

Attention Homeowners !!

Two areas that must be addressed by affected homeowners rapidly.

Trees or bushes affected with fire blight. Additionally trees and bushes that were either killed or devastated by the dramatic temperature swing created by the polar plunge last November. On another note, if you have a tree or shrub, which is yellow or turning yellow, please research Iron Chlorosis, this condition could eventually kill your tree or shrub.

Fire Blight:

Fire blight is a contagious bacterium and left untreated could spread to kill your tree or bush. Worse, it can be transferred to other healthy trees or bushes by insects or pruners.

Many websites can be found addressing this issue; the following came from the University of CA:

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7414.html>

“Fire blight, caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*, is a common and frequently destructive disease of...trees...the disease can destroy limbs and even entire shrubs or trees.”

Please read “Removing Diseased Wood” at the above site or any site concerning this issue. Improper cutting could lead to additional spreading of this bacterium. Cutting back far enough and cleaning the pruner with a minimum of 10-20% bleach solution is essential.

Effects of the Polar Plunge:

Effects of last years polar plunge devastated many forms of vegetation, to say the least. The HOA wanted to insure ample time was given to the homeowners for plant recovery. If you have a tree or shrub, which is either dead or mostly dead, please remove it now.

Many websites address this issue, the following was found at:

<http://www.harlequinsgardens.com/2015/05/23/stressed-trees-how-to-prune-and-care-for-them/> .

“There are a couple tests you can use to see whether a branch is dead or just slow to leaf out (this article was posted May 2015): use a finger nail to scratch a little bark off and look underneath. If it is green, it is alive; if brown (and wrinkled) it is dead. And press against a bud; if it is flexible, it is alive; if it is dry and breaks or crumbles, it is dead.”

BOTTOM LINE

Fire Blight:

Please remove affected areas on any tree or bush as soon as possible. Your plant could infect others through transfer by insects, including your neighbors. The HOA is taking this issue seriously.

Dead or mostly dead foliage:

The HOA did not want to send out warning letters prematurely. We feel a generous amount of time has been given to insure we are not asking any homeowner to remove or prune trees/bushes, which would recover.

Warning Letters:

Letters to affected homeowners who have not corrected these issues will go out September 8, 2015.