



ALMSTEAD
 TREE & SHRUB CARE CO.
 58 Beechwood Avenue
 New Rochelle, NY 10801, (914)636-TREE
 www.almstead.com

arbor care plant health care
 organic consulting lawn care

Hawthorne, NY (914) 741-1510
 Stamford, CT (203) 348-4111
 North Haledon, NJ (973) 636-6711

Presorted First Class
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Mail From Zip Code 08360
 Permit No. 543

Image: Almstead manages the trees and shrubs for the Lotus Garden, a community rooftop garden in NYC with individual plots and beautiful common spaces.

Request a Consultation

Please contact me to schedule a complimentary Seasonal Inspection with a professionally certified Arborist.

I'm also interested in:

- Arbor Care** Customized pruning, mature tree preservation, tree and stump removal...
- Plant Health Care** Fertilization, disease and pest control, monitoring programs...
- Organic Care** Compost teas, organic pest controls, natural soil and root care...
- Consulting** Hazardous tree evaluation, mature tree preservation, construction protection...
- Lawn Care** Fertilization, weed control, seeding, core aeration, organic options...

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 Notes _____

Pruning the Urban Jungle

Working on trees in a city environment requires skill, ingenuity and tolerance for bureaucracy. Almstead's metropolitan undertakings come in all sizes - from single backyard trees to large-scale projects in Central Park, Governors Island and Riverside Park. Manhattan trees are shoehorned into niches, squeezed into rooftop planters, trampled by foot traffic, and typically suffer from as much stress as most New Yorkers. Whether for a rooftop garden, street tree, courtyard or backyard, hiring an experienced arbor care company is essential in the Big Apple.

"Before tree work even begins," explains Almstead Arborist Chris Busak, "there are city regulations and permits, permission from abutting property owners, and communications to co-op boards and other decision makers. The work itself typically involves navigating tight spaces and requires special attention to the safety of nearby people and property."

It's not the client's fault that working with trees in NYC is complicated, and we do our best to make the process as easy as possible for everyone. This ranges from filing and expediting permits to moving furniture and placing dropcloths if the only way to remove a tree from the backyard of a brownstone is through the living room.

The bureaucracy of getting started and mechanics of access aside, urban trees also face more health challenges than their rural and suburban counterparts. Urban trees require attention to overcome the unusual constraints we've placed on them. With unnatural sunlight conditions from surrounding buildings, limited access to water, regular exposure to pollutants, and tight space for both roots and canopy, city trees don't often fare well on their own. It's absolutely essential to establish a healthy soil ecosystem capable of retaining water and nutrients.

Almstead is experienced in every aspect of caring for urban plantings. Our organic compost teas can help to replace the nutrients that wash away in a planter or sidewalk enclosure. Air spading with compressed air can liberate tree roots from compacted soil and help rejuvenate street trees. We also offer horticultural services in Manhattan, including planting perennials and cutting back vines.

Whether we work for a block association, coop board, park commission or an individual with a single tree, an Almstead arborist can develop a program to promote the health and beauty of your plantings.

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper

The wood fiber used to make this paper is independently certified to come from responsibly managed forests.

Registration #: WC-16727-HOS CT-B1068 NYC-1331916
 NJ Home Improvement #13VH06221500

Inside This Issue:

- What's Your Deer Tick IQ?
- Emerald Ash Borer Alert
- The Accolade Elm
- And more...

Almstead Around Town

Wave Hill Woodland Restoration
 After the snowstorm last October, many landscapes were left in disarray, including the woodland at Wave Hill—a public garden in Riverdale, NY. Arborist and CEO Ken Almstead took on the project of restoring the woodland to ensure the safety of visitors traversing its paths while still keeping the area as naturalized as possible. Almstead will continue to care for the trees at Wave Hill, from the woodland to feature Beech trees in the landscaped sections of the property.

