



Tree Line

A publication of the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program
Sarah C. Gracey, Editor

Tree Line

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Picking the Right Shoe, I Mean Tree...

Sarah C. Gracey, Urban Forestry Coordinator, KDF

I could have named this article, "Right Tree, Right Place," "Proper Tree Selection" or any other number of boring titles. Two of my favorite things in life are trees and shoes. The fact of the matter is that I love every aspect of trees and shoes! I like learning about them, shopping for them, taking them home, showing them off and taking care of them. Whether I am researching the latest trend or looking for a practical, reliable standby, many lessons learned in their selection can be found between the two. Below are some life lessons that I have observed over the years in selecting trees and shoes.

Everybody else is getting these!

Now would you want to walk into a party and 10 other ladies are standing in the same leopard print peep toe pumps that you have? For many reasons, just because everybody else owns a particular "style," that doesn't mean it is the right one for you. People often hop on the tree species bandwagon without investigating the species. Take the time to consider aspects of your planting site before selecting a species. Things to consider include: sunlight, soil type, soil pH, above- and below-ground planting space, growth habit, fruit and susceptibility to disease and insects.

Diversity is key! I love black shoes in particular because they go with so many outfits. However, I am doing myself a disservice to not consider a palate of other colors. Tree plantings are the same way; a variety of species will result in a more interesting "tree wardrobe." A fundamental reason to want diversity in our urban landscape is to build a healthy tree population. For example, if an insect starts attacking a particular species of tree, a diverse planting will suffer a lower percentage lost. A good rule of thumb is to never plant more than 10% of one tree species for optimum health in your urban forest.

It is an investment! Some shoes are a great bargain, but sometimes, a higher price is justified, particularly when it is a shoe I know that I will wear for a long time. Trees are very different in this aspect. We don't hope to keep them around for a year or two, we hope to keep them in our yards for decades. So, don't buy the cheapest plant. Chances are that you will get what you pay for! Visit your local nurseryman and shop for high quality trees that have been grown with an attention to quality trees (*continued page 4*).



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Cicadas: Periodical and Annual

Tim McClure, Forest Health Environmental Scientist



The noise of periodical cicadas is anticipated in some parts of Kentucky this summer. Cicadas are the noisiest and one of the most misunderstood insects that occur in our state. Every year, one can see cicada shells on the lower bole of the tree and often hear them in the evenings calling a mate. However, every few years, cicadas emerge in massive numbers and their songs can be deafening.



Photo 1 - Periodical Cicada

There are two types of cicadas that occur in Kentucky-annual and periodical. The annual cicada emerges every year in small numbers while the periodical cicada emerges every few years in large numbers. The periodical cicadas can emerge every 17 years (northern states) or every 13 years (southern states). There is some overlap in areas between these two periodical cicadas.

Early settlers were not knowledgeable about cicadas and when broods of the 17-or 13-year cicadas emerged they thought of the massive locust swarm referred to in the biblical times and thus called them locusts too. However, a locust is a specie of grasshopper and not at all related to a cicada.

There is a difference in appearance between the periodical and annual cicadas. Periodical cicadas are 1 1/2 inches long with reddish-orange eyes and legs, plus they have clear wings with reddish-orange wing venation (photo 1). Annual cicadas are 2 inches to 2 1/2 inches long, have green colored eyes and legs, and possess clear wings with green venation (photo 2). Periodical cicadas emerge April through June; annual cicadas emerge July through September. Annual cicadas are often called 'dog-day' cicadas because of their summertime emergence.



Photo 2 - Annual Cicada

After adult cicadas mate, the female will deposit 24-28 eggs at a time - or up to 400-600 eggs in her brief adult lifetime. Females are equipped with a saw-like ovipositor on the rear end that cuts a slit in a small branch, then lays the eggs in the slit. The eggs hatch in a few weeks and the nymphs fall to the ground and burrow underground. They spend the remainder of their nymphal life feeding on the sap from tree roots.



Photo 3 - Nymph preparing to shed skin

At the end of either 13 or 17 years, the periodical cicada nymph emerges from the soil, crawls up a vertical object and begins to shed its last nymphal skin. Cast skins are often found on tree bark or on other vertical objects. After shedding the skin, the newly emerged adult needs to dry off and expand its wings for a few hours (photo 3). Once dry, the insect can fly.

Eggs are laid on numerous plant species that include but are not limited to: oak, hickory, grapevines, apple, pear and peach. There are approximately 80+ plant species that female cicadas may lay eggs on.

Most cicada damage is the result of the egg-laying slits created by the females. These slits in the bark can cause the branch tip to wither and die. These dead branch tips hang on the tree and are referred to as "flagging" (photo 4). This damage is typically negligible to

mature trees but can be a serious problem on nursery stock and some fruit trees.

