



## What's happening in the Canopy this edition:

### Table of contents:

Fortifying fertilizers, friendly for foliage .....1

When there's a spring in your step, plant a tree! .....2

Our services .....3

The roots by Ernest McLaurin .....4


### Fast facts:

- Regular fertilizing can increase resistance to pathogens
- Emulsified powders or granular compounds are most effective
- Fertilizing Cedar hedges is an effective way to invigorate growth

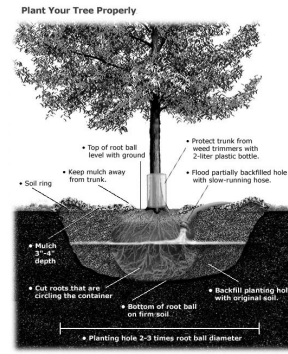
## Fortifying fertilizers, friendly for foliage

In the past, I have often counselled clients not to fertilize their mature trees. A tree that has reached an age upwards of forty years has obviously found its place in the ecosystem and could just as easily be harmed by our interference, as helped.

In the new, globalized world of invasive pests, it becomes more important to consider giving our trees any advantage possible that might help them resist the onslaught of pathogens that exist today. Annual fertilizing regimes for mature trees can help them retain more available nutrients. That can translate into faster wound closure to avoid fungus, more robust leaves to resist defoliating insects, etc.


Fertilizing juvenile trees and young, established trees can be key to the future prosperity of the specimen. Young trees react to fertilizing by invigorated root and shoot growth that helps them establish themselves quickly. Trees compete for light, so the taller, leafier, hardier specimens will always prosper.  By: Erik von Luczenbacher

## When there's a spring in your step... plant a tree!



The transition from winter to spring always brings that mild sense of euphoria that accompanies the awakening of life that has been asleep for months. The energy of this awakening crackles in the air and is naturally transferred to us, giving us a much needed energy boost after the long, cold winter. This year, why not use that extra energy to plant one new tree on your property? The City of Ottawa usually gives trees away (with delivery) to homeowners within the city limits, and spring is an opportune time to ensure maximum survivability when planting.

Plant a dormant tree as soon as the frost is out of the ground. When dormancy breaks, the tree can start to establish its root system into the new soil immediately. Consider deep root fertilizing to further hasten root system development.

A mature tree produces enough oxygen in a day for five people to breathe. Invasive insects are devastating the limited urban forest stock. Planting new trees is the only way to keep our Cities green.  By: Erik von Luczenbacher

### Upper Canopy's feature tree: *Fraxinus spp:* Ash:(Species at risk)

- Average height, 60 feet
- Strong, hard wood
- Currently at risk of local extinction due to the Emerald Ash Borer



## Urban Tree Hazards:

### Hazard #3:

Salt damage (road salts can cause root system burning)

Trees and hedges close to roadways can sustain heavy damage in spring from salts that permeate the soil during spring thaw. Hedges and shrubs can be wrapped with burlap in fall to minimize spray from snowploughs. Water trees and shrubs well in spring to dilute the salts.



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*Urban Tree Specialists.*

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### Hazard #4:

Rabbit feeding (girdling of trunk below snowline)

Ottawa boasts a large urban rabbit population. In winter months, when food is scarce, rabbits will burrow under the snow and feed on the succulent bark of small trees and shrubs. Targeting the fleshy cambium layer, the rabbits can effectively cut off all vascular flow from the roots to the crown and kill the tree. Wrap young tree trunks in plastic tree wrap and keep snow from piling up around root flares.



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**The “Roots”** by *Ernie McLaurin*



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Now more than ever, preserving our mature trees is so important. In the Ottawa area, Ash populations are threatened due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Development and urban sprawl will continue to reduce our green spaces, and the trend of bigger homes on smaller lots often does not allow adequate root space for larger trees.

The decision to remove a mature tree should not be made lightly. With evaluation of health, structure and hazards, proper pruning can often give a declining mature tree many more years before removal is necessary. During this time, these old trees will continue to benefit our environment in many ways, as well as provide an opportunity for a replacement tree to become established.

There comes a point when a tree must be removed for safety reasons, but perhaps we should first give them a fighting chance. That's something we can all benefit from. 