Winter Newsletter XXXV Edition

SCIENTIFIC PLANT SERVICE

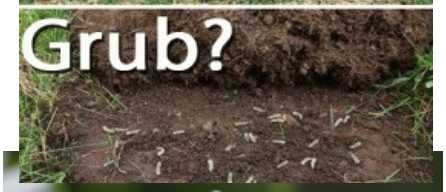
Environmental Stewards Since 1957

PO Box 62 Brooklandville, MD 21022 February 2018 410-321-0970

SERVICE SCHEDULE

If you have services scheduled this year, the details are enclosed. Please take a look to verify accuracy. If accurate, do nothing at this time and we will provide service when appropriate. If you have any questions please contact your listed plant health care advisor.

ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE...



STAFF NEWS

Operations:

-**Gary Wisniewski** changed roles in the fall of 2017 and is now our operations manager.

Advisor:

-Veteran plant health care professional **Russell Bateman** joined Scientific in the fall. Mr. Bateman will advise clients in the territory previously serviced by Gary.

Technician:

-**William Greene** and **Jason Shepherd** hit the road this past fall to learn our system and be ready to serve this spring. Both men have over 17 years in the field and hold licenses from the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture.

Support:

-Since March 2017, **Jeff Gist,** Mechanic, has been keeping our fleet safe & ready for the road.

-After nearly 14 years in our office, **Peggy Neary** tapped the keyboard for the last time in December. We wish her a wonderful retirement.

-Welcome to **Shirley Seyler** who started 2018 learning how our office gets it done.

Commitment to excellence:

-The International Society of Arboriculture, ISA certified arborist credential was obtained in March by **Brian Haga**.

CERTIFIED ARBORIST ISA ™

Staff News ....

-**Gary Wisniewski** renewed his State Highway Administration *(SHA)* Temporary Traffic Control Manager certification by completing the course and passing the exam in May.

-**Ken Mays** and **Brian Haga** saw the latest and greatest tools when they attended the October Green Industry and Equipment Expo. (GIE) in Louisville, KY.

-The University of Maryland Advanced Landscape IPM PHC short course was attended by **Russell Bateman** and **Rich Beere**.

-**Advisors and management** spent 2 days in January at the Monster Mile Conference Center in Dover, DE for business leadership training and green industry education.

-The Bayer CropScience and Bee Care Center RTP, NC hosted our **licensed technicians & advisors** for two days of training in January. *(See page 3)*

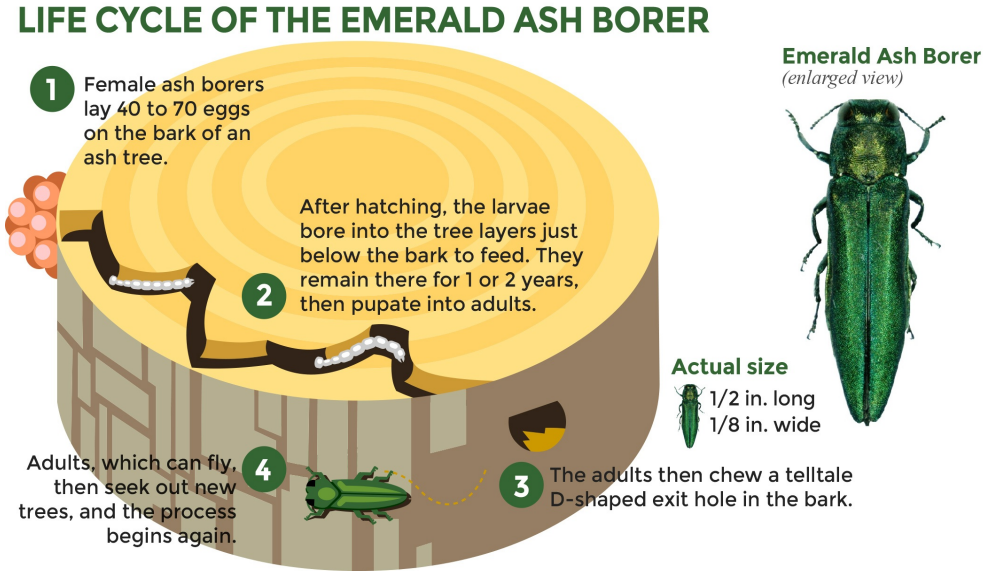
FINAL CALL TO SAVE YOUR ASH

By Gary Wisniewski

The emerald ash borer was first detected in Detroit in 2002. Thought to have arrived in shipping material, the emerald ash borer or EAB is now found in 29 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It is estimated to have killed over 100 million trees. Economic losses are calculated to be over 1.5 billion dollars every year. EAB was discovered in Prince Georges, MD in May, 2003. Despite efforts to quarantine the insect, it has spread throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

