



# THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Urban & Community Forestry Program

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## Professional Societies and Organizations

By Mollie Freilicher

It's that time of year when membership applications are due for professional societies and associations. This means it's also time for our sometimes-annual review of some of the many local, regional, and national organizations relevant for urban and community foresters.

Joining one or more of these organizations is a great way to stay connected with the urban forestry community – especially now in this time when we cannot gather together the way we once did. We'll guide you through some of the local and national organizations that work in urban and community forestry.

### Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association was founded in 1913 as a forum for municipal tree managers to share their concerns and to promote the preservation of public shade trees. In 2013, the mission expanded to encompass preservation of the entire urban and community forest. Members include tree wardens, city foresters, utility representatives, commercial arborists and companies, education professionals, and citizen tree advocates.

Activities include education, programs, and advocacy to achieve the following goals:

- Well-trained, professional municipal tree wardens and foresters
- Allocation of adequate fiscal resources to manage urban and community forests
- Partnerships at all levels to work toward healthy trees and a healthy environment.

**Events and Offerings:** Annual Conference ([January 12-13, 2021](#)), Educational Dinner Meetings (on hold), Professional Development Series, Qualified Tree Warden Program, Scholarships

For more information: [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)

### Massachusetts Arborists Association

The Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) is a professional organization that serves the commercial arboriculture industry. The MAA advances the goals of its members through tree care education, research support, arborist certification, and promotion of the value of arboriculture to the public.

Founded in the late 1930s by leading tree care proponents, the MAA is proud to be one of the oldest arboriculture associations in the nation. The MAA's membership now includes more than 800 of the state's leading arborists—Massachusetts' tree service professionals.

In 1957, the MAA initiated a voluntary certification program and established the Massachusetts Certified Arborists Examining Committee. The title "[Massachusetts Certified Arborist](#)," through its comprehensive examination and continuing education requirement, has become the symbol of tree care professionalism in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Arborist Association is a member-driven organization which relies on its member volunteers.

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# Professional Societies and Organizations

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**Events and Offerings:** Educational and networking dinner meetings (now online), Safety Saves program, Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam, Scholarships

**For more information:** [www.massarbor.org](http://www.massarbor.org)

## New England ISA

A regional component of the [International Society of Arboriculture](http://www.internationalarborsociety.org) (ISA), the New England Chapter of the ISA (NEC-ISA) offers opportunities for professional development through educational workshops, trainings, public service, and events in New England. Through these professional activities, the NEC-ISA helps members enhance their technical proficiencies and stay abreast of technical and scientific developments in the field of arboriculture.

Goals of the NEC-ISA include:

- Support and provide education in the art and science of arboriculture
- Improve the practice of tree preservation
- Stimulate a greater appreciation of shade trees for useful and aesthetic purposes
- Encourage and stimulate active participation with organizations and individuals having arboricultural interests
- Provide the public with up-to-date information on shade and ornamental trees
- Provide Arbor Day Grants.

**Events & Offerings:** Annual Conference, Tree Climbing Competition, Workshops, Scholarships

**For more information:** [www.newenglandisa.org](http://www.newenglandisa.org)

## Society of Municipal Arborists

Founded in 1964, the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) is an organization of municipal arborists and urban foresters. The SMA membership also includes consultants, commercial firms, and citizens who actively practice or support some facet of municipal forestry.

A professional affiliate of the International Society of Arboriculture, the SMA has members from across North America and beyond. Through

the magazine *City Trees*, SMA conferences, the website, and the many active members, the SMA strives to create networking and educational opportunities that promote the sound, professional management of a vital and invaluable resource.

The SMA Mission is to lead the world in building the confidence, competence, and camaraderie of the family of professionals who create and sustain community forests.

**Events & Offerings:** *City Trees*, Annual Conference, Municipal Forestry Institute

**For more information:** [www.urban-forestry.com](http://www.urban-forestry.com)

## Massachusetts Horticultural Society

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS), founded in 1829, is the oldest, formally organized horticultural institution in the United States. Providing information on horticulture and related sciences, it has disseminated this information through its library, educational programming, exhibitions, and community outreach initiatives.

Since 2001, the headquarters of the MHS has been at Elm Bank, a DCR property, located on the town lines of Wellesley and Dover. The Society is supported by revenues generated by memberships (the organization currently has approximately 5,500 members), weddings and functions at their Elm Bank location, and by generous contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. These funds support the Society's mission throughout Massachusetts and at the Gardens at Elm Bank. MHS currently receives no government funding.

