

# QUALITY QUARTERLY

February 2008

## Drought Stricken Plants: “What Should I Do?”

The Easter freeze of 2007 caused great concern for many homeowners due to the dramatic loss of leaves on their trees and shrubs. However, a great deal of the trees and shrubs that died or were severely damaged by the freeze were non-native plants such as Japanese Maple and Crepe Myrtle or plants that were already in poor condition. Most of our native trees such as Oak, Hickory, and Maple suffered noticeable damage to foliage but were able to draw on food reserves to grow new leaves by the beginning of summer. Then to add insult to injury came the extreme drought and high temperatures of the summer. The drought and extreme temperatures reduced photosynthesis, limiting food production. Due to depletion of reserve food used to grow new leaves after the freeze and the inability to produce new food, many of our trees died by the end of summer. Hardest hit were Maples and many of our Evergreens such as Leyland Cypress, Spruce, and White Pine.

Excessive drought and extremely high soil temperatures result in dieback of the small absorbing roots needed to extract nutrients and water from the soil. Rainfall amounts this fall and winter have not made up the deficit as far as water supply in our lakes and streams, however, the good news is rainfall volume and frequency have provided adequate moisture for our trees and shrubs to grow new absorbing roots over the winter. If the current rainfall pattern continues, trees and shrubs with adequate food reserves for growing leaves this spring should be able to recover.

### What should I do now?

- Any evergreens that are brown are for sure dead. Dead trees should be removed soon to protect live plants from insect and disease problems this spring.
- Remaining trees will benefit by applying biostimulants and “slow release” liquid soil fertilizer to promote root growth – this is very important!
- Dormant oil applied now is beneficial to evergreens and woody plants for reducing harmful insect populations this coming summer.
- Pruning! Wait until spring to determine which trees had adequate reserve food to produce new leaves, and have one of our trained arborists develop a pruning plan to restore the beauty and health of your valuable landscape.
- Be prepared to water your trees during hot, dry periods this summer – a must!

– Kim Cross

### COUPON

**One free treatment for first time sign-ups in 2008!**

**You can have a green, weed-free lawn with only 5 treatments per year.**

**Brighten Your World, Go Green!**

**Mail this coupon in as your first payment.**



### Why Trees Break...

Ruel Jones



**Sharp-angled forks and limb attachments are one of the big reasons for tree failure.** This is why Bradford Pears fall every time the wind blows, and also one of the main reasons people think Hackberry trees are weak. It's not that the Bradfords and Hackberrys are weak trees, it's more so because they usually have an abundance of sharp-angled limb attachments. Most trees damaged or lost due to this sharp-angle attachment could have been easily remedied if a cable brace had been installed. Support cables are easy to install, and they greatly reduce the chances of failure. If you have a tree with sharp-angled forks or limb attachments, this is where an ounce of cure can save you a ton of problems.



Sharp-angled forks

# Can You Believe People Still Top Trees?

They sure do! There are chopped up trees all over town and I can hardly stand to see it.

We are falling short on educating the general public about how inefficient tree topping really is, and it's costing everyone. I don't believe tree topping should be against the law, for goodness sake; we have way too many laws as it is, and the less government in our lives, the better.

If it wasn't for such stupid waste of your and my money, I guess I would not be so passionate about it. Sort of like the hundreds of thousands of dollars taken from our own checks to pay for the fire ant police. That's right, fire ant police. Can you believe that there is a whole division of Tennessee government out there chasing fire ants? I didn't until a few years ago. We are paying a lot of people to run around and worry about whether or not a fire ant is running loose in Tennessee. Most all of the states south of Tennessee are so full of fire ants that they gave up and accepted them as a part of life, but not

before the government spent millions of dollars chasing them. Go figure!

Now they are doing what should have been done in the first place — learning

how to safely coexist. I look forward to when our state leaders abolish the ant chasers and start spending that money somewhere else like, for example, our schools. We can't get enough money to provide decent education for our children, but we sure do have plenty to chase a blooming fire ant.

Education is the key, and it's obvious that we are falling short. **The blind leading the blind!** Dave Ramsey (a financial guru and a national radio talk-show host) states that 70% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, which means 70% of Moms and Dads are teaching their children about

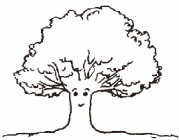
money by the way they live and spend it. I see the same thing taking place in

neighborhoods where tree topping goes on. Mutilated trees standing in neighbors' yards set the precedent for

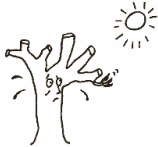
others to see. Observers think it must be the right thing to do. Otherwise, why would anyone pay all that money to ruin a tree? So, it goes on and on. If you want to be a good steward to a friend, a community, and to our planet as a whole, pass on the news that **topping** a tree is a terrible waste of fuel, money, and energy, and this act promotes even more waste in later years as the topped trees become decayed, unstable and dangerous.

To learn more about how bad tree topping is, go to [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) and type in tree topping in the search box.

— Ruel Jones



Happy Tree



Topped Tree



Ugly Tree



Sad Tree

"If trees could scream, would we be so cavalier about cutting them down? We might, if they screamed all the time, for no good reason."

