

## TREE NOTES

Yarmouth has had a great year for tree planting. We have planted 37 trees around our beautiful town with the help of many amazing volunteers from our high school students, Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee members and employees from Yarmouth Community Services. Thank you for all of the help making our town a little greener.

We have a few dozen majestic elm trees mostly residing along Main St. The budget has allowed us to treat these legacy trees in an effort to protect them from Dutch elm disease. They are looking healthy and our continued efforts should keep our streets shady for years to come. We have also used our resources to treat the larger ash trees in town to prevent them from Emerald Ash Borer infection. North Yarmouth Academy has several of the treated specimens along Main St. This was another difficult year for Browntail Moth, unfortunately. We successfully treated a large number of oak and cherry trees in the Royal River Park area and the oaks in front of the library. Be on the look out for the nests in the tree tops this winter, and feel free to email me with any questions.

This has been a very wet summer. The wet season is healthy for the most part when it comes to our trees. However, as many people in town have noticed there seems to be a blight on the flowering crab trees, apple trees, lilacs and many of our maples. The leaves have all or mostly dropped off. In some cases, new foliage has sprouted. The wet summer that we have had has caused intense fungal growth. The maples are likely infected with a fungus called anthracnose. There are numerous types of fungus that can cause leaf drop on lilacs and apple species. A certain amount of fungal growth would be considered normal, but this year has been pretty intense. There are several actions that can be taken to mitigate this problem. Take the time to rake up the fallen leaves around your trees this fall as they carry the fungus. Careful pruning to thin out the canopy and allow more air flow will make it more difficult for fungus to thrive. Consider a good fertilizing either this fall or in the spring to help the tree compensate for the stress of losing its foliage prematurely. Most of the trees will produce a full canopy of leaves next spring. You might consider a fungicide application at this time, if you want to be thorough. Please consult your tree professionals regarding the best approach for your trees.

Regards,

Scott Couture  
Yarmouth Tree Warden  
Treewarden@yarmouth.me.us