**Events:** A variety of events are held annually, see the website for details.

**For more information:** [www.masshort.org/](http://www.masshort.org/)

## Ecological Landscape Alliance

Founded in 1991, the Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) is a nonprofit, member-based organization made up of professionals, businesses, and pro-active community members

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# Professional Societies and Organizations

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who believe in using landscape practices that are environmentally safe and beneficial.

The ELA advocates for environmentally responsible stewardship of land and natural resources in landscaping and horticultural practices for professionals and the public. Through education, collaboration, and networking, ELA promotes the design, installation, and maintenance of landscapes that are guided by a knowledge of, and respect for, natural ecosystems.

**Events:** Annual Conference, Workshops, Webcasts, Educational Programs.

**For more information:** [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org)

## Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association

The Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. (MNLA) is a statewide association dedicated to advancing the interests of green industry professionals. MNLA is a nonprofit whose members are businesses and individuals committed to promoting awareness of environmental horticulture and to upholding the highest standards of the nursery and landscape industry. MNLA is the largest green industry business development vehicle in Massachusetts, providing its members with educational opportunities, industry news, legislative representation, and business development resources. First established in 1910, MNLA has represented the needs of nursery and landscape professionals for more than 100 years.

**Events:** Annual Conference and Trade Show, Workshops, Plant Something Day, Massachusetts Certified Horticulturalist Exam

**For more information:** [www.mnla.com/](http://www.mnla.com/)

## Native Plant Trust

Founded in 1900 as the Society for the Protection of Native Plants, the Native Plant Trust (recently renamed from the New England Wild Flower Society) is the nation's oldest plant conservation organization and is a leader in

native plant conservation, horticulture, and education. The Society's headquarters, Garden in the Woods in Framingham, is a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this base, 25 staff and more than 1,500 volunteers work throughout New England to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs for home gardeners and professional landscape managers. The Trust also operates a native plant nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and has seven public sanctuaries in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

**Events:** Workshops, Demonstrations, Educational Courses, Certificate in Field Botany or Native Plant Horticulture and Design.

**For more information:** [www.nativeplanttrust.org](http://www.nativeplanttrust.org)

## Forest Stewards Guild

The Forest Stewards Guild is a national organization that practices and promotes responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild engages in education, training, policy analysis, research, and advocacy to foster excellence in stewardship, support practicing foresters and allied professionals, and engage a broader community in the challenges of forest conservation and management. In the Northeast, the Guild is involved in several key projects: Women Owning Woodlands, Foresters for the Birds, North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange, Forest climate adaptation, and oak resiliency in southern New England forests.

**Events:** Workshops, Webinars, Forums, and Gatherings.

**For more information:** [foreststewardsguild.org/](http://foreststewardsguild.org/)

## Species Spotlight

# “Pine” Trees

By **Mollie Freilicher** At the International Society of Arboriculture Conference in December, Dr. Eric North, Assistant Professor of Urban & Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota, gave a presentation about engaging with people who typically do not engage in urban forestry. A lot of his talk centered around tree inventories conducted by volunteers. His research has shown that volunteers can collect pretty accurate information about trees, especially when it comes to identification, a finding which follows earlier research here in Massachusetts by David V. Bloniarz, Ph.D. and H. Dennis P. Ryan, Ed.D., that also found that volunteers could collect quality data.

One thing North’s research examined was how accurate volunteers were when collecting information at the genus vs. the species level. Not surprisingly, volunteers could more accurately identify trees to the genus level than the species level.

One area of tree identification that caused confusion for volunteers was “pine trees” and particularly what North termed “pine-not-a-pine” trees. That is, spruces, firs, junipers, and all the other trees that, to many people, look like pines, but are not.

When we are talking about pine trees, we are typically talking about trees in the *Pinus* genus. When we want to discuss “pines” at a higher level, we use words like “conifer” or “evergreen.” (Though evergreen can be problematic too, since some trees we might call “evergreen” lose all their leaves each fall, such as tamarack, baldcypress, and dawn redwood. Those are deciduous conifers.) Conifer refers to the fruit, which for most of these looks like a cone, but there are some exceptions—notably junipers.

