

“The Tree Doctor Is In”



Our Trees Are In For A Very Dry Summer

What should we expect for our trees this summer in Minnesota after such a dry winter? With most of the state in a drought already, our trees are in for some challenging times. If the drought persists or even improves to a partial drought, trees will more than likely experience many different stresses.

Trees can die from thirst just like any other living thing. Drought causes dry water tables, which create dry roots, and dry roots die. All roots are connected in a system is like a series of phone lines making regular calls to the respective branches above ground in the tree's canopy, which keeps trees alive and producing new roots and foliage each year. So a dead

root needs to be replaced quickly by the tree or the corresponding tree branch above ground will die. This requires lots of energy and resilience from the tree.

Dormant root buds underground can be activated and grow quickly if the tree is healthy enough to do so. The problem with drought is that it saps the tree of energy, because the tree needs water to maintain daily health during spring/summer/fall. Dry soil becomes devoid of mycorrhiza which brings nutrients and minerals to the tree to eat. Combine the lack of food and water, your trees will not build new roots and become very weak.

These dry conditions also mean higher hatch rates for predatory insects such as emerald ash borer, 2 lined chestnut borer, pine bark beetle, birch borer, and more. These insects do not attack healthy trees, only weak ones, and as the trees weaken in an area from drought, the insects move across the state with many weakened trees to infest. Look how quickly the emerald ash borer has marched across the lakes area. It's because of drought conditions the last few years.

A drought is the perfect scenario for trees to get weak, get infested by bugs, get sick and infected, and die in a relatively short time. This is happening everywhere in our state. Tree removal services are very busy as a result. And sadly, your beautiful trees disappear one by one.

Even by a lake with water 20 feet away from your tree, the roots will dry out. Water flows down into the lakes from your yard, not up. So don't assume your lake side trees are drought proof. Also your plush lawn steals 99% of the irrigation watering, so the roots of your trees don't get enough from that either.

What can you do?

-proper watering, NOT just from sprinkler systems, is vital. Our website shows how to water your trees the right way.

-proper natural nutrients should be reintroduced to the tree root zone to help it heal, do NOT poisonous spikes, fertilizers, weed killers, and other yard chemicals that are damaging to trees, lakes, and rivers.

-if landscaping or construction has happened in your yard, proper techniques can be used to reverse compaction and promote new root growth in the damaged roots.

-if your trees are already showing signs of stress or insect infestation, have a professional tree treatment company inspect, diagnose, and put the trees on a nutrition program to replace what's missing and get the tree strong enough to rebuild health asap.

We at Deblen want to save as many trees as we possibly can, this summer will be a very challenging year for Minnesota's landscapes. Hopefully this article will help raise awareness and save a few of our trees.

-Written by Caleb Nelson

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Deblen the Tree Doctor

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Do you have a question about your trees? Email us through our website and we might answer it right here in our next article!