



Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

It's Time to Tally Your Trees

By Edith Davey

Autumn is the perfect time to survey your personal landscape. Deciduous trees are losing leaves allowing wind, insect and disease damage to be observed. Woodpecker activity may signal insect infestations. Hemlocks are beginning to display the white woolly egg cases that identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgids that kill these useful trees. Treatments are available for some tree problems; others offer little hope.

If your tree canopy contains multiple ash trees, you should plan now replace them when the nearly inevitable decline and death happens. Invasive and undesirable species are quick to arrive when canopy openings occur. Choosing replacements is an opportunity to improve your landscape and attract species you enjoy (e.g., cherry trees attract beautiful silk moths to lay eggs that overwinter as larvae in cocoons in these trees).

Fall is an *ideal* time to plant trees and shrubs. Warm soil and cool air stimulates root growth to help trees

and shrubs become established before the ground freezes. Nurseries usually sell these plants either in containers or with root balls wrapped in burlap. Bare root trees are very desirable and may also be available. Roots should be kept moist in all cases.

Container grown trees are generally the most expensive and are subject to circling roots that reduce a tree's vigor. Roots girdling the trunk should be removed before planting. The lightweight media used in containers is useful for drainage from pots, but once in the ground the medium may lose water too readily to the surrounding native soil.

Bare root plants are an excellent choice if they can be found, as they usually retain more of the roots. A Cornell study compared the amount



of roots in a burlapped ball with the root mass on bare root harvested trees of the same size and species. The bare root trees had 200% more roots because harvesting machinery for bare root trees digs a much larger root system than the tree spade used for balled and burlapped digging.

For further instructions for planting, visit our website at www.townofcanandaigua.org, select "Boards and Committees," then "Environmental Conservation Board."

Useful websites for plant information and selection:

www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/factnatives.pdf

www.ecosny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ECOS-Tree-Booklet-FINAL.pdf

www.arborday.org/trees/planting

Autumn Tasks: How to Empty Your Swimming Pool or Spa Wisely



The chlorine in your pool or spa provides benefits, but must be handled wisely when the water is emptied.

Chlorine is one of the most common chemical additives used to control bacterial growth in swimming pools. With proper chlorination, swimmers can allow pool water to contact

the skin and incidentally swallow some pool water with little fear of infection. As beneficial as chlorine can be in controlled situations, its release into the environment is damaging.

Even small concentrations of chlorine can harm aquatic life. Chlorine can be very toxic to fish, small crustaceans, and plankton. 1mg/L or less chlorine has a high acute toxicity to aquatic organisms (US EPA). The federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants to the waters of New York.

Storm sewer systems are designed to handle runoff from rain and snow only. Storm sewers pipe water directly into receiving rivers and streams. If

this water contains chlorine, it can kill aquatic life.

Swimming pool water can be discharged into a sanitary sewer system safely. De-chlorinate pool water before discharging into a sanitary sewer line if chlorine in the pool water is reduced to undetectable levels (< 0.1 mg/L) before draining.

For further options for removing chlorine,

visit our website at www.townofcanandaigua.org, select "Boards and Committees," then "Environmental Conservation Board."