

## Tree Talk

### Sapping Trees

A common question right now for those that have American Elm and Black Walnut trees, is “What can I do about all the sticky sap raining down from these trees? The sap is getting all over cars, houses and decks.” This is a common problem during the growing season, and it seems to be worse this year than in past years. The problem is caused by aphids feeding on the leaves and foliage of the trees. As they feed, they release a honeydew substance that ‘rains’ down out of the tree. If the aphid infestation is bad enough you can literally see the sap mist out of the tree and down to the ground. This insect can be controlled with a soil drench application of imidicloprid, sold as Bayer advanced tree and shrub insect control. It should be applied in May, or when the leaves just begin to open. It can also be applied in the fall for control next year. Make sure to read and follow labeled instructions.

Apple scab has also been a problem this year which affects apple and crabapple trees in South Dakota. It is a very common disease and can be found every year. The disease occurs on leaves, blossoms and fruit. Infected leaves are distorted and contain velvety brown to olive spots that turn black. Infected leaves may begin dropping by midseason and in severe infections can defoliate the entire tree. Planting resistant apple cultivars is the best means of management. Raking up and disposing of infected, fallen leaves can also give you limited control. Crabapples can be treated with an application of captan or chlorothalonil every 7 to 10 days beginning as the flower buds swell and continuing until three weeks after the petals fall or dry weather prevails. This treatment is for crabapples only, not trees used for fruit production.

Remember to continue watering your trees throughout summer and fall, especially if we are not getting frequent saturating rains.

Please contact me for additional information or questions at [forestry@aberdeen.sd.us](mailto:forestry@aberdeen.sd.us) or 626-7015

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