

Let's Talk Trees



Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life



From Joe...what's new

The hive is jumping

It should come as no surprise that everyone is "abuzz" with talk of the warm weather. At NPHC we are no different, and we are happy (I mean REALLY happy) about the early start

to the season. It is good in so many ways it's almost hard to count. For sure, crew morale, the phone ringing a lot, and the ability to get work done without first shoveling snow are all wonderful results of this great weather. Fortunately, we have been **quick to respond** to the high demand brought on by an early spring and are fully staffed and ready to care for your landscapes. Call now to get on the schedule!

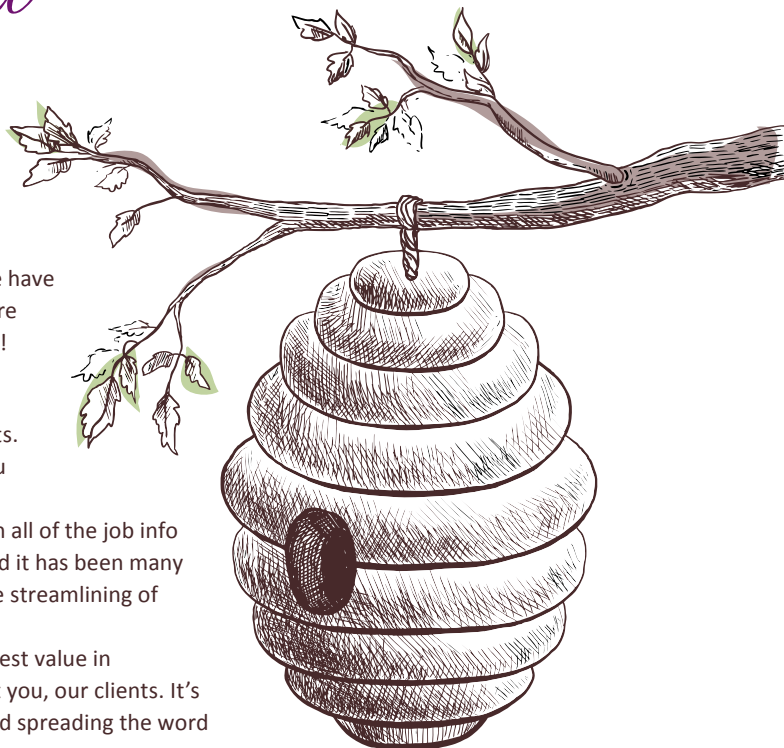
Cool improvements for warm weather

One downside to the early spring weather is that it has cut short our winter projects. We did manage to accomplish the **digitizing of work orders** though, and if you look closely, you'll notice that the PHC technicians and the Foremen are no longer carrying paper work orders. Instead, they are sporting laptops or iPads that contain all of the job info they need to accomplish the work on your property. We think this is pretty cool and it has been many years in the making. Less paper, more centralized control of the workflows, and the streamlining of administrative tasks are all benefits of our new system.

And ultimately, being more automated allows us to continue offering you the best value in landscape care by keeping our overhead costs down. We are always thinking about you, our clients. It's always been that way and it will stay that way. Thanks again for all your support and spreading the word about NPHC. **We appreciate you greatly!**

In Care of Trees,

Joe Zabely



companion gardening

Two events from the The Inland Empire Gardeners {tieg.org}

Spokane in Bloom Garden Tour

Garden-related vendors, music, art. Find inspiration for your next landscape project, and then call Joe!

Saturday, June 20
10am - 5pm
Spokane's South Hill

Tickets \$10 - Available at any of the the gardens the day of the tour or at selected nurseries in June

Sheltering Trees Garden - 523 W 18th Ave
Seasons in the Sun Garden - 1028 E 33rd Ave
Soulmates Forever Garden - 1216 E 54th Ave
Garden of Earthly Delights - 2717 E 40th Ave
Kindred Spirits Garden - 3620 E 35th Ave
Rhapsody in Green Garden - 1110 S Denny Ct
*Bonus: Tower Perennials - 4010 E Jamieson Rd



Garden Expo

Over 250 garden-related vendors, including NPHC! Free admission & parking, food court, guest speakers.

Saturday, May 9
9am - 5pm
SCC - 1810 N. Greene St.



Safe practices provide peace of mind

by Ben Kappen

Plant Health Care is a progressive and innovative approach to maintaining healthy and beautiful plants in our urban landscapes. It institutes the use of a variety of tactics and tools including cultural, physical, biological, and chemical control measures. All of these options are considered when treating sick plants, but often, high pest populations or levels of infection from disease are such that a chemical is the recommended treatment to bring the plant back to a healthy state.

When this is the case, we rely on the company's environmental conscience, the client's preferences or sensitivities, and our individual education and experience as Certified Arborists to decide which product to apply. Fortunately, many insects and diseases can be controlled with chemicals that have been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as being on the lower end of the toxicity range. These products are labeled with the words 'Caution' or 'Warning' and constitute 94% of the chemicals that we stock and use on your property.

Thankfully, we as consumers are cautious about being good stewards of our resources. This creates a buyer-focused view of chemical development. Over time, this allows our industry (through millions of dollars and very heavy research) to provide better products, with lower toxicity ratings to get better results. It is important to remember that the toxicity rating of a product is based on its purest form. However, by the time the product is applied on plants it is often in a field dilution making it hundreds or thousands of times lower than that pure form for which it was rated. As an example, the product Merit® Insecticide has a toxicity rating of 4870, or Almost Non-toxic (5000 and above), but it is diluted 42,000 times before being sprayed on your trees or shrubs. Orthene® Tree and ornamental insecticide falls into the Slightly Toxic category, the same rating category as aspirin and table salt.

Many companies offer a set number of visits at set times and use broad spectrum insecticide products in a blanket fashion. Our service differs by being individualized.

We have a wider variety of products available to our technicians, which allows us to best treat and not over treat. Limiting product usage to only the plants needing care results in meeting the desired goals without wasting. Whenever prudent, we make proactive cultural changes to prevent unnecessary treatments.

We are proud to be on the cutting edge of the arboricultural practices to bring the safest care to your property. ↪

Customized care leads to beautiful results!



RECIPE

Kate's Italian Steamed Clams

- 2 Tbsp grapeseed oil
- ½ medium onion, diced small
- 3 tsp minced garlic cloves
- ¼ cup fresh chopped basil
- ½ cup of chardonnay
- ½ cup or clam juice (or water)
- 2 ½ pound littleneck clams (about 30 clams) scrubbed
- 3 Tbsp sliced green onion
- ¼ cup diced roasted red peppers
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon zest
- ½ tsp red pepper flakes
- 3- 4 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- Your favorite crusty bread!

In a large high sided sauté pan with lid, warm oil over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and basil. Cook until garlic is slightly softened, about 2 minutes. Add wine & clam juice (or water) to pot and bring to boil. Stir in clams and cover pot. Cook until clams open, 5 to 7 minutes. Use a slotted spoon or tongs to remove clams from pot and place in a large serving bowl. (Discard any clams that don't open.)

Stir green onion, roasted red peppers, lemon zest and red pepper flakes into the pan sauce and cook until well blended and bubbling. Stir in butter and lemon juice, whisking until butter melts and sauce thickens slightly. Pour sauce over clams. Serve immediately with crusty bread to dip! ↪

Optional: Soak clams in cold kosher salt water (no iodine) to remove any sand before cooking.
Note: Do not cook any opened clams that do not close when tapped.



ASK

THE TREE CARE EXPERTS

By John Jesseph

How will the warm spring affect our plants and trees?

In general, the warm weather will help plants and trees by giving them a longer growing season. The real concern is the amount of moisture your plants receive. In the spring, plants are growing and need plenty of water. Because we can't always count on there being enough rain to meet the needs

THE REAL CONCERN IS THE AMOUNT OF MOISTURE YOUR PLANTS RECEIVE

of our landscapes, it's up to you, the property owner, to determine how much supplemental water is needed to keep your plants healthy.

We are still in a slight drought in the Spokane area, so extra care should be given to your landscape during the

drier parts of the year. In the spring, the plants are growing and need plenty of water. Drought stressed plants and trees have a potential for greater insect problems and winter or frost damage. Paying extra attention to the water needs of your trees, plants and shrubs this spring will help insure a vibrant landscape throughout the year. ☺

To Do List

- Turn on sprinklers
- Apply shrub bed pre-emergents
- Fertilize lawns and trees
- Plan landscape changes
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Apply spider barriers

Who's Hot

Parker Krantz

Parker is the 10 month old son of NPHC Arborist, Zack Krantz, and his wife, Amanda. As you can see, he is quite the charmer and we love his visits to the office. Already sporting 8 teeth, Parker is a very independent youngster who loves to feed himself and has become quite verbal. While not quite ready to climb trees, Parker is a Certified Crawler who is almost walking (with a little help from Dad).

Ironically, even though he loves being outdoors in the dirt, Parker HATES grass. I guess we will keep him off the Plant Health Care crew for now. One thing is for sure, he keeps Zach and Amanda on their toes! ☺



And What's Not!

Needle desiccation on pines

If you have noticed uncharacteristic brown needles on Ponderosa pines this spring, you are not alone. The damage affecting last year's needles displayed as "yellow to brown needled tips leaving the base of the needle green" was first reported last December. The phenomenon is described as of unknown cause and possibly influenced by site elevation, as reported by the Idaho Department of Lands in a forest health handout circulated in March of this year. According to DNR Forester Matt Ugaldea, different theories regarding the root cause abound but most involve

essentially what can be described as cold or frost injury to these needles. At this point, no specific action is recommended, but assessing health in June after candle expansion and monitoring for more serious issues associated with stress are in order. ☺

Photo credit: Tom Eckberg, Idaho Department of Lands



Needle desiccation

My neighbor was so impressed with my beautiful landscape he took pictures!

~ Tina Flint, Spokane



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THE INSIDE DIRT

The Inland Empire Gardeners

Safe Practices, Peace of Mind

Meet Parker Krantz!



Replacing sidewalks near street trees

By Joe Zubaly

Replacing sidewalks that are deteriorating or being heaved by tree roots can be an expensive undertaking. The liability of having an uneven or buckled sidewalk is certainly great as well. Add to this the possibility that the trees adjacent to the sidewalk could easily be damaged in the excavation and construction process, and now you have a project that requires some informed decision making and proper execution.

At NPHC, we normally look at these issues from a tree preservation standpoint. We also realize the responsibilities associated with home ownership. Tree preservation may not be the first thing on your mind when repairing your sidewalk, but it should be part of the decision making process for several reasons.

First, the city (Spokane, Spokane Valley, Post Falls, CDA, and Hayden) will require that your contractor obtain a permit for the work. This will put on notice the inspectors from the engineering department and the urban forestry department to look at the project. Second, excavation in the root zone of street trees can have severely adverse effects on the stability and safety of the tree as well the long-term health of the tree. Many times, damage from excavating will not show up for 3-5 years.

In addition, concrete contractors are often times focused on the physical task of removing and laying concrete. This can produce some less than desirable results for the tree and its roots. Yes, excavation and concrete work is costly, but having to replace large mature trees several

years later can also be expensive, not to mention frustrating. Our goal is to help you avoid this scenario by providing a holistic solution.

NPHC has been involved in the resolution of street tree/sidewalk issues for years. We perform sidewalk removals using specialized tools with no adverse effects to the tree. We can perform root pruning when needed and then work with subcontractors under our direct supervision to replace the sidewalks. Best of all, NPHC has extensive experience working with the cities using a number of different means to come up with solutions that have longevity for the tree and the sidewalk installation.

For more information visit: www.spokaneurbanforestry.org

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