

Sorrel Ranch Tree Evaluation

Ash Trees

Most of Ash trees issues are being created by poor cultural practices. I saw numerous trees with damage to the trunks from mowers and string trimmers, which girdles the vascular system of the tree. Once girdled the tree has no way of transporting nutrients up from the roots or down from the leaves. Improper planting was another prevalent issue. Planting trees too high or too low causes stress that can eventually kill the tree. I am also suspicious about the removal of the basket and burlap around the root ball before they were planted. Not removing it can cause stunted root growth, and in turn, stunted top growth. A secondary symptom to all of these stresses is Canker. A large number of the trees had Cytospora Canker, which can further girdle the vascular system of the tree (see attached CSU fact sheet for more details). Ash Borer was the only insect issue that I saw which is a very common pest of Ash trees in the Front Range (see attached CSU fact sheet).

My Recommendations are:

- 1) Deep root fertilization of all trees to promote health and vigor. The fertilization should be done this fall and every following spring. The first 2-3 fertilizations should contain a balanced slow release fertilizer, micronutrients, and Mycorrhizae to promote root growth. The Mycorrhizae can be dropped after the first couple of fertilizations.
- 2) Ash Borer prevention spray in spring.
- 3) Train all workers in proper cultural practices when working with and around trees.

Spruce Trees

The most common problem I saw with the Spruce trees was girdling due to tree straps. The tree straps were either left on too long or are still on the trees. This kind of stress can bring on Bark Beetle infestations and Canker.

My Recommendations are:

- 1) Removal of all tree straps from trees that have been in the ground for a year or more.
- 2) Deep root fertilization of all trees to promote health and vigor. The fertilization should be done this fall and every following spring. The first 2-3 fertilizations should contain a balanced slow release fertilizer, micronutrients, and Mycorrhizae to promote root growth. The Mycorrhizae can be dropped after the first couple of fertilizations.
- 3) Bark Beetle Prevention spray in the spring and summer.
- 4) Train all workers in proper cultural practices when working with and around trees.

Oak Trees

The Oak trees had Bulletgall and Kermes scale. There are no real management practices for controlling these insects so promoting vigor is very important.

My Recommendation is:

- 1) Deep root fertilization of all trees to promote health and vigor. The fertilization should be done this fall and every following spring. The first 2-3 fertilizations should contain a balanced slow release fertilizer, micronutrients, and Mycorrhizae to promote root growth. The Mycorrhizae can be dropped after the first couple of fertilizations.

Locust trees

The Locust trees did show signs of Thyronectria Canker caused by the same stresses of the Ash trees.

My Recommendations are:

- 1) Deep root fertilization of all trees to promote health and vigor. The fertilization should be done this fall and every following spring. The first 2-3 fertilizations should contain a balanced slow release fertilizer, micronutrients, and Mycorrhizae to promote root growth. The Mycorrhizae can be dropped after the first couple of fertilizations.
- 2) Train all workers in proper cultural practices when working with and around trees.

Poor health due to improper cultural practices seems to be the root cause of most of your tree issues. Trying to promote vigor and root growth, through quality deep root fertilization, should be your main focus. Many of the insect and canker issues can be prevented when trees are strong enough to fend for themselves and fight off attack. Many of the trees are past the point of help, but knowing which ones at this point is impossible. Please review the pictures and fact sheets attached. Feel free to call with any questions.

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