



# NEWS & VIEWS

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S TREE DOCTOR

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

Thank you for your continued business and a great year in 2014! We look forward to servicing your tree health needs in 2015.

Due to the extremely cold winter and late season return of warm temperatures the spring 2014 work window was short, resulting in 70 hour work weeks into July! Since it was a cooler summer there were plenty of fungal problems. This will likely spill over into spring and summer 2015. However, cooler temperatures did cause less insect outbreaks.

Schillinger Forestry is interviewing candidates to join the team for additional help in the field this season. We are taking our time to make sure the right candidate is chosen. We have also added a new spray truck. While "old red" will still be in service, this new truck has an increased application capacity and efficiency. Decals for this new truck are in process and will be applied by spring.

We are updating our website for urban tree care services and information on tree insects and diseases. Please visit [www.michiganforester.net](http://www.michiganforester.net) as we progress.

Previous owners, Gary & Megan Kuhlman are well and enjoying warm temperatures, wintering in Florida. They are deserving of a relaxing retirement.

**Northern Michigan Tree Doctor still and will always make House Calls!**

**Daniel Schillinger**



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**LICENSED BY THE**

**MICHIGAN**

**DEPARTMENT OF**

**AGRICULTURE**

**Blue Spruce**

***Phomopsis occulta***



The fungus twig canker *Phomopsis occulta* was confirmed by Dr. Roberts from Michigan State University (MSU) last season in Traverse City. This disease has been around since the 80's but typically was found only in new young nursery stock under heavy over-head irrigation. However, it was suspected *Phomopsis* would move into established landscape trees and Dr. Roberts' diagnosis confirms this observation. While there is no perfect cure for this fungus we will be adding a second fungicide in the tank this year on all sprays to slow this down. Dr. Roberts had good control in his research using this approach and we have seen similar results already. This does mean many of our spray customers will see a small increase in costs but we are committed to providing the best control possible.

## Oak Wilt



Oak wilt is active in our area and will continue to be as red oaks get damaged during the growing season. Please avoid damaging or pruning any red oak when leaves are out. In addition to our very effective preventative trunk injection system, we have secured two contractors with vibratory plows to break the root grafts

and stop this devastating disease in its tracks. As always we have the best chance of saving your oak trees when we start early. Contact us at the first sign of any major branch/leaf die off of any red oak anywhere near your property.

## Beech Bark Disease

This is an exotic pest which is moving into the area quickly. First a non-native scale insect *Cryptococcus fagisuga* attacks the bark of beech trees in the thousands. Next these insects make so many wounds on the trunk that a decay fungus (in the *Nectria* family) is able to establish in the vascular system of the tree. Once the fungus is in the tree it will not be long before the tree is dead. While there is little we can do about the fungus, we have been concentrating on controlling the scales before the fungus arrives. While we have had good success, this is a persistent insect requiring several treatments to keep under control. As always start early for best results. Look for tiny cotton balls (scales) on the trunk of the beech as pictured and call right away if you see them.



## Emerald Ash Borer

Ash trees need a trunk injection for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) every two years. We have seen that "Tree Age" is the best option for controlling EAB and will continue with this injection product. Currently, MSU is studying to see if injections can be spaced out to 3 years apart as EAB populations drop off. The initial results of this study are promising but not guaranteed. There is another study about predator insects naturally controlling EAB. While the initial success in this study was slow this may become a reasonable control if these predator insects can learn to accelerate their populations with EAB. Stay tuned for more news on this. For now we will continue the every two year injections and hope for the best.

**The Tree Doctor Makes House Calls!!!**

## Tree Plan

Each year we will send a plan of what we feel should be done during the next treatment season to attain the agreed upon goal for your trees.

## Pink Cards

Please return these post cards. This gives us permission to treat or not treat your plants Please mark **YES** or **NO** and add your email.

## Billing

All billing will be sent from and to PO Box 6414, Traverse City, MI 49696. Checks should be made payable to "Northern Michigan Tree Doctor".

## Treatment Sheets

You will receive a treatment sheet every time we complete a pesticide treatment. Please provide an email address or fax for efficient notifications. If you do not have an email or fax we will continue to send notification by mail.

## Insects and Disease

Please do not be discouraged about the health and vitality of any species of trees. We provide this newsletter as an educational opportunity and have a solution for any problem that can befall your trees.