Homeowners are encouraged to keep a close eye on young trees for cicada damage. These young trees may need corrective pruning later in the year to remove dead and damaged twigs. If homeowners would like to opt for chemical control, they are encouraged to contact their local county extension office for specific chemical control options. These control options are beneficial in landscaped and nursery situations.



Photo 4 -Flagging of injured branch tips

Photo credits: 1, 2 and 4 — Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 3— Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Family, friends and coworkers suffered a tragic loss when Tim McClure passed away unexpectedly on May 10. Tim had worked with the division for over three years in the Forest Health Program. Before that, Tim worked as a horticulture agent with the Shelby County Extension Office and owned Buck Creek Perennials. A true supporter of his community, Tim had worked as a volunteer fire-fighter with the Simpsonville Fire District and developed an arboretum at Clear Creek Park in Shelbyville. Tim is greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

Woodland Owners Short Course

Carol L. Spence, UK Agricultural Communications

In Kentucky, 78 percent of the woodlands are in the hands of private owners. For these landowners, sorting through all the available management options and trying to find professional assistance can be daunting. The 2008 Woodland Owners Short Course is designed to open a path through what is potentially a wilderness of information.

Woodland owners have a number of options available to them, including, but not limited to, generating income from timber and forest crops, recreational use and wildlife management. Billy Thomas, University of Kentucky cooperative extension forester, said some of the biggest obstacles woodland owners face are understanding their property's potential and finding the people who can help them accomplish their objectives.

This program will once again be held on a regional basis, with class sessions held in the eastern, central and western areas of the state. Each regional short course will consist of three field-based sessions: Wood Industry and Your Woodland, Woodland Management and Wildlife Management.

This year's short course diverges a bit from previous years' sessions. Wildlife management programs will be held on wildlife management areas managed by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The Wood Industry and Your Woodland session is new to the curriculum. In this session, participants will visit wood processing facilities and come away with a better picture of what happens to their trees after leaving their property.

East Region sessions begin in Rockcastle County July 10 and continue August 7 in Johnson County at the Paintsville Lake Wildlife Management Area and in Rowan (*continued on page 4*)

(continued from page 3) County Sept. 4. The Central Region programs occur July 17 in Scott County, August 21 at the Green River Wildlife Management Area in Adair County and on September 23 in Marion County. West Region programs begin June 12 in Ohio County, continue August 28 in Graves County at the Kaler Bottoms Wildlife Management Area and conclude Sept. 11 in Hopkins County.

Participants can enroll in all three one-day programs in their region or choose the ones that interest them the most. In order to graduate from the short course, participants must complete all three sessions in a region. Each session begins at 9 a.m., and the day's session will conclude around 4 p.m. Pre-registration is required and sessions are \$20 each or three sessions for \$50, which includes lunch. For registration information or to register using a credit card contact the UK Forestry Extension at 859-257-7597 or go online to www.ukforestry.org.



KDF Forester Kent Slusher speaks to a group of landowners at a previous Woodland Owners Short Course. Photo credit - KDF

Right Shoe *(continued from page 1)*

Take good care of them! Some people might think it is odd that my “shoe guy” knows my first name. I don’t think it is - I love my shoes, and I take good care of them. If I see a minor problem, I try to fix it before it becomes a larger problem. There isn’t any sense in planting trees and not following through with proper care while they are young. Ensuring trees receive adequate water is one of the most critical elements to successful establishment. Also, routine monitoring can help identify problems while they are minor which can prevent major problems down the road. For example, a double leader on a maple is a quick snip with hand pruners on a young tree, and potentially a large problem, not easily fixed on a mature tree. This lack of a simple pruning job when young could lead the tree into an early death because it won’t be as structurally sound.

But will I love you when... A pair of shoes may look fabulous in a store display, but that doesn’t mean they are the ones for you. People have been known to buy shoes with the intent of wearing them every day only to

find that they are far too uncomfortable. Ahem, silly, huh? When considering tree species, consider what the tree will look like year round, and whether you will be happy with it. Will it have messy fruit, leaves, seeds (OK in some locations, others, not so much)? What will the form of the tree look like when there are no leaves? Does it have thorns that could be a nuisance? Match a tree with the location, and select for 4 season appeal.

Going natural is fun! Please don’t break into my closet and tell my shoes this....some of my best moments are without any of them, walking barefoot in the grass. Going natural or native can be a great option with tree selection, too. While not all native trees are ones we would want as an option in yard (i.e. box elder). There are a host of native Kentucky trees that do wonderful in urban environments. Native trees I love include redbud, yellowwood, blackgum, swamp white oak, serviceberry and sweetgum. Research the species to make sure it is appropriate.

