

# Let's Talk Trees

Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



## From Joe...What's New

It's exciting to be in full swing and already caring for your landscapes! The early warm temperatures have the Plant Health Care Arborists treating early spring pests and fertilizing trees and lawns. Many of you were able to take advantage of our winter pruning rates and the landscape crew is already out building patios and improving folks' outdoor living spaces.

In February, Ben K., Thorin and I attended the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association conference in Boise and were pleased to fine tune our knowledge of tree pruning, tree selection and planting. Then the crew and entire sales staff attended the annual Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference here in Spokane. Ben presented on Pests of Native Conifers and I presented on Best Business Practices in the Green Industry. We ruled the place with ten NPHC attendees, more than any other company by far. This intellectual capital is priceless and will be passed on to our loyal customers by way of better educated and more experienced arborists working on your property.

By the time this newsletter arrives at your door we will be close to finalizing a large plant order. Be sure to get with us right away to order that special tree for Mother's or Father's Day or a special graduate? Don't worry, if you miss the order there will still be lots of variety to choose from.

We consistently strive to gain your trust so you are confident in referring our services to your friends, neighbors and family. As many of you know, your referral is our highest compliment. I look forward to seeing you on your properties! ☺



In care of trees,

Joe Zubaly, President

### Thanks

*for the excellent service. The guys did a beautiful job and the trees look great. Everything was cleaned up nicely upon completion. It really makes our property look much better.*

*~ Tony B., Spokane*

## The COOL CROWD

NPHC is proud to partner with the Main Market Co-op!

If you care about the health of your yard, it's likely you care about the health of your body too. That's why we are excited to tell you about the cool crowd at Main Market Co-op. Recently opened in January 2010, this downtown Spokane consumer food co-op prioritizes food that's good for you, good for the producer and good for the planet. Main Market is open 7 days a week and offers bike and pooch parking, a rooftop greenhouse, and a host of educational programs that connect consumers with producers including farm tours, in-store samplings and cooking classes in partnership with Inland NW Culinary Academy. How neat is that?

Membership is not required to shop although Members do get discounts (from folks like us!) and a say in how the store develops. Help us welcome Main Market to the community. Find out more at [www.mainmarket.coop](http://www.mainmarket.coop) or visit the store at 44 W. Main. ☺



SEASONAL SAVINGS  
for our valued customers!

### 30% off

**Trees and plants for Father's or Mother's Day plantings**

Discount off cost of plant only.  
Order by May 5, 2010.

### FREE

**Prune 2 large trees and get 2 small shrubs pruned free**

Minimum purchase of \$500,  
maximum of \$75 free.  
Expires May 31, 2010.

### 10% off

**Refer a neighbor for a lawn or tree spray program and get 10% off your annual program when they join**

Does not include landscaping, pruning, or removals.  
Expires May 31, 2010.



Want to take advantage of more special offers from NPHC?

Join our Preferred Client Club and receive monthly specials via e-mail. It's easy to sign up! Visit [NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com/contact](http://NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com/contact) and provide us with your name & email.

## ✓ Seasonal To Do List

- ❑ Turn on sprinklers and check performance
- ❑ When buying plants, inspect their root systems well, this is their nutrition highway
- ❑ Fertilize lawns and trees for a strong spring flush of growth
- ❑ Attend TIEG GARDEN EXPO, May 8, SCC. This is a fabulous educational event
- ❑ Prune out injury from plants damaged over the winter
- ❑ Visit the Main Market Co-op
- ❑ Call before you dig –  
Washington: 800.424.5555  
Kootenai County -800.428.4950

## Understanding NPHC pest control strategies

by Ben Kappen

Each spring, our pest management division undertakes the challenging task of setting up the coming season to perform thousands of customized treatments for the plants and properties of the clients we serve. Rather than rely on a conventional shotgun approach to pest management, using a spray-and-kill-everything method, we look closely at the unique needs of each client and develop a program tailored to the plants and pests in each of their landscapes.

Beginning in late winter, we track the development of each plant species and the fluctuating weather patterns of that year. We then correlate that information to the predictable indicators of insect and disease that affect each plant species. In doing so, we are able to deliver a more effective, environmentally friendly and sustainable means of pest management for overall plant and landscape health.

