

Flora for Fauna



Hummingbird Clearwing - adult. Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Services, Bugwood.org



Morpho Butterfly - adult. Peggy Greb, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Bird and animal lovers alike need to select plants with an eye towards attracting and providing a haven for fauna. Most homeowners and professional landscapers choose plants based on curb appeal and take into consideration the environmental factors of size, shape, and preferable growing conditions. However within the growing needs and space available, there are a variety of plant materials that can be used to attract birds and butterflies.

Butterflies need plants that provide both egg laying areas and food sources. Smaller host plants include: Dill, Parsley and Sunflower. Large trees and ornamentals provide harborage and egg laying areas as well. These large species include: Oak, Poplar, Sycamore, and Willow trees. Nectar, the butterfly's primary food source, is provided by ornamental plants including Pear, Plum, Rosebud, Rose of Sharon, Spirea, and Viburnum. In addition, many different flowering perennial are used to attract these small beautiful wonders.

Attracting birds, both native and migratory, requires layers of protection, nesting sources and food sources year-round. Shade tolerant flowers, ferns and vines help to shelter the birds when searching for worms and insects on the moist ground, while leaf litter provides good nesting material. Advantageous ground covers include: Pachysandra, Creeping Phlox, and Wild Bleeding Heart.

Certain shrubs provide the much needed food source. It's best to offer a variety of berry-producing plants to provide a food source for an array of fauna. Both summer and fall fruiting plants should be considered. Serviceberry and Mulberry are two choices for summer berry producers, while Native Flowering Dogwoods are a good fall berry food source. Some other choices are: Viburnums (also a host plant for Spring Azure Butterflies), Elderberry, Spicebush (also a host plant for Swallowtail Butterflies), Chokecherry, Winterberry and Inkberry.

Trees and shrubs offer protection and nesting areas for birds, as well as provide shelter from wind, rain, snow and predators. The Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Red Cedar and American Holly are all nice specimens. A few large trees that seem to be preferred include: Native Red Maple, Sugar Maple, and White Oak. Dense shrubs and conifers like Holly, Fir and Juniper are good choices too.

So, the next time you're considering your landscape, select plants that not only provide you with enjoyment, but also attract birds and butterflies. With a little research and planning, you can create a wildlife oasis for all to enjoy.



President's Message

Arboriculture & The Law

Today's society is one of rules, regulations and laws. These laws apply not only to people, but also to the care of trees. Several times a year, Tamke Tree Experts is called to act as an expert witness for law firms handling cases involving wrongful removal, trespass and negligence with regard to trees and properties.

Tree ownership, property lines and reasonable care of trees can be an issue amongst neighbors who jointly own a tree. Following a few guidelines prior to commencement of tree work can save you a hassle and maybe even thousands of dollars in legal fees:

1. Know your *exact* property lines. A fence line is not a good indicator.
2. Secure written permission from neighbors when work is to be done at the property line or on a jointly-owned tree.
3. It is the tree owner's responsibility to keep public thoroughfares safe from falling trees or limbs. Have a professional arborist check your trees for obvious hazards and perform safety maintenance to avoid liability issues.
4. Use reputable sources, such as TCIA (www.tcia.org) and ISA (www.isa-arbor.com), to locate accredited companies and/or individuals with appropriate credentials to ensure a professional assessment.

Protect yourself and protect your valuable assets: your trees!

Douglas R. Hunt
President

Insect Spotlight

Bronze Birch Borer (*Agrilus anxius*)



The adult Bronze Birch Borer is slender, "bullet-shaped" distinctly colored in dark metallic shades of bronze with a hint of green.

Photograph courtesy of
Steven Katovich,
USDA Forest Service,
Bugwood.org

The Bronze Birch Borer is native to North America and known to attack many varieties of birch trees found in Alaska, Canada and northern regions of the United States. All stages of the life cycle are known to damage the host tree in some fashion. In the spring, the females lay eggs only on the sunny side of the trunk. When hatched, the larvae tunnel into the tree making serpentine grooves under the bark. The tunneling causes disruption of nutrient transport which severely threatens the root health. Most often the end result is a dead tree. The adults emerge in the summer leaving a D-shaped hole (depicted above) in the bark. They feed on the leaves and winter at the base of the tree until the cycle begins again.

The primary targets are weakened, stressed or aged birch trees. The Paper Birch and Gray Birch show more resistance than do many of the newer cultivated varieties; however, healthy trees are seldom attacked. As a defense mechanism, the Birch trees produce a callus tissue around the feeding and tunneling larva. This callus is often times apparent as small bulges on the outer surface of the trunk. You may also see rust-colored stains or drips. In a healthy tree the callus can be produced quickly enough to overtake the larva, thus stopping the emergence of adults. Other signs of damage by Bronze Birch Borer are chlorotic leaves, sparse foliage and canopy dieback.