Teaching a New Generation of Arborists
 Arborist Dan Dalton just wrapped up teaching his spring course in Arboriculture at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut. Dan also teaches regularly for the New York Botanical Garden, among others. This summer, he and Michael Almstead will be teaching a compost tea brewing seminar through the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Celebrating Arbor Day
 We had a great time this Arbor Day, celebrating 15 different events throughout our communities. Brian Carolan planted a Red Oak for the Darian Community Association. Jon Olsz planted a Flowering Dogwood with teens from the Mount Kisco Boys and Girls Club. Dan Dalton planted a Purple Plum with the science club at Ward Elementary in New Rochelle. Michael Marks planted 200 White Pine seedlings with the Eastchester Girl Scouts as part of an ongoing nursery project with the troop. Bob Bociek oversaw the planting of 6 Apples at Norwalk's Arbor Day celebration, 3 of which were donated by Almstead. Our New Jersey branch was a hit at Ridgewood's Earth Day Fair, especially with the model Beech tree made that was adorned with leaves decorated by kids throughout the day. Almstead's Connecticut branch also ran the ever-popular tree climbing station for kids at the Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival.

Spring/Summer 2012



What's Your Deer Tick IQ? Get to Know the Pest that Transmits Lyme Disease



Are You Tick Savvy?
 Try and answer these questions.

- 1 What disease(s) does the deer tick transmit in addition to Lyme?**
 - a. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
 - b. Giardiasis
 - c. Babesiosis
 - d. Ehrlichiosis
- 2 The deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) was first identified in:**
 - a. The early 1800s
 - b. The early 1900s
 - c. The 1970s
 - d. The 1990s
- 3 Which of the following is true?**
 - a. Deer are a necessary part of the deer tick's life cycle.
 - b. Deer ticks need high humidity.
 - c. Deer ticks can be washed away in a strong shower.
 - d. All deer ticks in our area carry Lyme Disease.

What's smaller than the head of a pin and can change your life? Unfortunately, it's a tick. Those of us who live in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut area know that danger stalks us on tiny insect legs. *Ixodes scapularis*, the black-legged tick (more familiarly known as the "deer tick"), carries the *borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium responsible for Lyme disease. Unfortunately, the incidence of Lyme disease continues to escalate in our area, causing illnesses ranging from flu-like symptoms to chronic pain and even death.

Though most of us are aware of deer ticks and the dangers of Lyme disease, new research is constantly adding to our knowledge, and occasionally changing some misconceptions. Take a moment to test your own tick savvy with the quiz on the left and then check you answers below.

Question 1
 Answer: (c) and (d) Both Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis.
 A tiny deer tick nymph has the potential to transmit at least three diseases simultaneously. Though not as common as Lyme Disease, Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis are both potentially serious tick-borne diseases. Both these illnesses can cause high fever, aches and chills - and their presence can make the identification and diagnosis of Lyme Disease more difficult. Like Lyme, they can also cause serious illness in dogs.

Question 2
 Answer: (a) The early 1800's.
 The blacklegged tick was identified and named in 1821. When Lyme disease broke out in Connecticut in the 1970's, the name "deer tick" became popular in the media. But both the tick and the disease had been noted centuries before. After visiting Jura Island (also known as Deer Island) off the coast of Scotland in 1765, Rev. John Walker described both Lyme disease ("exquisite pain [in] the interior parts of the limbs") and the deer tick (a "worm" with a body "of a reddish colour and of a compressed shape with a row of feet on each side" that "penetrates the skin").

Question 3
 Answer: (b) Humidity.
 Deer ticks can't last for more than 8 hours without high humidity. That's why trimmed lawns are less attractive than moist tall grass, leaf litter, [continued inside]

A Letter from the CEO



A mild winter followed by a glorious spring—2012 has certainly put its best foot forward. Let's hope for a little more rain (preferably at night, of course) so that our plants, trees and lawns enter the summer in the best shape possible.

