

Winter 2007-2008

ArborVisor

2007 In Review



A Publication of Mountain High Tree Care & Consulting

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Looking through the Eyes of an Arborist

Our newsletter focuses on the Top 5 in Colorado Springs. The top 5 problems trees face, the top 5 trees, and the top 5 insect and disease problems all as seen through the eyes of an arborist.

2007 began with an abundance of welcome moisture and a flush of spring growth on trees and shrubs. As summer wore on things dried out and with little precipitation in the latter part of the year, stressed trees were one of our Top 5 problems. Thus, we continue to recommend bark beetle sprays and winter watering.

New in 2008 is our own website at www.mountainhightree-coloradosprings.com. Put it among your favorites as a resource about trees. Use it for current information or to request an estimate. We will also be using its email ability to send out critical information. Please be sure to include your email address with your 2008 proposal.

2007 was a mile-marker for my career as an arborist. I have been with Mountain High for 25 (5 x 5) years, 12 of those years building and growing in Colorado Springs.

Your business is appreciated and your referrals are invaluable. Let Mountain High help you with the Top 5.

A High 5 to our Customers,

Col. Meyer

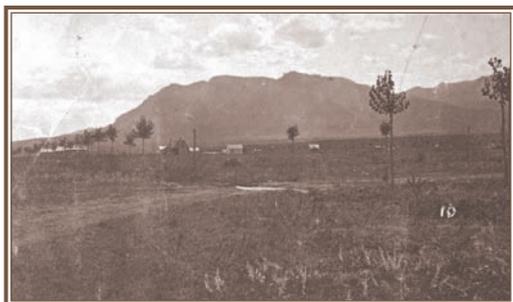


Top 5 tree problems in Colorado Springs

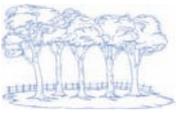


The top 5 problems trees face range from things we do to trees to the tough environment we live in.

1. How **people** plant and treat trees is number one. Often trees are planted too deeply. Their roots struggle for oxygen and start to circle leading to future problems. Twine or staking wire remaining from planting can eventually girdle and kill a tree. In lawns we err and hit them with mowers and weed whips forgetting that we are damaging the tree.
2. **Drought** and the ups and downs of precipitation stress trees and landscapes making them more prone to many insects and diseases.
3. The region's snow and wind **storms** regularly cause failures and damage to trees. Annually, lightning hits hundreds of trees.
4. Colorado Springs' **soils** vary from heavy clay to very sandy with little organic matter. In many cases our soils have a high pH, affecting nutrient availability. These all make it difficult for plants to grow.
5. Lastly, **water** is important. Too much water can be as critical as too little. It is important to monitor soil moisture and to water trees according to their needs throughout the year.



In 1872, General Palmer had over 600 cottonwood trees planted in the newly founded city and the urban landscape was begun. Courtesy Colorado College.



Top 5 Trees



Although Mountain High does not count planting among our services, we love trees and have some favorites we recommend. The following trees have proven themselves in Colorado Springs.

Southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformus*) – This tree is found in the southwestern part of the state in its native habitat on ridges, slopes and canyons and grows in mixed stands up to timberline. It is also planted in urban landscapes. It grows at a moderate rate in a variety of soils, preferring sunny sites and loamy soils and disliking poorly drained soils. With its soft bluish-green foliage it is a good alternative to other pines.



Southwestern white pine is a nice alternative on sunny sites.



Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) – This is a large growing tree that is drought tolerant and virtually pest free. The leaves are pinnately-compound, providing a filtered shade. Female trees have fragrant white flowers followed by mahogany seed pods that persist into winter. The stout branches and furrowed bark make it an attractive tree in winter.

Stout branches and furrowed bark make Kentucky coffee tree an attractive tree in winter.



Oaks (*Quercus spp.*) – A few of the white oaks such as English, bur oak, swamp white oak and chinkapin oak are underutilized and have tremendous potential in our landscapes. They are adaptable to poor soils, beneficial to wildlife and have attractive bark and form. Some provide a red fall color. These are good choices to replace the elms, maples and ash in our landscapes.

Chinkapin oak is one that is adaptable to Colorado Springs environment.

River birch (*Betula nigra*) – This medium-sized tree reaches heights of 15 to 40 feet. On the trunk and larger branches, the bark exfoliates into papery sheets exposing a beautiful bronze inner bark. The river birch tolerates heat and is capable of growing on wet sites. It is a good alternative to white birch and aspen in our landscapes

Bigtooth/Canyon maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) Canyon maple is native to many parts of western Colorado and is very tolerant of our soils and climate. It has splendid fall color. The smaller, compact size of this tree also adds another small tree to your pallet. It comes in a multi-stem shrub or in tree form. It isn't a common tree at the commercial nurseries either so it may take a little work on your part to find one.

Bigtooth or Canyon maple is a colorful small-growing tree.



Working with and maintaining your landscape is a continuing and long-term process. Mountain High can help you in caring for your trees and planning for your landscape. **Give us a call at 719.444.8800.**



Top 5 Insects and Diseases



Ips engraver beetles is one group of bark beetles have killed many trees in Colorado Springs

Ips Beetles – With drought conditions persisting Ips engraver beetles and other bark beetles such as the black walnut twig beetle, elm bark beetles, and Douglas-fir pole beetle have all run rampant. We will still be recommending protective sprays in 2008



Controlling European elm scale and other scales is important to maintain tree health and vigor.

