



# News & Views

## *for New Hampshire's Green Industry*

April 2009

### Large Bare Root Trees: More Money in the Pocket for Landscapers

Bare root tree planting isn't just for seedlings anymore. Several New Hampshire and New England communities are planting 13/4 to 21/2 inch caliper bare root trees, and without soil around the roots, these trees are light enough to be picked up with one hand!



Bare root trees are easy to lift. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Concord.

For the landscape professional planting large bare root trees offers significant advantages. When transporting bare root trees at least three trees will easily fit in a small pick up truck. Once on site, no equipment is needed to move them which allows for locating large trees in areas that might be difficult to access. For example, when planting B&B trees in an area such as an established yard, you would need to consider the impact on the site made by the heavy equipment needed to move these trees. With bare root trees one person can pick up the trees and carry them to areas that might otherwise be inaccessible; the only impact is from their foot steps. At planting time all that is needed is one person with a shovel. Add it all up, and the results are significant cost savings in equipment and labor.

Another advantage to bare root trees is that each can be harvested from a larger area of soil. This means that bare root trees can have up to 200% more roots than B&B or container trees depending on the soil and transplanting history at the nursery. Without soil they are easy to examine for any damaged or deformed roots that can be pruned out with a clean cut. The root flare is exposed, making it easier to determine the proper planting depth. The root flare should be kept level with the soil surface, no deeper. Bare root planting beds should be dug shallow and wide. The width of the bed needs to accommodate the roots, which should be spread outward radially from the trunk to prevent bending and circling. Loosening another 6-12 inches of soil beyond the spread roots helps make the transition for new roots easier.

Bare root planting does have some limitations related to timing. First, once the trees are dug, they must be planted within 24 hours to prevent the roots from drying out (even though the nurseries coat the roots with a hydrogel mixture as soon as they are dug). The second timing issue is what time of year they can be planted. There are two narrow windows for planting - in the spring before bud break (April-May depending on the species) and in the fall after leaf drop. Certain species



The planting bed for a bare root tree is shallow and wide, determined by the root flare and spread of the roots.

Photo courtesy of Groundwork Concord.

are better suited for planting only in the fall, for example, birches, ornamental pears and dogwoods. There are a few difficult species that are not recommended at all for bare root planting, including ginkgo, hawthorn, hackberry and hornbeam. On the other hand, new research indicates that some trees such as red maple have the potential to do well as bare root transplants even when transplanted in leaf.



After being dug the tree roots are dipped in a hydrogel mixture to keep them from drying out. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Concord.

Bare root trees have an excellent success rate when handled and planted correctly. They provide a lower cost option when planting during the spring and fall, and are gaining momentum. Nashua Parks and Recreation Dept. is now using bare root trees for their Shade Tree Program, making them available to homeowners. Gold Star Tree & Turf Farm in Canterbury, NH, is a source of bare root trees and strong supporter of this method. Landscapers, communities, and organizations are encouraged to learn more about using bare root planting - it just may make your 2009 Earth Day and Arbor Day projects easier and save you money at the same time!

*Mary Tebo, Extension Educator, Community Forestry*

### **New Grub Control Very Effective**

I know spring has arrived. The snow has just barely melted, but the skunks are digging up grubs already. It was a hard winter. The deer have eaten most of my huge Rhododendron and Taxus. The ice storm took two beautiful birches and two azaleas. And now the skunks are rototilling what's left of my lawn.

A very effective new product for use against grubs may solve the problem. Dupont's new insecticide, called Acelepryn, comes formulated as a liquid and also as a granule with fertilizer included. The EPA has registered

Acelepryn as a "reduced risk" insecticide. It has extremely low toxicity to mammals, birds, fish, honey bees, and other non-targets. It also has low potential for groundwater contamination, very low use rates, low resistance potential, and is compatible with IPM. It is so low risk that no signal word is required on the label...not even the word "Caution". Once diluted, only a shirt, pants, socks and shoes are required to be worn during application. It has a new mode of action that depletes calcium in muscles. The loss of calcium contracts the muscles and the insect cannot move, eat, or breathe. Acelepryn is also a systemic, moving up from the soil into the plant. In addition, Acelepryn is labeled for use on some outdoor ornamental insects.

Research at UNH and other universities shows that Acelepryn outperforms all other grub products. One advantage of Acelepryn is that, due to its long residual, it can be applied as early as April. It takes 100 days for it to reach peak concentration in the soil. Besides killing grubs, Acelepryn also controls caterpillars and billbugs. In our research, we controlled caterpillars for over 118 days. What this means is that one application in April or May will probably be all that is needed.

Unfortunately, chinch bugs will only be suppressed by Acelepryn. Suppression is the language used on labels when control is variable and usually less than 90%. If chinch bug is a serious problem, consider the use of a pyrethroid such as bifenthrin (Talstar and others), deltamethrin (Deltagard), cyfluthrin (Tempo), or lambda-cyhalothrin (Scimitar).

What about spring and fall grubs? If you have grubs this spring, the best option is trichlorofon (Dylox). Apply



**Fall grub damage on sports field**



## The News and Views is going electronic!

The News and Views Newsletter for New Hampshire's Green Industry has been posted on the web since 2001 but we will be soon using the electronic version of the News and Views as the **primary** distribution method. Going electronic means that we will be able to have more up-to-date information, have color pictures, reduce waste, and reduce our costs. In order to make this transition we need you to update your contact information including your e-mail address. Please go to the Extension website: [http://cecf1.unh.edu/formbuilder/forms/form257\\_OrnMail.htm](http://cecf1.unh.edu/formbuilder/forms/form257_OrnMail.htm) to update your address and choose between viewing the newsletter electronically or receiving a paper copy.

### Coming Events

*June 17, 2009. U Mass Turf Research Field Day* at the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center, South Deerfield, MA. Contact the UMass Extension Turf Program at (508) 892-0382 or email [fieldday@umassturf.org](mailto:fieldday@umassturf.org).

*June 24, 2009. Greenhouse and Nursery Twilight Meeting.* 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Wentworth Greenhouses, 114 Rollins Road, Rollinsford. Contact Geoffrey Njue (603) 749-4445 or [geoffrey.njue@unh.edu](mailto:geoffrey.njue@unh.edu) for more information.

*July 16, 2009. New Hampshire Landscape Association Twilight Meeting.* 5:30 pm at the Stratham Circle Nursery and Exeter Inn. For more information visit <http://www.nhlaonline.org/>

*July 22, 2009. Mass Nursery and Landscape Assoc & Mass Flower Growers Assoc Great Ideas Summer Conference* at Sylvan Nursery, Westport, MA. For more information, visit <http://www.progrownews.com>

*July 24 – 29, 2009. International Society of Arboriculture Conference and Trade Show* at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI. For more information visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx>

*August 12, 2009. New Hampshire Landscape Association Twilight Meeting.* 5:30 pm at Three Seasons L/S and the Historic Train Depot in Henniker. For more information visit <http://www.nhlaonline.org/>

*September 9, 2009. Rain Garden Twilight Meeting.* 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Hillsborough County. Contact Margaret Hagen (603) 641-6060 or [margaret.hagen@unh.edu](mailto:margaret.hagen@unh.edu) for more information.

This newsletter is a cooperative effort of the Ornamentals Extension Educators and Specialist at the University of New Hampshire. It is published quarterly. Its purpose is to inform and update industry members on issues and research to the production, use and maintenance of ornamentals and turf in New Hampshire.

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