An effort to keep birch trees healthy will help to protect them against attack. Here are some pointers: **1.** Birches thrive in cool moist soils. Proper mulching and water is important especially in the Fall. **2.** Rid the tree of dying branches with preventative pruning to help manage a localized infestation. **3.** An infested tree can be drenched with insecticides on the bark surface to kill the eggs, thus preventing the emergence of new larva. This treatment may need to be applied three times throughout the Spring and Summer to have a strong impact. **4.** Soil and trunk injections are currently the best method of management which have proven to take care of larvae infestations at the time of application, as well as reduce the possibility of infestation in an old or ailing birch tree showing no sign of infestation. **5.** Woodpeckers are a natural enemy but to date have shown no significant role in controlling the insect.

What is...

Plant Health Care (PHC)

Plant Health Care is a philosophy in tree care which is becoming the **new standard among industry leaders**. The approach is designed to optimize the value of property care by regularly scheduled visits to monitor and inspect ornamental trees and shrubs. It helps to reduce the need for pesticides through early detection and preventative care methods. Each plant is treated as a single entity on the property; rather than grouped into general categories. It is a prescription plan for your plants which addresses pest management, soil requirements and nutritional needs. This very individualized approach is environmentally sensitive; requiring minimal cover spray techniques and lowered pesticide use.

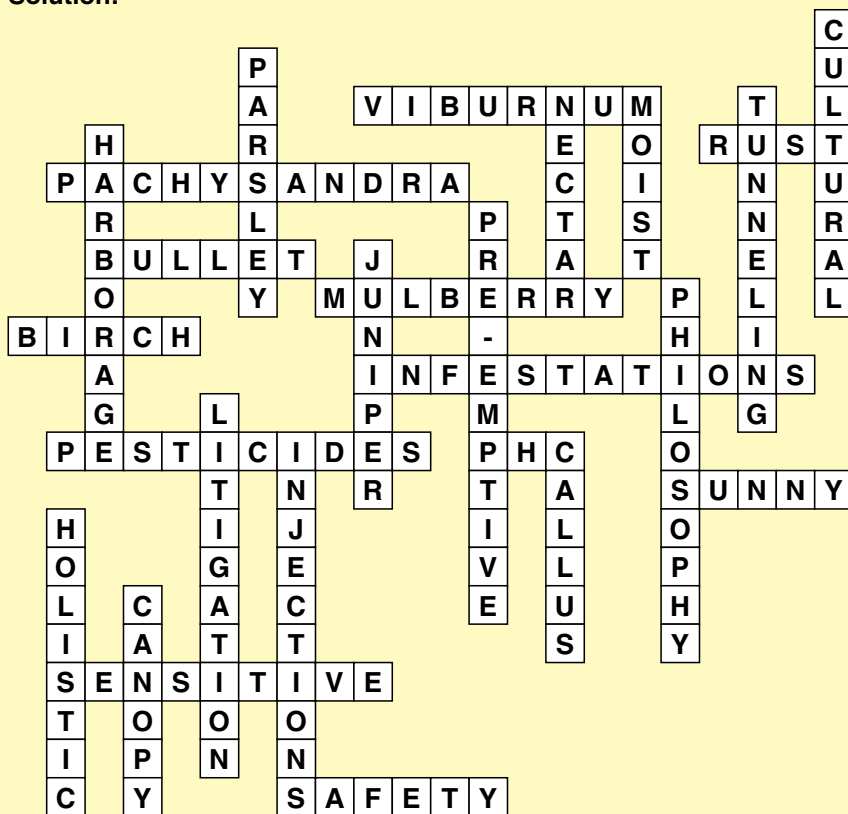
PHC is like having your private tree doctor performing check-ups and on-call visits for each of your plants. A holistic approach to plant care which will result in Maximum Value, Health and Beauty!

Solve and Win....

The first (3) complete and correct puzzles received by us before May 15, 2008 will **win a pair of professional grade Felco hand clippers**. (Retail value of approx. \$55 each.) Mail in your responses to **PO Box 251, Liberty Corner, NJ 07938** and **make sure to complete your contact information**. Plant puzzle answers will be posted on our web site after May 15th.