As always, there are a few horticultural dark clouds on the horizon. Emerald Ash Borers are getting ever closer to us, with devastating effect—the article on the next page gives some detail about that.

There are other diseases that are currently attacking some of our iconic plants, particularly boxwood blight and bacterial leaf scorch. Boxwood blight has been showing up all around our area. It can affect any of our

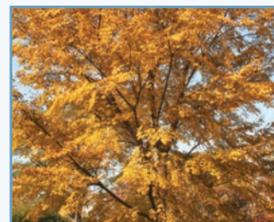
beloved ornamental boxwoods to the point of complete defoliation, and can't be cured. Prevention and early identification are extremely important. Bacterial leaf scorch (BLS) targets several common tree species, including Pin Oaks and Red Oaks (New Jersey's state tree). This blight is also incurable, but can be treated to slow its progress substantially.

As my last piece of gloom, I'd like to remind you of an ongoing danger: falling branches. The New York Times recently featured a series on some serious (even fatal) accidents in New York City. Whether you have tens of thousands of trees (like NYC) or just one, it's important to have them inspected and take action on those inspections. Our website has links to these articles as well as information on how to identify both bacterial leaf scorch and boxwood blight, and what steps you should take if you find them. Simply go online to almstead.com/kensletter.

Sincerely,

Ken Almstead, CEO
International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist NY0335

Have You Considered...



When Dutch Elm Disease destroyed the population of American Elms, a magnificent, significant tree was lost from our landscapes. The Accolade™ Elm, a disease-resistant hybrid developed by the Morton Arboretum, has been helping to fill this void. The Society of Municipal Arborists has voted this hardy and vigorous beauty "Urban Tree of the Year" for 2012.

Latin Name: *Ulmus* "Morton" **Common Name(s):** Accolade™ Elm

Tree Type: Although somewhat gangly in youth, the Accolade™ matures into a graceful vase shape.

Sun and Water Requirements: These trees prefer moist soil and sun, but will grow under a variety of conditions. Mature trees are drought tolerant.

Expected Growth: Accolades typically grow 40-60' tall, with a spread of 35-40'. They are quick growers, typically adding 3 feet per year when young.

Foliage: Long, dark green, lustrous leaves turn brilliant gold in fall.

Landscape Value: The Accolade™ Elm is a hardy, vigorous and beautiful specimen for a large yard and can be gracefully grouped in public spaces. It is resistant to Dutch elm disease and elm yellows as well as the elm leaf beetle. Since it will adapt to almost any condition except persistently wet soil, it is a good tree for difficult places.

What's Your Deer Tick IQ? [continued from front]

wood piles, and bushes. Even with these restrictions of habitat and time, ticks are surprisingly efficient at finding new hosts – whether it is a field mouse or the family dog.

Anyone who enjoys nature, or even a back yard, needs to be vigilant about checking for tiny tick nymphs and know how to recognize the characteristic circular rash of Lyme infection. Prevention is key for both individuals and property. Clothes sprayed with DEET or Permethrin and tucked in will help protect you in areas with high vegetation or leaf litter.

The likelihood of ticks on your property can be reduced as well. Almstead offers the professional expertise to identify likely tick hideouts, and uses both traditional and organic products in sprayers powerful enough to penetrate the leaf litter. An Almstead specialist will be glad to evaluate the best way to protect your property from deer ticks.



Your Seasonal Inspection

One of the most valuable services we offer our clients is an expert visual ground inspection of their trees, shrubs and turf on an annual basis, and it's completely complimentary.

To schedule an inspection, simply return the card below. We'll make sure it gets to your arborist!



Not every tick encounter is this obvious. There are well established populations in plenty of residential areas, too. Leaf litter, a wood pile, or high grass in your yard are as much tick habitats as forests are.



