



HEALTH CARE TREATMENTS FOR TREES AND WOODY SHRUBS

Trees and woody shrubs are an important part of the overall interpretation of a historic site and should be considered part of the living collection at Historic New England. The proper care and maintenance of the trees and woody shrubs during this process can help prolong the life span of individual trees. Because of the size and scope of the collection Historic New England must prioritize its treatments for the trees and woody shrubs. Historic New England emphasizes non-chemical approaches first and then, if unsuccessful, the use of organic treatments however chemical treatments may be necessary to prolong the life.

Guidelines for Spraying/Fertilization/Chemical Treatments

- Before treatments are considered the emphasis should be on improving the cultural conditions such as soil chemistry, mulching, watering, etc. Success with these minimizes need for any chemical treatment.
- Treatments should emphasize organic methods before chemical.
- Treatments should focus on specimen trees or trees surrounding specimen trees that may be harboring pests.
- Specimen trees in lawn settings may require soil amendments due to the lack of natural nutrients from debris decay.
 - In most New England soils, tree roots are very shallow, and “deep root fertilization” is not appropriate. Soil amendment type and formulation should be prescribed based on proper soil sampling procedures and formal testing in a lab.
 - Most trees are best treated with surface applications. Typical N-P-K formulations are wasteful as New England soils rarely need additional nitrogen or phosphorus, and generally need a lot more potassium than these products supply.
- Periodic monitoring of pest levels is necessary to determine when chemical intervention is necessary.
- A massive insect infestation should be dealt with based on the recommendations of a certified arborist and by a certified arborist.
 - It is generally not financially feasible to spray large properties to protect against a potential infestation however smaller sections may be feasible to prevent specimen trees from being affected.