Typically sensitive to drought and air pollution, conifers are less commonly planted in urban areas in Massachusetts, but we certainly have them and you will most definitely encounter

them if you visit a park or take a trip out of the city and head north or to a higher elevation.

There was a time when I couldn’t tell a spruce from a fir from a pine, but with some study and some observing, I began to be able to tell the difference. This spotlight is meant to be an overview of some genera in the pine family (*Pinaceae*) to help get you going on your journey to demystify “pines.”

### What to look for

*Trees native to Massachusetts are indicated with an \*.*

### Pines

*Pinus* Genus. Evergreen. Pines have leaves (needles) in bundles of two, three, or five. Needles can vary in color, feel, and length, but are all in bundles (also called fascicles) that remain on the tree for one or more years. Though they may vary in size, mature seed cones of pines are woody, as opposed to cones from other conifers that are more papery. Branches grow from the trunk in whorls and do not grow between whorls on the trunk. Bark on mature trees is often thick, platey, or has deep furrows. Some pines planted in urban areas in Massachusetts: Eastern white pine\* (*Pinus strobus*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Mugo pine (*Pinus mugo*). Additional pines you may find in natural settings in Massachusetts: pitch pine\* (*Pinus rigida*), red pine\* (*Pinus resinosa*).



Bundle of needles of an eastern white pine

### Spruce

*Picea* genus. Evergreen, but unlike pines, leaves (needles) of spruces are attached singly and may remain on a tree for seven to ten years. With a few exceptions, the needles are four-sided, which you can feel if you roll one between your fingers. They are also sharp at the tips. You may have heard some version of “spruces are

# Species Spotlight—“Pine” Trees

sharp; firs are friendly,” which may help you remember. Additionally, the leaves are attached to the twig by a “peg,” which you can see if you examine the twig and the needle attachment. Spruce cones hang down (which I remember by telling myself “opposite of spruce up,” though perhaps you’ll come up with something better!) Seed cones are



Cones of red spruce - “spruce down”

typically high up in the crown and at the tips of branchlets and when they fall to the ground, they stay whole and intact. Most branches are in whorls on the trunk, but branches will grow between whorls. Bark of spruces can be platey and resemble bark of pines, but appears thinner and, perhaps, finer. Some spruces planted in urban areas in Massachusetts: Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), Dwarf Alberta spruce (*Picea glauca conica*). Spruces you may find in natural settings in Massachusetts: red spruce\* (*Picea rubens*), black spruce\* (*Picea mariana*).

## Fir

*Abies* genus. Firs are also evergreen and have flat, flexible leaves

(needles) that are attached singly to the twig. Leaves may remain on a tree for 20 years. The tips of leaves are not sharp, and they may appear notched. They attach directly to the twig, without a stalk or peg, though the leaves flare a bit at the base. If you look at a twig, where a needle used to be, you should be able to see the circular leaf scar left behind. Seed cones of fir are found in the upper crown and are upright with papery scales that

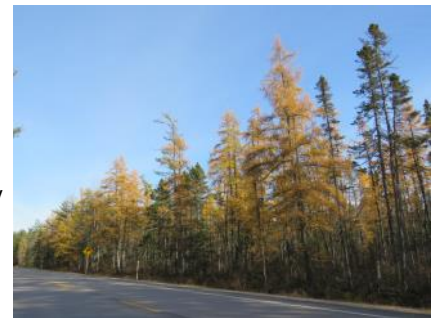


Upright cones of balsam fir ([Virginia Tech](#))

crumble and disintegrate when mature. If you look at the crown, you may see the axis of the cone, which persists after the scales have matured and fallen off. Branches are mostly in whorls along the trunk, though there may be some branches in between. A fir commonly planted in urban areas in Massachusetts: white fir (*Abies concolor*). A fir you may find in natural settings in Massachusetts: balsam fir\* (*Abies balsamea*).

## Larches

*Larix* genus. Losing their leaves each fall, larches are a genus of deciduous conifers. Their needle-like leaves are flexible and stalkless and may appear on the twig two different ways. Leaves from the current growing season are attached singly to the stem, while on older branches, the leaves are attached in whorled, clustered tufts of 10-60 leaves. After turning a golden yellow in fall, the leaves fall off, leaving behind a nub where the leaves were clustered. This, along with cones, are visible in the winter, giving the branches a bumpy appearance, helping with identification. Some larches planted in urban areas in Massachusetts: European larch (*Larix decidua*), Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*). In natural areas, you may encounter tamarack (*Larix laricina*).