By predicting when each problem is going to occur, and then actively monitoring the stage of plant development that supports or coincides with each pest or disease, we are able to time applications to gain better control with less. This approach to timing allows us to:

- Target each pest before it occurs or at the most vulnerable point in its life stage or progression
- Use softer products to get the desired results
- Use less pesticide because repeated applications are not necessary
- Preserve the natural predators that keep your plants looking great

Using this approach, our plant health care, lawn and weed management programs can further ensure and augment the health of the entire landscape through care, expertise, and experienced personnel who see the big picture. ↪



## Ask the tree care experts

### My son in Seattle has a beautiful Weeping Alaskan Cedar. Can I plant one here with success?

The answer is definitely, maybe, and probably not. As with many of the less common ornamental species sold and planted in our region, the success of this plant depends on the specific variables associated with your site. *Chamaecyparis Nootkatensis 'pendula'* (Weeping Alaskan Cedar) is native to coastal or mountainous regions from Alaska to Oregon and is hardy to zone 4 where moisture levels are high in winter. It also prefers deep, moist, loamy, acidic soil. While this plant thrives with copious amounts of water, it needs a well-drained site. The tree will do well in light shade, although it prefers full sun provided excessive winds and exposure do not dry the soil or burn the foliage especially in winter. When healthy, it is usually unaffected by pests or disease, although deer feeding can be an issue. With the right conditions, this medium-sized, fast-growing evergreen would make a great specimen and add a unique softness to your landscape. ↪

## Honor a special Dad this year!

Did you know Spokane is the birthplace of Father's Day? It's true! In June 1910 a young woman, Sonora Smart Dodd, decided that Fathers deserved a day of honor equal to that of Mothers, and the rest, as they say, is history. This year is especially important because it marks the holiday's 100-year anniversary. Here at NPHC we think that is really darn cool, so, in honor of this special event, we are offering planting specials to celebrate Dads.

A vibrant, beautiful plant, tree, or small garden is a unique gift that benefits your loved one and the environment providing years of enjoyment for family, friends, and the community. Our Certified Arborists and Plant Health Care Experts will help you select the perfect plants for your location, ensuring long-term health and vitality. This thoughtful gift is also great for moms and graduates.

**YES!** We have packages for all budgets and can plant in both public and private locations. Learn more about Spokane's Centennial Celebration of Father's Day at [fathersdaybirthplace.com](http://fathersdaybirthplace.com). ↪

► **Busy season is upon us! Call today to arrange your special gift.**



### When should I call my electric company and when can NPHC take care of my pruning needs by the wire?

NPHC can prune when the trees or limbs are 10 feet away from the energized high voltage power line. These are the lines that go from pole to pole. We are also able to prune around the house drops at any time. These are the wires that go from pole to house. If a wire is in the way, we often call the electric company and schedule a house line drop before proceeding with a pruning or removal. If you see a potentially dangerous situation with trees and power lines such as arcing or sparking wires, immediately call your electric company. ↪

Reach Avista at 800.227.9187



*Weeping Alaskan Cedar*





# Who's hot!

## Adam Brown

Adam has always shown a love for all things green and growing and arrived at NPHC with a ton of forestry experience. He is also an ISA Certified Arborist and aspires to become a Master Gardener. This will be Adam's third season with us and he is a valued asset to our team of experts. Adam's favorite thing about working for NPHC is learning from the other crew members. He especially enjoys seeing a client's property and helping the owner achieve their dreams of having a beautiful, vigorous landscape.

Adam has a wonderful daughter, Elysya, who is about to graduate from North Central High School. When he is not pruning your trees he is out hiking and most definitely riding his bike! ↪

# What's not!

## What's Not - Balsam Woolly Adelgid

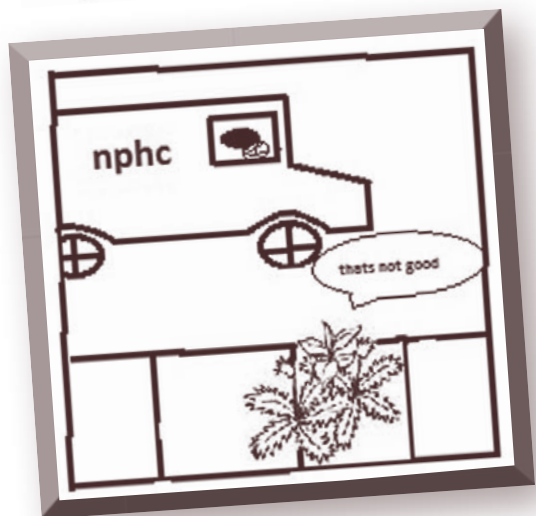
The Balsam Woolly Adelgid is found throughout the Pacific Northwest on Grand Fir, Pacific Fir, and Subalpine Fir and is easy to identify due to the white, cottony masses that cling to the underside of branches or trunks. These little pests have sucking mouthparts which they use to suck the sap from branches and boles of their hosts. During their feeding they inject a toxin into the plant, which causes changes in the sapwood and can result in a decrease in the transport of water and essential nutrients throughout the tree's vascular system. The toxin also causes abnormal growths or knobs at the branch nodes and terminal growing points.

