

# Emerald Ash Borer ALERT!

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – the imported Asian pest that has made headlines the past few years has become a threat throughout much of our service areas. Unfortunately the emergence of the EAB has brought along with it companies attempting to deceptively capitalize on “easy money” opportunities.

In Mason, Wisconsin, representatives claiming to be sent from the “city” had gone door to door claiming that homeowner’s ash trees needed to be removed. Not a single Emerald Ash Borer had been found in the city at that time. Closer to home, many of our customers are receiving similar solicitations from tree service companies. Companies claiming that their Ash trees are infested, and need to be treated or removed.

One thing to keep in mind is that Ash trees do not like very wet springs. It causes them to drop their leaves, and look “half naked” throughout the summer. We’ve

had very wet springs for the past several years.

Ash trees also have native, non “life threatening” pests that feed on them – the Native Ash Borer. Holes in the tree do not always mean that it has EAB, chances are more likely that the hole was made from the native borer. So do not rush to sign a contract with a tree service -- the EAB moves rather slowly, and its damage is very noticeable.

We do provide EAB prevention through trunk injection. If you would like us to look at your Ash trees, or get a second opinion regarding your Ash trees, please call us.

**Do not be fooled by the recent deceptive sales practices of tree service companies regarding Emerald Ash Borer!**

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**WILLIAM QUINN & SONS**



# William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

## Summer 2011

### Twilight Zone Gardening

Imagine, if you will, a time that seemed innocent...almost too innocent. Imagine that wet weather has troubled your neighborhood for months straight. That wet weather has brought changes, changes as obvious as flooded streets and as subtle as lush green grass. And imagine, if you will, that wet weather has brought about changes in the dark, unexplored areas of your lawn, planting beds, even your house. But what if those changes had nothing to do with plants? What if those changes were of another, more insectual nature? Let us investigate the secrets of... *The Twilight Zone Garden*.

This spring, the rain not only hit record numbers, but also opened the floodgates for insects that we don't commonly see under normal conditions. Mosquitoes aside, expect to see more millipedes, centipedes, sowbugs, slugs, and (ewww!) earwigs!

Millipedes are slow moving insects that feed on decaying plant material (commonly mulch) in moist areas. For the most part, millipedes keep to themselves, but on damp mornings you'll find them crawling up porches and stoops, drying out, and as they die, they coil up.

Centipedes are the fast moving cousin of millipedes that feeds on insects rather than plant material. They multiply very quickly when an adequate food supply is available.

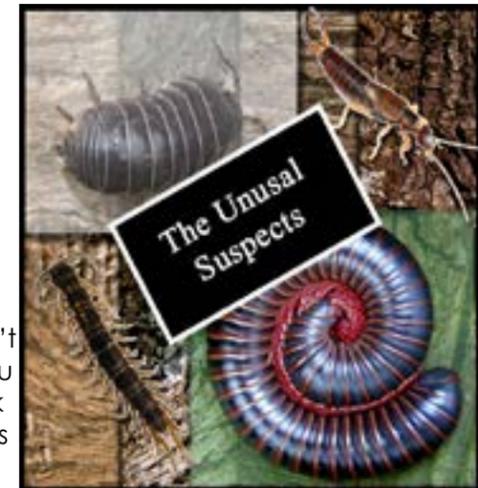
Sowbugs, commonly referred to as “rolly-pollies”, also feed on decaying plant material, and are actually part of the crustacean family. Who doesn't have memories of playing for hours with roly-pollies as a child? How do you know if you have a slug problem? What do your hostas and impatiens look like? When moisture is present, slugs are able to crawl their way onto plants and chew irregular patterns through the foliage of shade loving plants.

Earwigs love to eat the flower petals of roses, daylilies, and other flowers. They hide in moist locations during the day, and leave you wondering, “what's eating my roses?”

Almost all of these pests can be controlled with a simple store bought insecticide (just read the label to make sure the insect is listed before you buy it). Never spray the flower blossoms of any plant as it will add stress, and likely make the flower wilt, or fall off and die. Millipedes cannot be controlled with an insecticide – the gold old fashioned swift “boot” control works best.

Slugs, on the other hand, are best controlled with a slug bait such as Sluggo, or Escar-Go. For a very simple, cheap, easy way to control slugs, dig a small hole near the plants they enjoy. Place a slightly beveled saucer, or small can in the hole (top level with the soil or mulch), and keep it filled with beer.

Insects, in overwhelming numbers, feel like nature's tools of conquest. When their numbers explode and our plants illustrate the fallout, only we possess the best laid plans. Slugs know they can't resist the bitterly sweet hops of a homemade beer trap, and they'll go on knowing until the end... In *The Twilight Zone Garden*.



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# Cathy's Corner

Fourth of July has come and gone and it seems as though the summer is flying by. This unpredictable weather has reeked havoc on our industry. In the spring, the rain made it almost impossible to keep up with regular maintenance. We had to shut down our maintenance and landscape crews for the first time in 30 years due to rain. Now the rain has completely shut off and the thermostat is hovering at 90 degrees! Makes you wonder if Mother Nature is trying to tell us something. It doesn't just rain anymore, the storms appear to get more violent with each occurrence. Even Tom Skilling is asking for an explanation for the unsettled weather patterns, I thought he had all the answers.

