

Living Sculpture Tree and Shrub Care, Inc.

Forester's Report 3 28 2014

There were no burning permits issued during March.

Street weight limit signs were put up on Friday, March 21.

There must be something positive about our having the fourth coldest winter on record in Minnesota so here are a few positives.

1. University entomologists believe that 80-90% of EAB larva overwintering in infested trees may have been killed by the cold. The long-term outlook for ash trees is still terrible, but we appear to have gotten a one-year reprieve.
2. Anyone who took a winter vacation to somewhere warm probably enjoyed their time away more than they expected too.
3. Slow melting means less flooding, better soil moisture, and improved lake water levels.
4. Even a moderately good spring green up will seem incredible.
5. There were no tornadoes this March.

The evergreen trees near Highway 110 and north of Angell Road and Harmon Park are primarily on private property although there are some smaller/younger spruces on the Highway 110 ROW. Most of the older trees are Colorado blue spruce and are exhibiting the typical lower branch dieback caused by cytospora canker and rhizosphaera needle cast. In a forest situation such as where these trees are located there is no treatment for these diseases. These diseases cause branches to die back from the bottom of the trees and on up toward the top. That is why the tops continue to look healthy long after the lower branches have died. The mature spruce trees in this area are most likely 20-40 years old. Rhizosphaera needle cast is the primary reason that I do not recommend Colorado blue spruce for planting in Minnesota. There are also some white pines and they are doing well. They too are losing their bottom branches as they normally do in woodland settings. Getting enough new evergreen trees to provide good screening for light and sound from the Highway 110 corridor would likely take 100 or more trees planted on private property plus require 15-20 years of growth.

Jim Naves
City Forester