As the pest population increases, the trees become weakened, may show a decrease in cone production, and, in cases of heavy infestation, can die if left untreated for extended periods. The weakened state of the infested tree can also make it vulnerable to attacks by other insects and diseases. ↪

## Balsam Woolly Adelgid



## By Forest



NPHC now treats your lawn, bed and hardscape weeds.

## From our friends at the Co-op!

### Spring Lamb Stew

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 leg lamb, 1" cubed       | 1# red potatoes, 1/2" cubed |
| 2T turmeric                | 1 onion, 1/2" cubed         |
| 2T paprika                 | 1# string beans, 2" pieces  |
| salt & pepper to taste     | 1# carrots, 1/2" cubed      |
| 1/2c red wine              | 1 turnip, 1/2" cubed        |
| 4oz tomato paste           | 3T thyme, fine chop         |
| 1 1/2 quarts chicken stock | 3T rosemary, fine chop      |



Turn oven to 325 degrees. Toss lamb with turmeric, paprika, salt and pepper. Sear meat in hot sauté pan on stovetop, and transfer to baking dish. Pour wine into sauté pan and reduce by half. Add tomato paste and chicken stock and bring to a boil. Cover meat with the liquid and wrap baking dish with aluminum foil. Place in the preheated oven. While lamb is in the oven: boil red potatoes, sauté onions, blanch string beans, and toss carrots & turnips lightly with olive oil and place in oven until toothpick comes out easily, about 20-30 minutes. Once meat is fork tender (roughly an hour), remove from oven and mix all ingredients together. Season with rosemary, thyme, salt and pepper. Serves 6. ↪



➤ Find more recipes & tips in our newsletter archives online at [NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com](http://NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com).



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# THE INSIDE DIRT

Understanding pest control strategies

Planting specials for Father's Day

Meet the Main Market Co-op

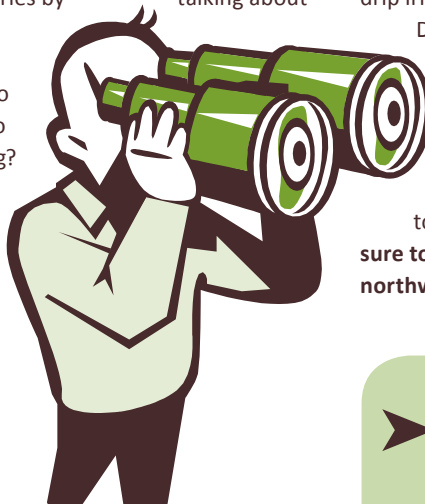
## With landscaping, long-term vision is vital

A three-part series on how to properly plan your landscape

### Part 1: Irrigation

Planning your landscape is the first and most important step in creating a finished product that suits your needs and that you can be proud of. Yes, getting your hands dirty is great fun, but before that point, there are many things to consider. The process actually starts with a look into the future to evaluate how you will use the property and to determine long-term goals. With that in mind, we'll begin our series by talking about irrigation.

When planning your irrigation system, water supply should be considered first. Do you have enough water (gallons/minute) to irrigate the size landscape you are planning? Is there any chance the supply will decrease? This is common where there are wells and/or community water systems where not all of the lots have been developed. If so, each zone should be designed to accommodate less water with the same number of heads or output. Being able to expand your system in the future is also important. Installing a timer,



wiring and main line that can accommodate this expansion is less expensive when done during the original trenching and install.

Water conservation is a big issue for any area of the West and it's important that you consider this when designing a system. Lawns require significantly more water than most trees and shrubs. Designing more planting spaces than lawn areas is a conservative approach. Providing drip irrigation where possible is an excellent way to decrease water use.

Drip irrigation is fully customizable and works well with lower water supply and pressure situations. There are even drip systems being developed for lawn areas.

As you can see, there is a lot to consider when it comes to successfully planning the present and future use of irrigation in your landscape. In future articles we will explore other topics, including hardscapes and plantings. In the meantime, **be sure to check out our online gallery of landscape photos at [www.northwestplanthealthcare.com](http://www.northwestplanthealthcare.com)** to gain inspiration for your next project.

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