

# TREE TIPS

TREE & SHRUB CARE FROM BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

## What to do about ticks *by Neil Hendrickson, PhD*

Ticks have become increasingly problematic to people and animals in the United States. Several ticks have a wide host range and attack people, pets, and livestock. A majority of Lyme disease cases are acquired from ticks picked up during activities around the home.

**It is possible to substantially reduce the risk of tick-borne illness.**

Management of tick populations can be a formidable task, but reducing exposure to ticks is critical in avoiding Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. There is no one single treatment that will eliminate tick exposure on its own. Instead, an IPM (integrated pest management) approach, incorporating both cultural and chemical treatments, is most likely to have success.

First and most important is to protect yourself when in your yard by following health department tick safety guidelines

such as using repellent spray, covering your skin and checking yourself when you come inside.

The next step is to create a tick barrier of wood chips approximately three feet wide around lawn edges to reduce tick exposure. Mow the lawn frequently and rake up and remove piles of leaves. Discourage deer with repellents and fencing, and keep firewood in a dry area to discourage mice.

Finally, pesticide treatments targeting tick habitat, including wooded areas around the home and the borders along woodland edges, ornamental plantings, and stone walls can suppress tick populations. It is important to know the best time to treat for ticks in the area in which you live.

A few precautions and the management of tick populations in the residential or recreational landscape can substantially reduce the risk of Lyme disease and other tick-associated illnesses.

Mulch Barrier

Personal Protection

Pesticide Treatment



## Spotted lanternfly *by Chad Rigsby, PhD*

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The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect that was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. This insect is actually not a fly, but a planthopper, and it feeds on trees using its needle-like mouthparts, called a “stylet”. Tree of heaven appears to be the preferred SLF host, but there are more than 65 known host species, including hickory, maple, pine, poplar, red oak, walnut, willow, *Prunus* spp. (plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds), and apple.



There are no known biological controls for this pest in the United States. Egg masses, however, are easily detected on bark; they can be scraped off and should be double-bagged and thrown away. Insecticides can be used to effectively control SLF, as well. If you find SLF in an area where it has not yet been reported, please report it immediately to aid in the control of this invasive pest.





## TREE & SHRUB MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

Good time to plant trees and shrubs

Monitor for magnolia and tuliptree scale insects and treat as needed

Monitor for spruce spider mite and treat as needed

### OCTOBER

Good time to plant trees and shrubs or to transplant trees and shrubs that have lost their leaves for the year

Place protection around base of fruit trees to prevent damage due to mouse and rabbit activity

Before bringing any plants inside, check them for pests such as whiteflies, mealybugs and thrips

Adult-stage ticks may be present around mid-month; one additional tick treatment may be needed

### NOVEMBER

Protect plants from winter freezing, snow, wind and salt damage

Make sure soil for evergreen plants is moist as weather approaches freezing temperatures

Collect soil samples to anticipate soil nutrient needs for the coming year or to adjust pH

### DECEMBER

Light pruning can be done at this time

Water trees and shrubs during periods of thaw, especially in areas that may receive salt spray

Remove snow from evergreen branches gently with a broom

## The Bartlett Legacy Tree Program promotes stewardship

At Bartlett, trees are more than just our business. We are committed to increasing tree planting and stewardship in our communities. That's because we know that urban tree populations depend on large-scale participation to thrive and grow – now and in the future.

Through the Bartlett Legacy Tree Program, our Arborists personally distribute tree seedlings to students, community groups, local reforestation efforts, and others each year. In 2018 we are on track to distribute 70,000 trees. Our goal is not only to get these seedlings into the ground, but to teach and inspire our communities (especially our youth) to care for trees – and to plant even more of them!

We love it when people are as enthusiastic about the trees in their towns and cities as we are. The Bartlett Legacy Tree Program is a way for us to be intentional about cultivating that spirit in others. We are proud of this program and we hope it inspires you to plant a tree!

Bartlett participates in many Arbor Day events and annual flower shows. This year we gave out 1500 trees at the Newport Flower Show. Many people tell us they look forward to receiving our seedlings every year. They tell us about trees that Bartlett gave them years ago that are growing and flourishing on their properties. One man in Newport talked about his copper beech seedling that is now taller than he is!