By 2015, EAB was confirmed to be in the Baltimore area. There are estimated to be 6 million ash trees in the Baltimore metropolitan area and up to 300,000 in Baltimore city. Ash are the most common tree species in Baltimore and perhaps the most common in the metropolitan area. Nearly all these trees will die. The only survivors will be ash that have been protected by insecticide and fertilization. Protected ash may still suffer significant amounts of damage and even death, despite treatment. Without treatment death is assured. Many unprotected trees have already been lost.

Much has been learned about the EAB since 2002, but there is still more to learn. Scientific Plant Service is continually training to provide the best service possible and to offer the best solutions for your needs. Our tree and turf health care advisors Paul Thomas and Russell Bateman will be able to determine if your ash trees can be saved and the best course of action for your trees.



GRUBS.... GRUBS.... GRUBS....

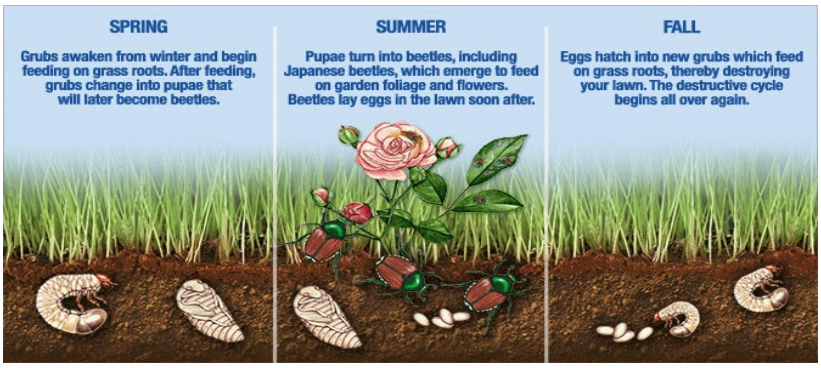
By Paul Thomas

Grubs were back with a vengeance this year doing damage to lawns everywhere. Most destructive grubs are larvae from Japanese beetles or masked chafers that feed on grass roots in late summer and early fall as they prepare themselves to overwinter. They can kill large patches of grass and prefer sunny lawns. Damaged lawns appear yellow and dry (much like drought symptoms). Lawns can easily be damaged by mowing when under attack. As the grubs mature; birds, fox, skunks and other animals will dig up the turf looking for a scrumptious treat. The problem with grub damage is once you see the symptoms there is nothing you can do;

Repair is 5x costlier than prevention!

it is too late. Injury to your lawn from this activity will require treatment with an insecticide and re-seeding. While we can treat for active grubs, the best way to prevent costly and unsightly damage to your lawn is to treat preventively rather than curatively.

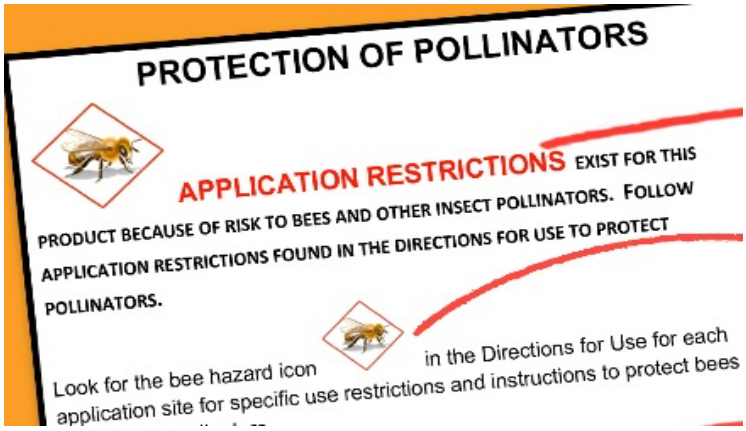
A single application from April through July is extremely effective in preventing grub damage on your lawn. Make sure your lawn program includes preventive treatment for grubs (T3 code on your schedule) or call the office for more information.



