trees in the area from infestation. To locate a certified arborist near you, visit the new Trees Atlanta website at www.treesatlanta.org/ArboristList.aspx.

PS: When planting trees, choosing diverse selections is best for preventing borer infestation.

Special thanks to Trees Atlanta intern, Kelsey Dutcher, for her assistance with this article.



The BeltLine Arboretum

The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum is a proposed “outdoor living tree museum” around the Atlanta BeltLine, a 22-mile loop of greenspace, trails, transit and new development along historic rail segments that encircle Atlanta’s urban core. ■ The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum will provide an opportunity for citizens and visitors to learn about tree identification and the benefits of trees, and to simply enjoy nature.



Artist David Landis Chosen to Create Gateway Sculpture of the BeltLine Arboretum

Trees Atlanta and a panel of community judges recently selected David Landis as the first artist for the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum. Chosen from a field of 20 local artists, Landis will create a sculpture in the “Warehouse Row” Natural Neighborhood in the West End community. This is the first of 14 Natural Neighborhoods representing plant and tree collections along the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum.

Landis’ sculpture will be installed in Rose Circle Park at 765 Peoples Street and represents a “landscape in motion.” The project is funded by a grant to Trees Atlanta from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and expected to be installed by February 2010.

Virginia-Highland Arboretum Launch September 28

The latest Neighborhood Arboretum is coming to Virginia-Highland! Trees Atlanta has partnered with the neighborhood to celebrate the great diversity and majesty of Virginia-Highland trees. This is the seventh in the Trees Atlanta Neighborhood Arboretum Series.

The great diversity and size of this particular arboretum inspired the creation of four tree walks, or “loops” that begin at John Howell Park. The Orme Park Loop is designated as a learning loop, intended to help tree beginners of all ages identify 20 of the most common trees in Atlanta.

Trees Atlanta hopes to work with Inman Middle School and other groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, to use of the learning loop to create a new cadre of young citizen advocates for trees.

Become a tree advocate yourself and visit the Virginia-Highland Neighborhood Arboretum. The official launch announcement will be posted on the Trees Atlanta website with information on Arboretum brochures.

Matching Select Trees Funds

Select Trees requires that Trees Atlanta solicit \$1 million in matching funds or in-kind support in return for their 2008 tree donation. Currently, Trees Atlanta is at 35% of our 3-year, \$1,000,000 goal.

Consider maximizing your contributions to Trees Atlanta by designating funds to match the generous donation of trees from Select Trees’ Sustainable Tree Trust. If you wish to support the planting and care of larger shade trees from Select Trees, please note on your check or credit card donation, “Select Trees Match.” Contact Regina Clifton at 404.681.4892 if you have questions.



Hats Off to our Super Summer Interns

We appreciate the time and talent of our 2009 summer interns: Dave Kerins of Emory University (l), Kelsey Dutcher of the Atlanta Girls’ School (r) and Maggie Breen of Tulane University (not pictured).

“Trees are your best antiques.”

—Alexander Smith