

## Tree Talk

Many of the tree issues I look at during the growing season are issues that reoccur annually. Some are treatable and some are not. I thought it would be interesting to cover some of the most common tree problems I ran into this summer.

Chlorosis, a foliage condition where the leaf veins remain green, but the surrounding leaf area turns yellow or pale green. This has been a very common problem over the last several years affecting Autumn Blaze Maple, Silver Maple, River Birch and a few others. This is not a disease or pathogen problem, but a lack of iron or manganese in the foliage. This problem occurs in specific plants because our soils are too alkaline rendering those two microelements unavailable to the tree. There is no cure, but treatments are available. The best being a capsule that is inserted into the trunk to deliver elements to the canopy. If the trees are not treated, they will decline and die in time.

Cytospora canker has been a very common problem in our Spruce trees, specifically Colorado Blue Spruce. This fungal disease becomes present when the tree is around 20 years old. A bluish-white resin can be found on branches and on the trunk and it slowly kills the lower branches of the tree. There is no cure, other than removing and disposing of branches as they die. Crowded Spruce trees are more prone to this disease.

With the identification of Emerald Ash borer in Sioux Falls, many homeowners are looking at their Ash trees a little closer. In Aberdeen over 40% of our trees are Green Ash, and a lot of them are in a declining condition. Although we have not found this insect in Aberdeen, we have several native insects that attack these declining trees. Most of them create an exit hole in the bark and cause further decline. No one should be treating for Emerald Ash borer until it is found here. Instead we need to continue removing poor condition trees and replanting with a diverse selection of shade trees.

Remember to continue watering trees and plants until the ground is frozen. We have had some nice rains, but supplemental watering is still needed.

If you have questions, or want more information, please feel free to call or email me.

[Aaron.kiesz@aberdeen.sd.us](mailto:Aaron.kiesz@aberdeen.sd.us) or 626-7015.

*Aaron Kiesz is the  
City Forester  
For the City of Aberdeen,  
Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept.*