Tree selection, like shoe selection, shouldn’t be a chore. It should be fun. There is a world of choices out there for the taking! Enjoy!

EAB Trapping Update

Janet Lensing, State Survey Coordinator,
University of Kentucky

Beginning in May, the purple prism traps designed for the national Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) trapping program will be placed in trees around Kentucky. The survey will be concentrated in the counties along and north of I-64 but will also include special interest areas such as campgrounds and nurseries. The hanging of 3600 traps is a joint effort by Kentucky's Office of the State Entomologist, Kentucky Division of Forestry, and arborists. Midway through the season the traps will be checked and lures will be changed so that the trap will remain attractive to the beetles until September when the traps will be removed. Screeners will examine all traps

this fall to determine if we have EAB in the state and, if so, where the populations are located

An EAB infestation was found in Fayette County, West Virginia in October of 2007. There are also 5 positive EAB infestations in Hamilton County, Ohio, just across the Ohio River from Kentucky. These known infestations are very close to Kentucky so this trapping program will be extremely useful in determining whether this devastating beetle is in the state.

Please visit www.emeraldashborer.info for the latest information about this beetle. If you suspect emerald ash borer in your ash trees, call the USDA EAB hotline at 1-866-EAB-4512.



Tree Line is for public distribution - please pass along to others who may be interested in urban forestry issues. If you have a question, comment or idea for a future article, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list for **Tree Line**, please let us know. You may contact the Frankfort Office of the Kentucky Division of Forestry at 1-800-866-0555. Sarah Gracey, urban forestry coordinator, may also be reached at: sarah.gracey@ky.gov and Peter Barber, urban forestry partnership coordinator, may be reached at: peter.barber@ky.gov. Learn more about the Kentucky Division of Forestry and our available services and programs at www.forestry.ky.gov.

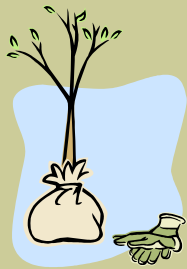


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“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 15, Rain Gardening Workshop, Bernheim Arboretum, 9-11:30 am, Clermont
- ◆ June 21, Rose Garden Tour, The Arboretum, 9 a.m., Lexington
- ◆ July 17, Fall Vegetable Garden: A Second Harvest, The Arboretum, Lexington
- ◆ June 7-July 26, Garden Sculpture/Art Show and Sale, Yew Dell Gardens
- ◆ June 23-27 Summer Camp at Yew Dell Gardens, 9 am - 3 pm each day
- ◆ July 26-30, ISA's 84th Annual Conference and Trade Show, St. Louis, MO
- ◆ Sept. 11-12, Tennessee Annual Urban Forestry Conference, Knoxville, TN
- ◆ Oct. 15-16, KAA's Annual Meeting and Conference, Shepherdsville
- ◆ Oct. 23-25, Green Industry and Equipment Expo, Louisville
- ◆ Nov. 18-20, Partners in Community Forestry, NADF, Atlanta, GA

To find out more information about the organizations and events listed above, please visit their Web sites.

- * **Bernheim Arboretum - bernheim.org**
- * **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) - isa-arbor.com**
- * **Kentucky Arborists Association (KAA) - kyisatree.org**
- * **Mid-States Horticulture Expo - mshe.org**
- * **National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) - arborday.org**
- * **Tennessee Urban Forestry Council - tufc.com**
- * **The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky - ca.uky.edu/arboretum**

“Trade Trash for Trees and Treats”

Kathy Keeney, City Horticulturalist, Paducah

“Trade Trash for Trees and Treats” began in 1999 as a cooperative effort between McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service, McCracken County Beautification Board, the city of Paducah, and the McCracken County Road Department. The main focus is to encourage children (and their parents) to pick up litter and participate in the city/county spring cleanup (also known as Free Dump Day) held each spring in McCracken County.

Getting youth to participate in cleaning up isn't always an easy task, so a system of rewards was designed for the program. Every child bringing in trash receives a free tree, provided by the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and a treat in the form of snacks or a voucher from Dairy Queen or McDonald's for instant gratification to increase their participation in the cleanup. As an added bonus, the McCracken County Beautification Board has kept track of which students participated the most from the different elementary schools, and a larger tree was planted at the winning schools as part of the local Arbor Day celebration. Local children have cleaned around their homes and picked up in their neighborhoods as well as area parks to increase their chances for more rewards. This program has proved very successful in McCracken County and provides the added benefit to the community of a more beautiful community in which to live!