## Fun with trees Not your usual autumn leaf project

For an interesting craft this fall, try this simple project – decorate brown leaves with white paint.

It's a fun activity for all ages. Collect a bunch of fallen brown leaves. Next, if you'd like your leaves to lie flatter for painting, you can iron them! Place each leaf under a damp dish towel and give it a quick press to make it nice and flat. Then all you need are some poster paint and a small paint brush for each child (or adult!). After the paint dries, display the children's (or your own!) handiwork in a basket for a unique centerpiece.

For more decorating and display ideas, search for 'painted leaves' on Pinterest.





# TREE FOCUS:

## Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)

### History

Sugar maple has been tapped for syrup production since the first European settlers saw native Americans doing it in the 1600s, and maple syruping is still an important industry and hobby in the Northeast. This tree has always been valued as a timber species because of the wood's hardness and beauty. Its uses have included lumber for general construction, flooring, furniture, cabinet work, woodenware, and baseball bats. The high density of sugar maple wood makes it a popular fuel for home heating. Sugar maple is a popular ornamental tree because of its tolerance to shade, spreading form, and brilliant autumn foliage.

### Culture

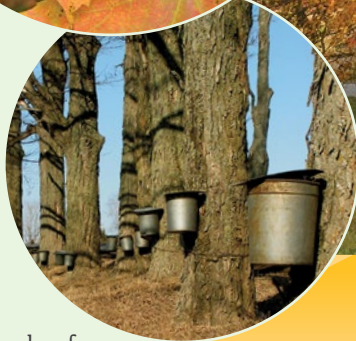
- Typically grows on glacial soils in the Northeast with pH of 5.5 to 7.3
- Can survive in many soil types and conditions, but grows best in deep, moist, and well-drained soils with medium or fine textures
- Shade tolerant, but grows well in full sun

### Concerns

- Structural defects due to codominant stems can develop if not corrected when young
- Sugar maple is very sensitive to high levels of sodium in the soil, typically from application of road salt
- Not a good species for urban sites because of sensitivity to salt and environmental extremes
- Prone to girdling roots when planted deep or over-mulched

### Bartlett Management Practices

- Typically requires structural pruning when young to produce a strong central leader, or cabling if multiple leaders develop
- Root collars should always be exposed



## WONDERS OF NATURE Hong Kong's stone wall trees

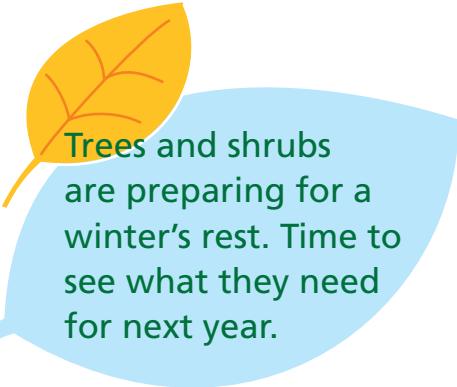
Hong Kong has many large retaining walls built to overcome the hilly terrain as the city grew. Trees with a 'strangler' growth habit (mainly banyans and figs) began to grow between blocks in the walls. With their trunk bases on walls, over time these trees' roots spread on, and/or penetrated through, the walls. The dramatic results helped strengthen the retaining walls, and created a shade-giving urban forest in this very congested city. Today Hong Kong actively works to preserve the walls and stone wall trees that are an important living urban heritage in the city.





## Compliments of

Your Arborist Representative



Trees and shrubs are preparing for a winter's rest. Time to see what they need for next year.

## Tower Hill Botanic Garden



Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, was started in 1986 by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the third oldest active

horticultural society in the country. Today, Tower Hill has 17 distinct gardens on more than 130 acres, many of which are preserved as woodland and open space. There are trails to explore, and Tower Hill features a year-round display of the finest plants for cultivation in New England.

The carefully planned gardens; collections of ornamental, edible and native plants; the trails; and a robust program and event schedule make Tower Hill a destination any time of year. Get more information and check out upcoming events at [www.towerhillbg.org](http://www.towerhillbg.org).



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