Golden fall color of tamarack

## Douglas fir

*Pseudotsuga* genus. Douglas fir is kind of confusing and in the past, it has confused botanists who have classified it in many different genera, including those covered so far. Its common name might have you think it is a fir, while its genus indicates only that it is not a hemlock (*pseudotsuga* means “false hemlock”). Douglas fir is evergreen, with flat, flexible leaves

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## Species Spotlight—“Pine” Trees

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that are attached singly to the stem and that last five to eight years on a tree. They typically have a pointed tip and narrow at the base, where they attach to the twig. They have a prominent midvein, which helps distinguish them from spruces, which do not. The twigs are somewhat stout. If you have access to a seed cone, which fall from the tree still intact, this is probably the easiest way to identify a Douglas fir. The cone scales are somewhere between feeling woody and papery and have a three-pointed bract that extends beyond the scales. This is unlike any other seed cones. When I learned tree identification, I was taught that this was like a “mouse tail.” By proxy, in my mind, this is the most adorable cone and I feel warm and fuzzy every time I see a Douglas fir – especially if I have easy access to some cones. Douglas firs planted in urban areas in Massachusetts: Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Douglas fir are not native to Massachusetts.



Cone of Douglas fir, with “mouse tails” visible

### Hemlock

*Tsuga* genus. Hemlocks have flat, flexible, evergreen needles that remain on a tree for three to ten years. They have a blunt tip, which may be rounded or notched, and are attached to the twig on a stalk. They have a prominent midvein and on the underside of the leaf, there are two lines of white dots on either side of the midvein. Branches are often slightly pendulous at the tips. Seed cones are borne singly. On eastern and Carolina hemlock, the white fluff of the invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid may be visible at the base of needles, which can aid in identification. Seed cones of hemlocks are small and ovoid. When mature, they open, but will remain on the tree until the next summer. Hemlocks are not typically planted in urban areas in Massachusetts, but you may encounter Eastern hemlock\* (*Tsuga canadensis*) or Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*).



Underside of eastern hemlock leaves. Note white lines on either side of midvein.

Unless otherwise noted, photos by Mollie Freilicher.

### References

Farrar, John L. 2006. *Trees of the Northern United States and Canada*. Ames, IA: Blackwell.

North, Eric. [Dendrology videos. Tree Husker You Tube Channel](#), University of Nebraska.

## From the Woods

By **Guy LaChance** Some gifts from the forest are less tangible. This too originated from where many like to go and experience the wonders of nature and the beauty of life.

A Robin Red breast in a Cage  
Puts all Heaven in a Rage

- William Blake

Why does Blake choose red and not orange? Some may quip that it is difficult to rhyme with orange. Would he also describe it as a Red-breasted Blue Bird? Why is the stout woodpecker with its nape and head, fire-engine red, called the Red-Bellied Woodpecker? There is often very little if any discernable color to its breast. Who gets to name the birds?

Upon returning from a frolic in the woods, my son called me and was running down a list of birds he had seen. Stopping him at Carolina Wren, I asked, "Did you see its nice red?" He hadn't noticed. Two days passed and he texted, 'saw another Carolina Wren...up close this time, and it did have a nice red; the red on its tail particularly super deep red!' Returning his text, I asked, 'Did you see the white crescent over its eye?' 'No, I did not notice. Was amazed and focused on the back color and tail,' he replied. I answered, 'You'll see it next time.' The following day he texted, 'No mistaken the white brow of the wren!' I responded, 'And now you will learn its song!'

We are taught the color orange, but foresters, along with others who like to spend time in the woods, are wise when they use red to describe nature's objects. Through personal experience we choose red out of the context of all her many hues of brown. And so, we see the Red-Breasted Nuthatch, the Red Squirrel, and the Red Pine.

Foresters spend much of their time witnessing the wonders of nature, watching the trees. Doubt there is a forester who hasn't been joshed about their chosen occupation..."What do you do, watch the trees grow?" Indeed, we do!

One day in the field, a peculiar thought came to mind—something so obvious, but never dwelled

upon. Trees live, from start to whatever finality they are delivered, without ever having to make a single decision. That seed of thought sprouted into the following.