~Jack Handey

## Quarters: Interested in a Trade?

Ruel Jones

This is our final year of the state quarter program that was started by the US mint in 1999. I have been collecting quarters from the beginning in

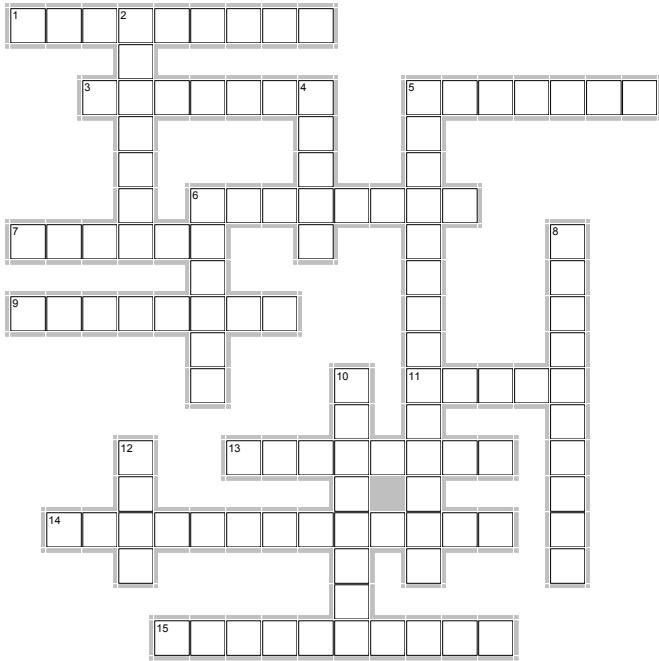


efforts to obtain whole rolls from both, Philadelphia and Denver mints of all fifty states. If you are collecting (or know some one who is), I have several extra rolls

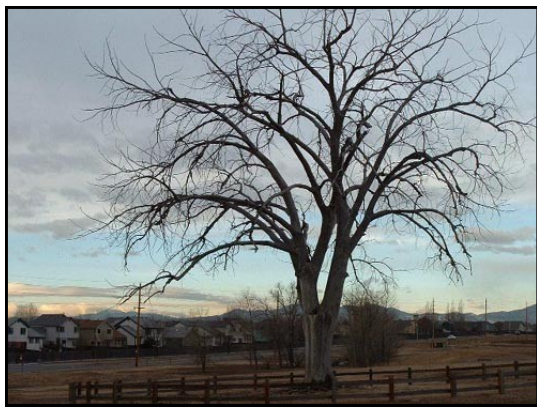
that I'd love to trade for rolls I am missing; or if you started and got lost halfway through, you may have some you'd like to sell.

Give me a call, maybe we can help each other complete our collection.

# Crossword Puzzle



EclipseCrossword.com



## ACROSS

1. We give away \_\_\_\_\_ by the truck load.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a tree is not recommended because it's expensive and harmful.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is another way to help trees to restore their beauty.
6. Which insect is TN government chasing?
7. When is the best time to plant a tree?
9. In addition to our myriad of services, we also provide \_\_\_\_\_ for any club meetings.
11. Ruel Jones is interested in \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Ruel Jones wants to trade \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Another way to restore health of trees.
15. How many years has our company been here for you?

## DOWN

2. One of the reasons a lot of the trees died last year.
4. Name of an industry that deals with trees, plants, and grass.
5. Extreme temperatures reduce \_\_\_\_\_, thus limiting food production of trees.
6. Another reason why some trees died last year.
8. What needs to be installed on a tree to reduce fork splitting?
10. Winter is the best time to plant a tree because of \_\_\_\_\_.
12. For what service did we include a coupon in this issue?

## Winter: The Best Time to Plant Trees!

Larry Loiseau



**Plant small trees for big results!**

Trees in the yards look so bare and appear as if they were asleep, although now is when the underground employees (roots) are hard at work gearing up for this spring. And though the crowns are dormant, the below ground parts are active, in high gear if you will.

Dormancy – lack of active upper growth – gives a new tree more time to grow feeder roots before the hard push of spring and summer. While there is an ample amount of moisture this time of year, it provides a stress-free, comfortable environment for the tree to overcome wounds and recover from transplant injury. Since roots are growing all winter, they will have time to grow and establish a new root system, allowing new leaves to appear in the Spring!

**The best time to plant a tree was years ago, and the next best time is NOW!**





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Celebrating  
25 years !



## Speakers

### Bureau:

*Looking for a speaker for your club meetings?*

Give us a call!

We have several interesting, informative topics. We'd be happy to speak for any size group you have!

By building highly-trained staff and professional Arborists, Quality Tree Surgery's mission is to consistently deliver 100% customer service satisfaction for all of our tree, turf, and landscape maintenance customers.

## FREE WOOD CHIPS!

Free wood chips are now available for delivery within our working area. Wood chips can be used as mulch to recycle important nutrients back into the soil. Mulch also helps to protect your tree's root system from compaction, rapid temperature changes and holds in moisture during droughts. Its decaying organic matter feeds soil microbes keeping soil healthy. Wood chips can also be used for fill to help alleviate erosion problems! They can be spread around play areas and they're great for making foot paths. Allow them

to compost and they are a great additive to the soil. It's just a beautiful way to recycle our natural resources.



Here's how it works: Just give our office a call at 833-6638, tell us exactly where you want the chips dumped and we'll put you

on our list. When a crew is working in your area and have a load of chips, they will show up and put them in the requested spot. Due to the way our chopper trucks dump, we can only deliver a full truck load at a time. If you are wondering how many chips are in a load, it would be enough to fill a large pick-up truck 6 or 7 times, it's a lot of chips! You will also need an area at least 12 feet wide and 20 feet long that a big truck can access easily to place the wood chips for you. If you are interested, give us a call!