Scale Insects – Scale insects can be devastating to trees and in many cases they are difficult to control. Soft-bodied scales such as European elm scale, cottony maple scale and pine tortoise scale are controlled with periodic soil treatments with Merit, a systemic insecticide. Armored scales such as oyster shell scale and pine needle scale are best controlled with a timed spray during the crawler stage.



White pine weevil damages just the top terminals of younger spruce trees.

Spider Mites – Hot and dry conditions can cause spider mite problems on trees, shrubs and evergreens. This causes a dusty appearance to your evergreens and a bronzing of leaves on your deciduous trees and shrubs. Mite populations can build rapidly and require varied controls.

White Pine Weevil – This insect is a small beetle with a snout that hits the top of spruce trees. Younger spruce trees in higher elevation areas such as Briargate, Wolf Ranch, Peregrine and Broadmoor Bluffs are most susceptible. This insect is easily controlled with a protective spray in the spring.



Aspen and cottonwood trees stressed by drought are particularly prone to this canker disease.

Cytospora Canker – When aspen, poplars and cottonwoods become wounded or drought-stressed they are prone to Cytospora canker, a fungus disease that causes dieback of branching and even death of the tree. Also, mature spruce trees if they become stressed are prone to a form of this fungi that causes scattered dieback of branches. Proper pruning and plant health care are important in managing this disease.



Employee Highlights



Jeff Cooper

Jeff Cooper, a manager at Mountain High, has worked in the industry for over 20 years. His career began at age 17 pruning apple trees in his native Indiana. Jeff is an ISA Certified Arborist and holds pesticide certifications in all 7 categories. Jeff is an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He and his wife, Lori, have two children.



Brien Porter

Brien Porter, a trim foreman, has been with Mountain High for 2 years and has been a climbing arborist for about 10 years. Besides his dedication to his job, Brien enjoys woodworking. A special skill is making and playing the didgerdoo, an Australian instrument. Brien, Brooke and their two children live in the Rustic Hills area of Colorado Springs.



The Loss of a Champion

Colorado's largest American elm grew for over 100 years in the backyard of a small house on Prospect Street near Shooks Run Creek. It was 120-foot tall and over 17 feet in circumference.

In 2005, a branch on the tree's east side started to wilt and flag, a symptom of Dutch elm disease. Since then Mountain High with the support of the owner and the help of the Colorado Tree Coalition has taken extraordinary steps to save the tree including fungicide injections and therapeutic pruning. In the end the tree's own vigorous health and a good vascular system that spread the Dutch elm disease fungus was its demise.



Since 2005, Mountain High tried valiantly to save Colorado's Champion American Elm



The American elm, a native in the Eastern United States, was planted abundantly in the early part of the 1900's. Since, the mid-1970's when Dutch elm disease was identified in Colorado Springs, many have succumbed to the disease. American elms are graceful and beautiful trees and worth protecting.

A raccoon once made a home in the large tree



Mountain High is proud to be a sponsor of the Old North End website at www.oldnorthend.org

Mountain High can provide advice and care for your American elms and all of your other trees. **719.444.8800**



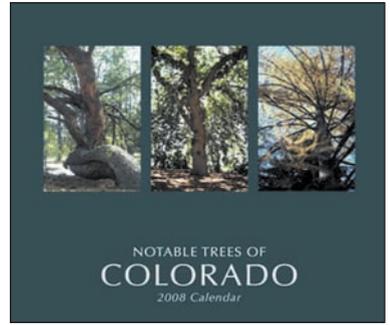
2008 Notable Trees of Colorado Calendar

Mountain High continued as a sponsor of the 2008 Notable Trees of Colorado Calendar.

Becky Wegner chairs the committee for the Colorado Tree Coalition that created this colorful and informative calendar with photographs of champion and notable trees throughout Colorado.

The calendar includes some local notable trees. September features the historic orchard at Rockledge Ranch near Garden of the Gods. December's photograph is a unique Ute Ceremonial tree in Black Forest.

The calendar is available through the Colorado Tree Coalition's web site at www.coloradotrees.org.



New in 2008

- ✓ Check out Mountain High's **new website** at www.mountainhightree-coloradosprings.com

Holiday Lighting
Mountain High **now provides** outdoor holiday lighting.



Vole/Rodent Control
Mountain High **now offers** a vole and rodent management programs.



2008 Proposals

- ✿ Look for your proposals in the mail in late January.
- ✿ We will strive to recommend the services your landscape needs.
- ✿ Please let us know if you have any concerns or if there is something you want included for the coming year.

What Mountain High Does –

- ✿ Complete Tree & Shrub Care
- ✿ Quality Pruning & Shearing
- ✿ Removals & Stump Grinding
- ✿ Insect & Disease Controls & Sprays
- ✿ Consulting
- ✿ Organic wood mulch
- ✿ Lightning Protection
- ✿ Fertilization
- ✿ Deep Root Watering
- ✿ Forest Management
- ✿ Fire Mitigation
- ✿ Construction Mitigation
- ✿ Holiday Lighting - New in 2008
- ✿ Vole/Rodent control - New in 2008



Please call us at **719.444.8800** for information and estimates or email us at beckywegner@mountainhightree.com.