BEE BOX

#FeedABee

When there is flexibility to protect pollinators and their habitat, *bee* assured SPS will be doing so. Recent EPA labeling changes include a bee box for added awareness when applying products that may be harmful to bees. Product selection, proper timing and education are 3 strategies implemented every day to sustain bee health. Education is the key to protecting the pollinators.



A trip this winter to the Bayer Bee Care Center provided our staff with the knowledge needed to continue taking care of the pest problems in your landscape without harming the pollinators. SPS is a partner organization with Bayer's Feed a Bee program.

Feed a Bee is a major Bayer initiative to increase food for bees and other pollinators by planting more flowers and establishing additional forage acreage. Working with individuals and organizations across various sectors, Feed a Bee will help to provide pollinators with the diverse forage and habitat they need to thrive. To date, hundreds of thousands of people have joined together to plant over 3 billion flowers. The program collaborators, along with SPS and more than 120 partner organizations contribute to planting and education initiatives.

Please plant the enclosed wildflower seeds. We encourage you to share your planting photos with us on social media by using #feedabee. If you would like more seeds or are part of an organization interested in establishing larger plots of pollinator forage, please let us know.

www.beehealth.bayer.us

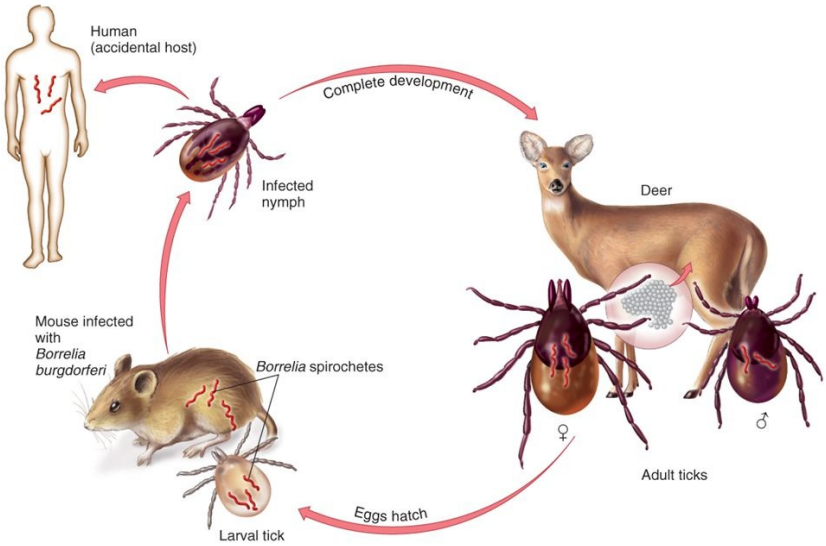
CONTROLLING TICKS TO DECREASE DISEASE

By Gary Wisniewski

Ticks are small spider like animals (arachnids) that bite to fasten themselves to the skin and feed on blood. Several ticks common to Maryland are the American dog tick and the Rocky Mountain wood tick. Both are known to take human hosts and can be carriers of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. The lone star tick, takes human hosts and is a carrier of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia and possibly Lyme disease. Black legged ticks, also known as deer ticks, are the primary carrier of Lyme disease.

The white-footed mouse is the vector of Lyme disease and the disease is passed on during the ticks nymphal stage. Methods of controlling the deer tick population include the use of "tick tubes" which are tubes like a paper towel tube that contain nesting material treated with insecticides that kill ticks. The mice use the nesting material in the tubes for building their nest, therefore the young mice are protected from getting ticks.

Lyme Disease and the Tick Life Cycle



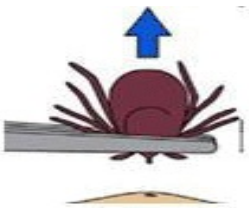
Other methods include the use of insecticide and repellent to reduce tick populations in the landscape. Insecticide will target the ticks directly while the use of deer repellent reduces the time deer browse the landscape. Repellent reduces risk because it limits the time deer are in your yard. Remember, deer are an important host during the life cycle of ticks. For information about controlling ticks, please contact your tree and turf health care advisor.

If someone is bitten by a tick it is important to remove the tick as soon as possible. To remove the attached tick, pull slowly and steadily to avoid breaking off the mouthparts (head). It is best to use tweezers or forceps with the tips placed on or just behind the mouthparts. Wash the bite immediately upon removal.

How to Remove a Tick

Step #1: Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. The goal is to remove the entire tick including its head and mouth.

Step #2: Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick!



Step #3: Clean the bite area and your hands with alcohol.

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