Visit the Montgomery Pinetum in Greenwich, CT

Nestled among the back roads of the Cos Cob section of Greenwich, the Montgomery Pinetum offers 91 acres of woodlands, ponds, knolls and gardens. The property, formerly known as "Wild Acres" became the home of Colonel Robert and Nell Montgomery in 1922. Over three decades, the Montgomery's collected hundreds of conifers from all over the world for their estate, about 80 of which can still be seen at the Pinetum. A dwarf spruce, *Picea pungens* 'R.H. Montgomery', has recently been planted near the Garden Education Center. The tree was named for Colonel Montgomery in thanks for his gift of over 200 specimen trees to the Botanic Gardens.



The site was donated to the Town of Greenwich in the 1950's after Colonel Montgomery's death. The park is also home to the Greenwich Garden Education Center, housed in the one remaining

wing of the Montgomery mansion as well as the newly built Horticulture Building and greenhouse. They offer maps and tree guides to aid in your exploration, as well as a variety of classes in topics in horticulture.

There are several beautiful seasonal gardens including daffodils, tulips and azaleas in spring, and primroses and peonies in May. The stone-based Lord & Burnham greenhouse is on the state Register of Historic Places.

The Pinetum contains easy walking paths as well as woodlands, and offers beautiful vistas of ponds and pines from many viewpoints. There is also a picnic area in a hemlock grove.

Address: 69 Bible Street, Cos Cob, CT 06807
Telephone: (203) 622-7814 (Parks & Recreation)
Hours of Operation: 8am to sunset, 7 days a week
Admission & Parking: Free



Emerald Ash Borers Threaten our Trees



During the last century, many municipal plantings were devastated by Dutch Elm Disease, which killed 200 million Elm trees in the U.S. In the last two decades, Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) have killed over 50 million Ash trees in just a few states – and now they are here. Unlike most invasive tree pests, the EAB doesn't discriminate among species: the entire Ash genus is at risk, despite the health of the individual trees. EAB are currently on our doorstep: an infestation was identified in West Point last year, and they have recently appeared across the river in Dutchess County.

Now is the time for communities in our region to plan for the EAB invasion. Although there is currently no way to eradicate EAB, there are ways to protect important trees from infestation.

We recommend that municipalities and other Ash tree owners take the following steps:

1. Inventory your Ash trees and prioritize them, deciding which are important to protect.
2. Plan for the likely expense of removing those Ash trees you decide not to protect (as they will probably die), as well as replanting a diverse selection of native species to maintain the tree canopy.
3. Monitor the advance of EAB into your community. Emeraldashborer.info is a good source for this. Cornell Cooperative Extension recommends starting treatments when EAB are within 12 miles.
4. Protect important trees. There are several pest controls and application methods that arborists can employ to protect Ash trees from EAB, but all of them should be started *before* infestation. Effective controls for the pest are applied systemically so that they flow through the vascular system of the tree. These treatments last for an entire year, but they must be reapplied annually.

This level of threat ultimately forces Ash tree owners to act in one way or another. The Coalition for Urban Ash Tree Conservation has stated that "In many cases, [current science supports that] tree conservation is economically and environmentally superior to tree removal."



Plant Health Care Contracts

The growing season is in full swing! If you haven't approved your Plant Health Care contract yet, it's imperative that you do so as soon as possible to get the best results for your landscape.

Lawn Care Programs

Almstead offers lawn care services in all of our branches! Call our office for a complimentary assessment to discuss our lawn care program options (Organic Based, Pure Organic and Traditional) with an expert.

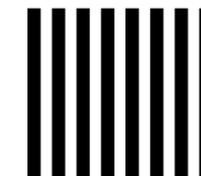
Ash Tree Identification

If you are unsure as to whether there are Ash trees on your property, ask an Almstead Arborist to compile an inventory of your trees and find out. Prevention is the only effective treatment against Emerald Ash Borers at this time.

ALMSTEAD TREE & SHRUB CARE CO
58 BEECHWOOD AVE STE 1
NEW ROCHELLE NY 10801-9828

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 2272 NEW ROCHELLE NY

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES