Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Urban & Community Forestry Program

AUGUST 2020 | No. 241

Recent Reflections

By **Mollie Freilicher**

From physically-distanced plantings, to self-guided tree walks, to Arbor Day seedling pickups, it has been amazing to see how communities have adapted to the Covid era, while continuing to move urban and community forestry forward where they can.

For the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program, we have been working remotely, focusing on large projects that have been hard to complete during regular field seasons. DCR urban foresters in the Gateway Cities have been watering public trees that were planted in the last few years to help out municipalities pressed for time with new Covid responsibilities or with split shifts and only half of the forestry or Department of Public Works staff on at a time.

A few of the ways we have seen communities adapt this season:

- In Littleton, the Littleton Country Gardeners, the Shade Tree Committee, and third grade teachers helped distribute Arbor Day seedlings in a drive-through event.
- Wellesley also had a remote distribution event for seedlings.
- In Greenfield, Mary Chicoine of the Greenfield Tree Committee, created a self-guided (and virtual) tree walk using ArcGIS Story Maps to engage residents during isolation.
- In Saugus, volunteers planted trees through a grant from the Foundation Trust.

As part of a US Forest Service funded grant -

- In Greenfield, Tree Committee member John Bottomley planted trees when the Department of Public Works was unable to plant this spring.
- In Montague, the DPW and Tree Committee continued to site and plant about 40 trees.
- In North Adams, tree planting coordinator Bret Beatie continued to plant about 100 trees under a US Forest Service grant, with the DPW assisting.
- Check out coverage here.

As part of another US Forest Service funded grant -

- In Southbridge, tree planting coordinator Alia Abaid planted 18 trees in a downtown parking lot.

Here at the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program, it has been sad to cancel annual events, including our Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA recognition event and we hope to be able to hold it next year. We are also disappointed that we have to cancel our annual Tree Steward Training. We look forward to both of these events and hope we can safely gather for these events in 2021.

That these are challenging times is an understatement, but it has been heartwarming to see communities and organizations adapt and come together. We look forward to seeing you all again in person, and in the meantime we're still here remotely for you. Please contact us!

Up Ahead:

Species Spotlight

Butternut, *Juglans cinerea*

By **Larissa Parse**

Leaf, Virginia Tech

Juglans cinerea, commonly known as butternut and white walnut, is a deciduous tree native to North America. This tree is related to the well-known black walnut tree. The two walnuts are in the same genus, *Juglans*, and share the family Juglandaceae. Trees in the Juglandaceae family include several other familiar nut trees like the pecan, native to the southern U.S. and Mexico, and the Persian or English walnut (*Juglans regia*), thought to be native to southern Europe and parts of Asia.

Fruit. Gary Fewless, Univ. of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Butternut and black walnut look similar, but butternut is distinguished from the black walnut easily, even for amateur botanists. Step back and take in the overall shape of the tree; butternut is squat and oval shaped, while black walnut is towering and usually with a strong straight trunk. Butternut grows to 40-60 feet tall and the same width, while black walnut trees grow much taller. The butternut tree has 11-17 oblong, lanceolate leaflets, fewer than black walnut. The oval fruits on butternut trees are also a defining feature as opposed to round fruit that fall from the black walnut tree. The inner bark of butternut is a light color, hence the alternate common name, white walnut. The nuts and husks can be used to make a yellow dye. Although these features make it easy to distinguish the trees, the hardest challenge will be to find a butternut tree in Massachusetts.

Butternut can tolerate more temperature extremes than the black walnut. It can be found throughout New England, extending into Canada, to the mighty Mississippi and south to the southern Appalachian range. Most commonly, butternut is found in rich river bottoms and often on the edge of fields. You can still find a stand of butternuts in the small Massachusetts town of Montague. The trees there are old and give shelter to a river that abuts a farmer's hay field. Early American homesteads had them planted to utilize the nut, which is sweet, oily, and buttery in flavor. The tree's nuts are still prized today. Planting butternut and all members of the walnut family needs careful planning. The roots release an allelopathic compound, juglone, that prevents woody, perennial and annual species from thriving. The toxic compound can be found in leaves, fruits, and twigs and can also be excreted through the roots.

Bark, Mollie Freilicher

Butternuts were once a sought-after tree, but now they are hard to find due to a serious fungal pathogen (*Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum)* that has severely impacted populations throughout the range and eliminated the species from North and South Carolina. The pathogen causes a canker (a dead area on a trunk or branches). Cankers were first found on trees in the Midwest in 1967. Perennial cankers can form on any

Nut (inside the greenish husk), Virginia Tech

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Species Spotlight—Butternut, *Juglans cinerea*

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age butternut tree. The pathogen is transferred via rain or aerosols and enters trees via wounds or even through leaf scars and cracks in the bark. Over time, the fungus spreads, cankers multiply, and the tree dies. Entire stands of butternut trees have been wiped out, but some trees appear to have a resistance to the disease. The survivor trees and their nuts are being studied to find traits, sites, and genetic markers that enable the trees to resist infection. The goal of the research is to one day restore butternut tree populations.

Twig, Virginia Tech

References

Juglans cinerea. Missouri Botanical Garden Database.

Dirr, Michael A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses. 5th Ed. Champaign, IL: Stipes.

USDA Forest Service. 2019. Saving the butternut. https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species/butternut_canker/

Woeste, Keith; Pijut, Paula M. 2009. The peril and potential of butternut. Arnoldia. 66(4): 2-12.

Larissa Parse is an urban forester with the DCR Greening the Gateway Cities Program.

Inbox Alert! Upcoming Survey on the Economic Contributions of Urban Forestry

We want to give you a heads-up and urge you to fill out a survey that may be coming your way.

There is a study underway led by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that is evaluating the economic contributions of the urban forestry sector in the Northeast-Midwest region of the U.S. This study is the first in the nation to focus specifically on the economic contributions of urban forestry across multiple states.

A random sample of businesses, non-profits, and local governments will receive an invitation to participate in a web survey in late summer.

Look for an email with the subject line *The Urban Forestry Economic Contributions Study Invites You to Participate* from The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources <noreply@qualtrics-survey.com>. The questions will ask about your organization's sales and revenue (or budgets) in 2018. There will also be questions about the number of full- and part-time employees for that year.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and individual responses are kept completely confidential.

Survey results will inform regional and state-specific reports. We urge to you (or someone at your organization) to complete the survey if you receive an invitation to participate. This study, and its reports, will benefit the field of urban forestry and those who do any sort of work in this sector.

Thank you in advance for your time and participation!

From the Woods

Agroforestry: Opportunities for Rural, Urban and Suburban Landscapes in Massachusetts

By **Michael Downey**

How can Massachusetts, a state that is mostly forested, contribute to sustainable agriculture, land stewardship, habitat for wildlife, improved water quality, and diversified farm income? One path being explored by farmers and forest landowners across the state is the practice of Agroforestry.

Although Agroforestry is a somewhat "new" term (first used in the late 1970s), the approach has been practiced for over a millennium in temperate and tropical forests and the practice of integrating trees and agricultural have cultural significance in many parts of the world.

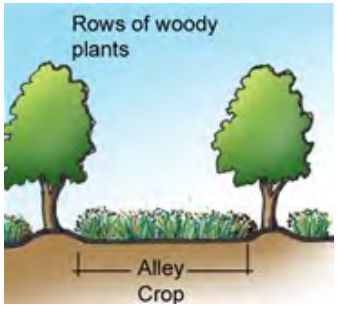
My first introduction to Agroforestry was on my uncle's dairy farm in Tewksbury, MA. He was always finding creative ways to diversify his farm operation. I remember planting pussy willow and dogwood along some of the pasture edges to be later sold for floral and decorative purposes. Professionally, I have been involved in Riparian Buffer, Windbreak, and Forest Farming projects.

When applied thoughtfully on the landscape—Agroforestry can help address the Commonwealth's most pressing economic, environmental, and social priorities, including jobs and rural prosperity, pollinator habitat, cleaner water for communities and downstream ecosystems, maintaining healthy soils, climate-resilient working landscapes, a safe, secure and nutritious food supply, and improved habitat/ corridors for wildlife.

What is Agroforestry?

In North America, agroforestry is generally defined as the science and practice of intensive land-use management that combines trees and/ or shrubs with crops and/or livestock. There are five types of Agroforestry practices today in North America: alley cropping, riparian buffers, windbreaks, forest farming, and silvopasture. Depending on landowner goals, there is a range of options available within each agroforestry practice.

Alley Cropping is planting rows of trees at wide spacings with a companion crop grown in the alleyways between the rows. Alley cropping can diversify farm income, improve crop production and provide protection and conservation benefits to crops. Common examples of alley cropping plantings include wheat, corn, soybeans, or hay planted in between rows of black walnut (or other nut trees), Christmas trees or fruit trees. Non-traditional or value-added crops may also be incorporated for extra income, including sunflowers or medicinal herbs planted in between rows of trees.



Riparian Buffers are living filters comprised of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses, including native plants, established in distinct zones. They enhance filtration of nutrients from surface run-off and shallow ground water. These excess nutrients are then utilized for plant growth. Riparian buffers protect the water quality of streams and lakes and are an effective tool for controlling erosion and providing food and cover for wildlife. Decorative woody florals (such as red osier dogwood and curly willow) and berries planted in the shrub zone provide additional income from riparian buffers.

Windbreaks are planned and managed as part of a crop and/or livestock operation to enhance production, protect livestock, and control soil

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Agroforestry: Opportunities for Massachusetts

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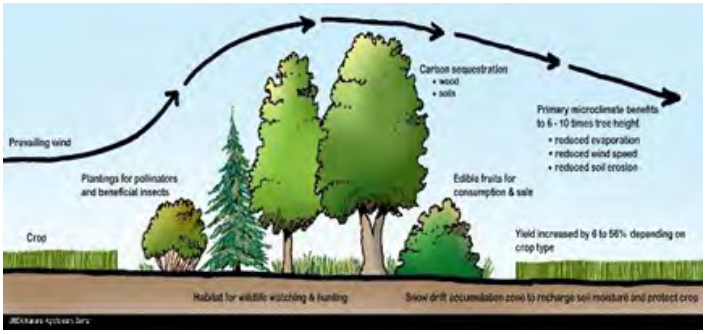

erosion. Windbreaks can also be used to enhance pollinator habitat on the farm. Windbreaks can also provide excellent habitat for songbirds and other wildlife.

Forest Farming can be used to grow high-value specialty crops under the protection of a forest canopy that has been modified to provide the correct shade level. Crops like ginseng, wild leeks, goldenseal, shiitake mushrooms, and decorative ferns are sold for medicinal, culinary, and ornamental uses. Forest farming provides income while high-quality trees are being grown for wood products.

Silvopasture is the intentional combination of trees, forage, and livestock managed as a single integrated practice. Silvopasture systems are created by introducing forage into a woodland or tree plantation or by introducing trees into a pasture. Rotational grazing is a key management activity when using silvopasture in order to minimize damage to trees and soil.

Key Traits of Agroforestry Practices

In order to distinguish Agroforestry Practices from farming and forestry practices it must satisfy all the following four criteria (*the 4 I's*):

Intentional	Designed, established, and managed to work together and yield multiple products and benefits.
Intensive	Managed to maintain productive and protective functions.
Integrated	Components are functionally and structurally combined into a management unit to meet objectives of the landowner. Horizontal or Vertical, Above- or Below-Ground, Simultaneous or Sequential.
Interactive	Providing numerous conservation and ecological benefits while yielding multiple products.

Agroforestry in the Urban Landscape

As a forester living in the suburbs, I am intimately connected to (and understand) the contributions of forests, trees, and other urban green areas to the quality of my family's life and to the overall urban environment. The contributions of forestry to urban life and the environment could be enhanced using Agroforestry systems. For example, Food Forestry (although not a recognized Agroforestry practice) intentionally integrates food-producing trees and shrubs in built environments to bolster community resilience (Clark and Nicholas 2013). The concept of "trees as infrastructure" now may have larger meaning. These "Food Trees" enhance important ecosystem services such as providing shade, reducing runoff by stabilizing soils, and increasing biodiversity while simultaneously providing access to nutrients that are absent from many American diets (Lafontaine-Messier et al 2016; Clark and Nicholas 2013).

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Agroforestry: Opportunities for Massachusetts

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Additionally, the application of Agroforestry principles and practices are being utilized in the urban/suburban landscape with the "Mini-Forest" movement (Miyawaki method). This movement began with Japanese botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s. Might the "mini-forest" play an increasing role here in Massachusetts? Could some of the efforts of municipal/urban tree planting and/or the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program include an Agroforestry component?

The contribution of Agroforestry to environmental sustainability across Massachusetts can be significant.

Agroforestry has an ability to conserve natural resources while balancing the pressure of land to produce agricultural and forest-based commodities.

Paraphrasing E.O. Wilson--As demand for food will lead to more pressure on forestlands—this time more than ever requires a sustainable management system for land that increases production, ecological stability and supports economic resilience on the farm and forest. Agroforestry may indeed be that system.

Michael Downey is the DCR Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator and a Service Forester. His district covers north-central Massachusetts.

Additional Resources and Grant Opportunities:

USDA National Agroforestry Center
www.fs.usda.gov/nac/index.shtml

USDA Urban Agroforestry Grant: www.fs.usda.gov/nac/resources/grants/urban-request-for-proposals.shtml

Northeast SARE Grant: https://www.northeastsare.org/

MA Forest Stewardship Program: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/forest-stewardship-program

DCR Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grants for Municipalities (75/25):
www.mass.gov/service-details/forest-stewardship-program

Cornell Small Farms Program
https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/agroforestry/

The Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri
http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/

Association of Temperate Agroforestry: www.aftaweb.org/

Northeast/Mid Atlantic Agroforestry
www.capitalrcd.org/nemaagroforestry.html

Silvopasture: https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/www.paulsmiths.edu/dist/e/71/files/2016/06/Photo-Guide-to-Northeastern-United-States-Silvopasture-1lmctmt.pdf

Mini Forest

www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/13/fast-growing-mini-forests-spring-up-in-europe-to-aid-climate

https://fellowsblog.ted.com/how-to-grow-a-forest-really-really-fast-d27df202ba09

https://daily.jstor.org/the-miyawaki-method-a-better-way-to-build-forests/

naturalurbanforests.com/ afforestt.com/about

Food Forest (Urban)
www.fs.fed.us/research/docs/webinars/urban-forests/community-food-forests/UFCApr2018_BukowskiSlides.pdf

Permaculture

nofamass.org localumass.com

bostonfoodforest.org paradiselot.com

Statistics and Related

Census for Agriculture in Massachusetts (2017)
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Massachusetts/index.php

https://masswoods.org/massachusetts-forests

www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-2020-forest-action-plan-update#2020-plan-update-

https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nicportal/temppdf/sfs/naweb/ma_std.pdf

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Lafontaine-Messier M, Gélinas N, and Olivier A (2016) Profitability of food trees planted in urban trees planted in urban public green areas. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening 16: 197-207.

Clark KH and Nicholas KA (2013) Introducing urban food forestry: a multifunctional approach to increase food security and provide ecosystem services. Landsc Ecol 28: 1649-1669.

The Center for Agroforestry. http://www.centerforagroforestry.org/ (July 2020).

USDA National Agroforestry Center. www.fs.usda.gov/nac/index.shtml (July 2020).

Association of Temperate Agroforestry. www.aftaweb.org/ (July 2020).

Growing on Trees—2019 DCR Challenge Grants

The Department of Conservation and Recreation announces the recipients of 2019 DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants. Seventeen entities were granted $181,963 to complete a variety of projects related to urban and community forestry. Project areas include conducting tree inventories and surveys, tree planting, heritage tree care, training, stewardship, wood banks, and more. The grants awarded range from $1,900 to $30,000 and require a 50-50 or 25-75 match.

Funds are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, Eversource and National Grid (through the Massachusetts ReLeaf Trust Fund), and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Twelve grant awards were funded by the USDA Forest Service. Four grant awards were funded from the Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund—three utilizing donations from Eversource and one utilizing a donation by National Grid. National Grid contributes to the Mass ReLeaf Trust to offer Urban Forestry Challenge Grants in pre-determined amounts to communities affected by the company's hazard tree removal program, which identifies and targets trees near main power feeder lines. One grant award was funded by the Clean Energy Center, which funds grants related to wood banks.

Some funded projects that can't be completed safely this year due to the coronavirus, will be delayed, but many will be able to move forward. Interested in applying for the next round of funding? Find out more: https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants

Grantee	Brief Description	Funding Source
Town of Andover	Andover Tree Inventory and Management Plan ($30,000)	USDA Forest Service
Buckland Historical Society Inc., Hilltown Legacy Tree Project	Wilder Homestead Museum Heritage Tree Preservation ($1,900)	USDA Forest Service
Town of Duxbury, Department of Public Works	Duxbury Tree Health Survey ($4,500)	Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund donation - Eversource
Esplanade Association Inc.	Tree Planting on the Esplanade ($12,172)	USDA Forest Service
Town of Falmouth, Trees, Parks, Forestry & School Grounds	Falmouth Tree Health/Risk, Planning and Planting Project ($10,000)	Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund donation - Eversource
Town of Great Barrington Tree Committee	Amelanchier Tree Replacement Project ($2,500)	Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund donation - National Grid
Town of Longmeadow	Longmeadow Urban Forest Renewal ($10,000)	USDA Forest Service
City of Malden	Malden Tree Inventory ($30,000)	USDA Forest Service
Town of New Marlborough	Heritage Tree Maintenance ($5,000)	USDA Forest Service
Town of Petersham	Petersham Community Wood Bank ($2,000)	Mass. Clean Energy
City of Pittsfield	Setting Up Pittsfield's Urban Forest for Success ($15,000)	USDA Forest Service
City of Salem, Dept. of Public Services, Cemetery & Public Shade Trees	Salem Tree Planting Plan Project ($7,500)	Mass ReLeaf Trust Fund donation - Eversource
Speak for the Trees	Teen Urban Tree Corps; Inventorying Boston's Trees ($30,000)	USDA Forest Service
Town of Swampscott	Tree Risk Windshield Survey ($1,250)	USDA Forest Service
University of Massachusetts - Amherst	Training and Credentials for UMass Personnel ($11,214)	USDA Forest Service
Town of West Newbury Tree Committee	Equipment and Training for Tree Committee ($1,150)	USDA Forest Service
Worcester Horticultural Society d/b/a Worcester Tree Initiative	Cultivating Youth Environmental Stewardship through Historic Trees ($7,777)	USDA Forest Service

Growing on Trees—Webcasts

USDA Forest Service Urban Forest Connections

August 12, 2020 | 1:00-2:15 p.m. (EDT)

Redlining's Intensifying Harm: Rising Temperatures, Hotter Neighborhoods, and How Trees Can Help

Vivek Shandas, Portland State University
Cate Mingoya, Groundwork, USA

To view the webinar and watch past webinars, go to www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/.

UMass Invasive Plant Certification

August 5, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification

This workshop is Session A3 of the Invasive Plant Certification Program.

August 19, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (EDT)

Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program

This workshop is Session B of the Invasive Plant Certification Program.

Find out more at www.umassgreeninfo.org.

TREE Fund Webinar

September 29, 2020 | 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Soil Assessment for Urban Trees—Part 2 Actions

Bryant C. Scharenbroch, PhD, Asst. Prof. of Soil Science, Univ. of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Research Fellow of The Morton Arboretum

Find out more: https://treefund.org/webinars

UMass Green School (Online)

October 26 - December 10, 2020

Specialty Tracks Offered: Arboriculture, Landscape Management, Turfgrass Management. Find out more.

Planning the Urban Forest

August 13, 2020 | 9:00-10:00 a.m. (EDT)

Trees, People, and Technology

Free, registration required: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4981246576882774543

Principles of Arboriculture Online College Course

August 24, 2020 – November 20, 2020

Find out More at umass.edu.

Urban Forestry Today

September 10, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Insect Pests in the Landscape

Presenter: Tawny Simisky, UMass Extension

Attend live and earn free ISA/MCA CEUs. To attend, click here OR visit: http://www.joinwebinar.com and enter the code: 272-670-491

To view archived webcasts, go to www.urbanforestrytoday.org/

Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center Workshop

October 7-8, 2020

Biological Thresholds in the Context of Climate Adaptation

Through this online workshop, we will identify climate-driven or management thresholds for populations, ecosystems, and landscapes to inform climate change adaptation and cultural/natural management plans as well as explore research opportunities for future work.
Find out more

Survey Opportunity

Participate in Master's Research: https://delphir1mca.limequery.com/117779?lang=en

Growing on Trees—Grants

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline for Intent to Apply: October 1
Full Application Deadline: November 1

Challenge grants are 50-50 matching grants (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts communities of all sizes for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

Project areas include:

- Building and strengthening citizen advocacy and action organizations
- Securing or training professional staff
- Developing and implementing systematic urban forestry management through tree inventory and analysis, resource assessment, and development of plans
- Completing strategic community tree plantings and "heritage" tree care projects
- Establishing a wood bank
- Other projects

Read the complete guidelines and download the application at:

https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants

For more information on the Challenge Grants, including our Eversource Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants, contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@mass.gov, or Mollie Freilicher at 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@mass.gov.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grants

Through MVP Planning Grants, the Commonwealth awards communities funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans. The program helps communities define extreme weather and natural and climate related hazards; understand how their community may be impacted by climate change; identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths; and develop, prioritize, and implement key actions. State-certified MVP providers offer technical assistance to communities in completing the assessment and resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP planning grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding. The Planning Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS.

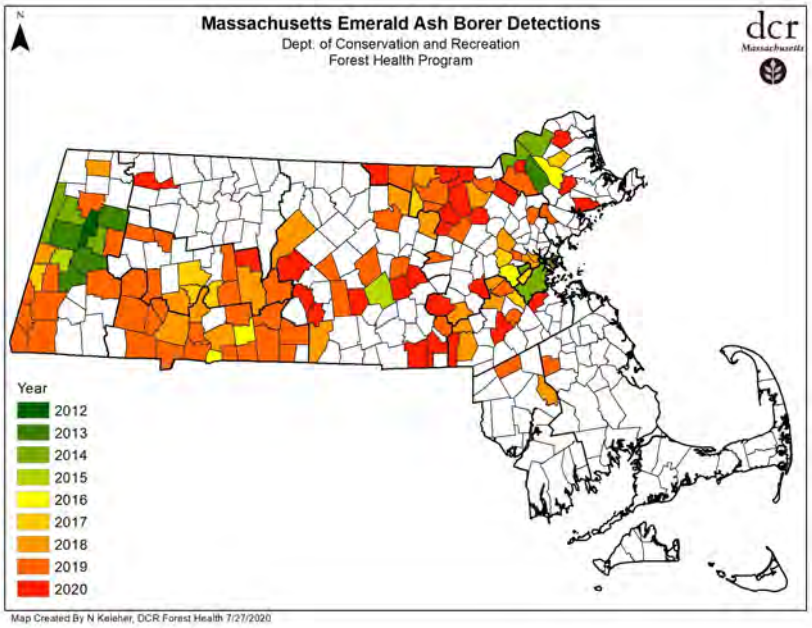
The Planning Grant response period will be open on a rolling basis until 4:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020, for MVP planning processes that must be complete by June 30, 2021. Early application is encouraged.

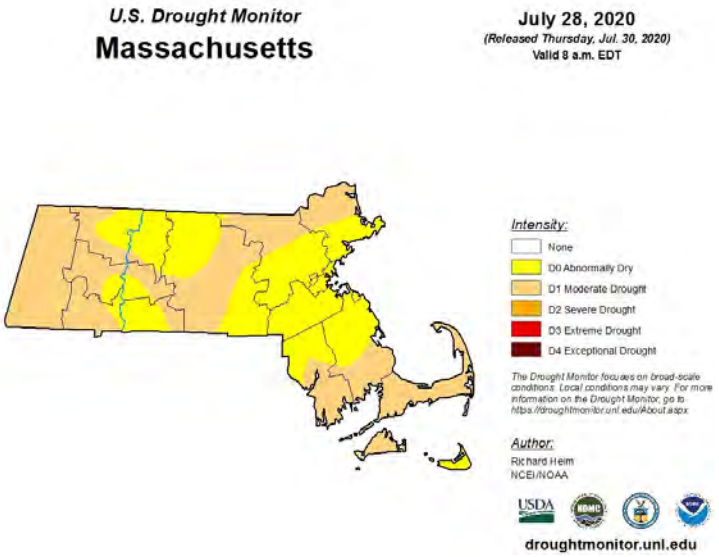
Visit our program information page for a map of the MVP regions and local contacts.

Growing on Trees

EAB Update

The DCR Forest Health Program has confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in twelve additional communities: Ashby, Beverly, Carlisle, Hardwick, Lawrence, Leicester, Milton, Natick, Northborough, Shrewsbury, West Brookfield, and West Newbury. The total number of municipalities with confirmed EAB is now 127, with 28 detections in 2020. Barnstable is the only county on the Massachusetts mainland without a known detection of EAB. EAB has also not been detected on the islands.





Weather and Climate

As we move into the middle-to-last stretch of summer, much of Massachusetts and New England remain in a drought status. The percentage of the state experiencing abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought has increased from last month, with 44% of the state classified as abnormally dry and 55% classified as in Moderate Drought. Continue to monitor and water newly planted trees and stay up to date with the links below.

Looking for information on conditions for trees and other plants? Check out the UMass Landscape Message.

Find out more | Mass. Drought Page | www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management

The Northeast Regional Climate Center | www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional/drought/drought.html

The U.S. Drought Portal | www.drought.gov/drought/states/massachusetts

National Climate Report | www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/

Gleanings

Suzanne Simard: How Do Trees Collaborate?

Part 1 of the *TED Radio Hour* episode TED Radio Wow-er. (A 12-minute listen). Ecologist Suzanne Simard shares how she discovered that trees use underground fungal networks to communicate and share resources, uprooting the idea that nature constantly competes for survival.

News

Tree Planting Project Featured on WGBY Program Connecting Point

Watch the 5-minute story on the USDA Forest Service-funded tree planting grant in Montague, Greenfield, and North Adams here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SG_LbW1YHs

'Champion Tree' In Lanesborough Stands its Ground Against Its Most Fearsome Opponent

By Jack Lyons, *The Berkshire Eagle*

June 18, 2020— When you're over 200 years old, sometimes you have to take your medicine. For "King Elmer," one of the largest remaining elm trees in Massachusetts, that was the case Thursday morning, when it received a fungicide treatment to prevent Dutch elm disease. In the 1960s, Dutch elm disease nearly wiped out the once-thriving American elm tree population in Berkshire County, leaving only a handful of survivors and a swath of "Elm Streets" that don't bear witness to their name.

But, King Elmer survived the wave of death, growing to become a "champion tree," meaning its massive dimensions distinguish it among other trees of its species. At 107 feet high and more than 5 feet thick, its grand canopy looms over the intersection of Route 7 and Summer Street.

Jim Neureuther, chairman of the Lanesborough Tree Committee, aims to help King Elmer maintain its champion status. That's why he and his colleagues applied for a challenge grant through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, which provided half of the approximately $1,200 it cost to medicate King Elmer. The other half was obtained through private donations and some town money. Read the full story at The Berkshire Eagle.

Headlines in Brief

Historic Trees Taken Down at Historic Schoolhouse in Bourne

Arlington Tree Committee Announces Adopt-A-Tree Program

Lanesborough Arboretum Gives Shade on a Summer Day

EEE Has Been Confirmed in Massachusetts

Helping Save Trees Is Also Helping Save Lives

Eversource Spending $41M Removing Hazardous Trees, Branches

In A First, Boston Building Will Be Constructed With 'Revolutionary' Timber

The Global Tree Restoration Potential – Correction Published in *Science*

Urban Parks as Critical Infrastructure: Equity and Access during Covid-19

D.C. Has Become A Leader in a Movement to Plant More Diverse City Trees

Can Trees Live Forever?

In Los Angeles, Rich Neighborhoods Enjoy More Street Trees and a Lot More Birds

Plant Trees that Turn Your Yard into a Bird Oasis—and Carbon Sponge

NASF Seeks Extra $500M for COVID-19 Stimulus

How Oak Trees Evolved to Rule the Forests of the Northern Hemisphere

Silvopasture: Why Farming in the Forest is Gaining Popularity

Portable DNA Device Can Detect Tree Pests Fast

Univ. Of Waterloo (Ontario) Study Links Planting Native Trees, Greenery with Lower Day-Time Temperatures (or read the original study here)

Fallen Tree Planted by George Washington Gets Solemn Honors Before Facing the Sawmill

How Trees Protect Themselves from Wounds, Disease and Pests (Including Us)

This AI Can See the Forest for the Trees

On the Horizon

August August is Tree Check Month

Aug 5 The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification, UMass Extension, 9:00am, www.umassgreeninfo.org

Aug 12 Urban Forest Connections Webinar, 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Aug 13 Trees, People, and Technology Webinar, 9:00 a.m. (EDT)

Aug 19 Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program, UMass Extension, 9:00am, www.umassgreeninfo.org

Aug 24 Principles of Arboriculture – Online Course, www.umass.edu

Sep 9 UMass Tick Talk Webcast, 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

Sept 10 Insect Pests in the Landscape, Urban Forestry Today Webcast, www.urbanforestrytoday.org

Sept 29 Soil Assessment for Urban Trees—Part 2 Actions, TREE Fund Webinar, 1:00 p.m., www.treefund.org/webinars

Sept 29 Tree Pruning Webinar, University of Georgia, 10:00 a.m.

Oct 4-6 New England ISA Annual Conference (Virtual), www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 7-8 Climate Change Workshop, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

Oct 23-Dec 10 UMass Extension Green School (Virtual), www.umassgreeninfo.org

Oct 29-31 SAF National Convention (Virtual), www.eforester.org

Nov 18-Nov 19 Partners in Community Forestry Conference (Virtual)

Anytime: Archived webinar on tree planting in the era of COVID-19

Check out the calendar of the New England ISA for additional opportunities: https://newenglandisa.org/events

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If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), contact Mollie Freilicher or click here.

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