Plant Puzzle

Solution:



ACROSS

- 3 honeysuckle family
- 8 disease causing reddish-brown pustular lesions
- 9 perennial evergreen used as ground cover
- 11 body shape of Bronze Birch Borer
- 13 genus Morus
- 15 genus Betula
- 16 to live in or on as a parasite
- 18 critter ridders
- 20 Abreviation of Plant Health Care
- 22 marked by brilliant sunlight
- 25 readily affected or changed by various agents
- 26 regular maintenance can help achieve

DOWN

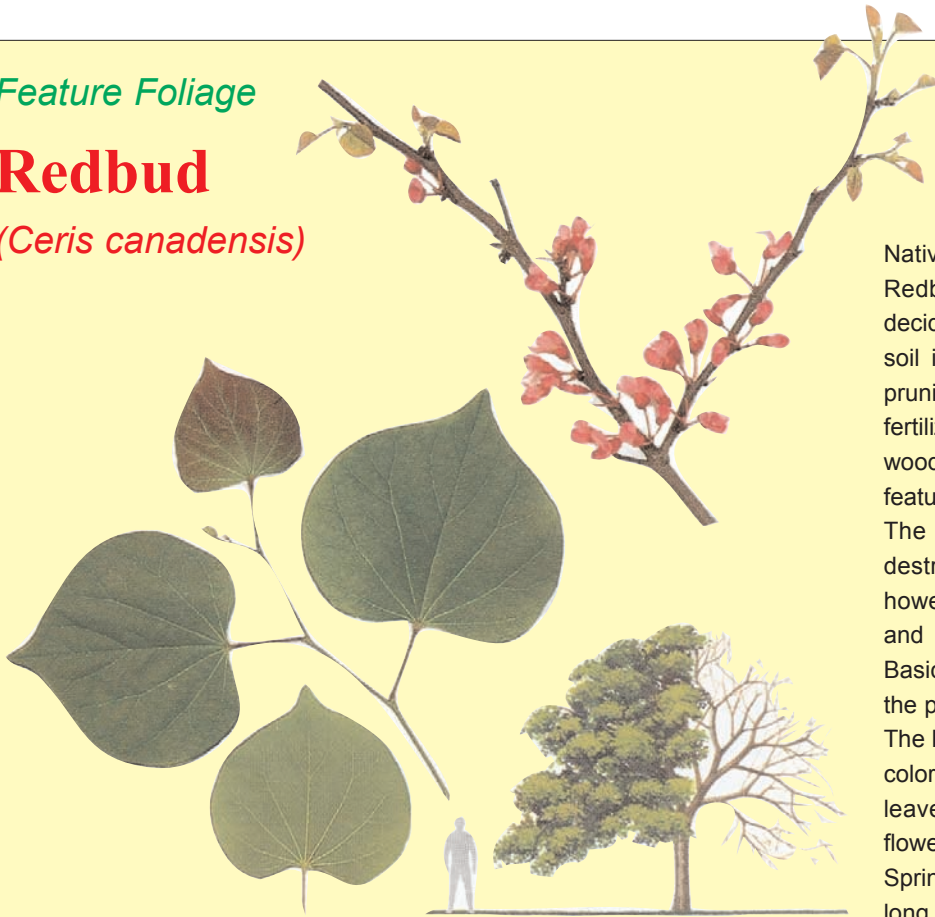
- 1 concerned with the fostering of plant growth
- 2 herb of carrot family
- 4 sweets from plant gland
- 5 slightly or moderately wet
- 6 moles' mobility
- 7 insect's hideout
- 10 initiated by oneself
- 12 of the cyprus family with leaves resembling needles
- 14 basic beliefs, concepts and attitudes
- 17 legal process to protect us
- 19 forcible introductions
- 21 small bulges
- 23 concerned with complete systems rather than with individual parts
- 24 the uppermost spreading branchy layer

Contact Information Name: _____
 Street: _____ Town: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Feature Foliage

Redbud

(Cercis canadensis)



Native to the eastern United States, the Redbud is a popular broadly spreading deciduous tree. It prefers well drained, deep soil in full sun to part shade. The need for pruning is minimal with proper watering and fertilization. The Redbud can be nice in a woodland and naturalized setting, or as a feature ornamental.

The Redbud is generally not prone to destructive disease and insect problems, however; canker, leafhoppers, caterpillars and scale are associated with the species. Basic insect management will address 99% of the potential problems.

The Redbud is especially impressive and very colorful when in bloom. The heart-shaped leaves, dark gray-brown bark and fuchsia flowers create a beautiful visual effect in the Spring. Simply, a breath of fresh air after a long winter.

The Redbud stands out as a vibrant Spring blooming ornamental.