Since the weather has not cooperated, I want to thank all of you who have patiently waited for us to catch up on landscaping requests. With the dry weather there is a light at the end of the tunnel. However, anyone who is waiting for seed or sod might want to wait until the hot dry weather has passed. July is the hardest time of the year to get grass seed to germinate. Even if your property has irrigation, you may want to wait for cooler weather to complete installs. As you know, residents "promise" to water if they get new landscaping, but in reality only a few really cooperate with the landscaping committee and care for the plants surrounding their units.

Congratulations to the Woodlands, Brookside and Coach houses of Old Sawmill who won the monthly drawing of \$600.00 in landscape materials for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary give away. We enjoy the opportunity to give back to all our loyal customers. I'm proud of the fact that some of you have been with us since the 70s. Your confidence in us goes along way!

Thanks again to all our customers, the Quinn family appreciates your business.

Cathy

## The Spray Front

Have you heard the joke about the Japanese Beetle that walks into the bar? Bartender says: "Hey buddy, you're two weeks late!" Ok, so it wasn't at all humorous, but it sums up the year we're having so far. Plants budding out late, flowers blooming late, and yes even bugs are showing up to the party a little late.

This summer we're expecting Bagworms, Grubs, and Japanese Beetles.

Bagworms are not usually found north of Interstate 80 but with the high velocity winds we've had this spring, they're increasingly able to travel farther than normal. It's easier to catch them when they're young than remove them when they're mature. If you start to see skimpy foliage on your evergreens with little "bags" hanging off, please call so that we can treat them ASAP!

Snow is nature's insulation, and we had plenty of snow cover this winter. This, combined with the heavy rainfall

we had in the spring, is likely going to allow grubs to easily mature into beetles. Expect to see an average amount of Japanese Beetles this year. **DO NOT, and I repeat, DO NOT use Japanese Beetle traps!** Study after study has found that the traps do much more harm than good.

Grubs will be showing up in a few months in well maintained lawns. By the time you read this (for those customers that signed up for preventative grub insecticide), grub control will likely have already been applied, or in the process of being applied to your property. If you didn't sign up for the grub control, keep an eye out for grub damage to your property. Please report potential damage to us so that we can inspect, quote, and treat it quickly.

- Brian Hornung, Lawn Tech Manager

# Give Your Annuals a Haircut

The process of "deadheading" annuals may be a new concept to some customers. We deadhead roses when the blooms fade, we deadhead daylilies to extend the blooms, but annuals?

First, it may help to understand the lifecycle of an annual. An annual is a flower that completes its life cycle in a single year. That means from seedling, to beauty, to "going to seed" all happens in one growing season. On the other hand, we also often use "annuals" that are actually perennials in other parts of the country. Tropical plants, for example, cannot survive our cold winters, so we plant them as an annual.

The key to deadheading annuals is to know their lifecycle – or rather when the flower starts to produce seed and decline. Seed production requires a lot of energy from the plant, so what we see as a beautiful flower, the plant sees as a waste of resources. The blooms will fade, wilt, and look "dead" as the annual prepares for its next stage in life.

The problem with letting annuals produce seed is that, again, they cannot survive our Chicago winters. The better solution is to give them a haircut! Removing spent flowers allows the plant to redirect energy into creating new blooms, and staying beautiful all summer long. The reason we plant them in the first place, right?



So what's the best method of deadheading annuals? The answer to that is radically different depending on the plant. Some should be deadheaded back to the stem, some should only be "pinched" while others will benefit from a complete "buzz cut".

The best way to understand how to deadhead a particular annual is to see it done visually. Check out our website, where we have compiled several videos from various sources, which are great resources on how to properly "deadhead".

To view the videos on your computer, visit:  
<http://williamquinnandsons.com/deadheading>

## Rain, Rain Going Away

After the winter we experienced, it sure would have been nice to have a calm spring leading into a mild summer, don't you agree? While the spring rain seems to have subsided for now, it's looking like we're running full steam into a hot, humid summer.

The raw weather numbers so far this year are amazing. In April, we saw over 6 inches of rain across the Chicagoland area – the average for the month is 3.83. May passed by, and only 12 days were rain free. Then, of course we all remember June 9<sup>th</sup> when 3 to 5 inches of rain fell in a matter of hours, combined with terrible wind inflicting shocking damage to our area.

April may shine in history as the third rainiest month in the history of Chicago record keeping, but July is off to a very interesting start. Humidity combined with a lack of rain is stressing our landscapes! We usually hope

to see about an inch of rain every week. However, when Mother Nature forgets to irrigate, it's up to us as homeowners to assist parched plants and lawns!

Farmer's Almanac is predicting that "summer temperatures will be near normal, on average, with below-normal rainfall. The hottest periods will be in mid-to late June and early and mid-July."

It's hard to forget how much rain we had this spring, but during the summer months when evaporation levels are exceedingly high, it's important to remember that plants need supplemental water!

Need to know when to water? Check out our integrated "Weather.com: Watering Needs" app at:  
<http://www.williamquinnandsons.com/water>