**TREES!** They cannot pick where to start.  
Too hot, too cold, light or dark.  
They reach for moisture and sun  
Developing their bark.  
  
They do not hear, smell or taste.  
And they have no sight.  
All they ever know is  
Morning, Noon and Night.  
  
Bearing the burdens of weather,  
Pestilence  
and Fate  
WHEN, is not theirs to contemplate!

**HUMANS!** Begin without any choice of where  
We use our senses and we fare  
Rich, poor, functional or not  
We do our best, live out our part  
  
And decisions, decisions  
Be our plight.  
Innately aware  
of wrong and right.  
  
But to live in the village  
Public opinion we must bear  
Whether you have a degree  
And experience to spare  
  
White is black  
and black is white  
Depends on who is in charge  
That day or night.  
  
But for the trees  
Life passes  
Without ever having to make a decision  
Simply passing season to season.  
  
Though we all go home the same  
Humans must make many,  
And always  
There is judgement and the blame  
  
A tree's life  
Seems very pleasin'  
In a society filled with  
No rhyme or reason!

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# From the Woods

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So next time your teeth are aching, seek out a dentist there's no mistaken. And if it's a broken bone have you, a doctor or surgeon will do. But when it comes to a decision made for a tree, trust someone schooled in FORESTRY!

Blessed are we, all that understand the spiritual enrichment our forests bring.

*Guy LaChance is a Service Forester for DCR out of Southeastern Massachusetts.*

For more information on DCR Service Forestry visit the [DCR Service Forestry webpage](#).

## Growing on Trees

### Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Ed., and Tree Line USA

**Applications Due: December 31**

*There's still time to apply.*

A few tips for applicants:

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. Instructions posted [here](#) or [download our PDF](#).

For all recognition programs, the Arbor Day observance and proclamation requirement has been waived for 2020. You may leave this section blank. If you were able to have some sort of observance this year, hooray! You may include that information in this section like you would in any other year.

The **Growth Award** categories have been reworked this year. Be sure to check them out and gain even more recognition for the work in your communities.

For **Tree Campus Higher Ed**—the service learning project is still required, though not the Arbor Day observance.

For online **Tree City USA** applicants **reapplying this year**—you may see all your 2019 attachments in the portal. Ignore those and upload new documents where required.

**NOTE** — you do not need to re-upload your ordinance or bylaw if that is unchanged since the last time you applied.

Find this year's application instructions at the DCR UCF [website](#).

Questions? Contact Mollie Freilicher, 508-726-9255 or [mollie.freilicher@mass.gov](mailto:mollie.freilicher@mass.gov).





# Growing on Trees—Webcasts and Online Events

## EPA IPM Webinar

January 12, 2021 | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (EST)

After the Storm: Vector Considerations (Part 1)

Free, registration required. Part of a series on Integrated Pest Management.

[Find out more about the series.](#)

## Urban Forest Connections

January 13, 2021 | 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. (EST)

Seeing the Landscape from the Trees: An Ecosystemic Approach to Urban Forestry

Dr. Francisco Escobedo, USDA FS; Rachel Malarich, City Forest Officer for the City of Los Angeles; and Kat Superfisky, Urban Ecologist with the City of Los Angeles

Free. Find out more at the U.S. Forest Service Urban Forest Connections [website](#).

## Urban Forestry Today

January 14, 2021 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Community Tree Plans: A Map for the Future

William Elmendorf, Ph.D, Penn State University

Register [here](#) or visit: [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com) and enter the code: 187-245-571 at noon on January 14.

For more information and to view archived webcasts, go [urbanforestrytoday.org](http://urbanforestrytoday.org).

## Urban Forestry Today

January 21, 2021 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (EST)

i-Tree Roundtable

This session will highlight updates to the i-Tree tools implemented over the last year, and provide an opportunity to hear directly from our scientists about improvements to tree benefits assessments. This is a great chance to speak directly with the programmers, project managers and team members who are working to make i-Tree a valuable a tool in your assessment and management toolkit.

Free, [registration required](#).

## Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Assoc. Conference

January, 12-13, 2021

Introducing a different format this year: a **bundle of Zoom webinars** will replace the annual in-person conference but continue the tradition of quality professional education you've come to expect and value. The online events will all take place within the same two-day time period as the traditional gathering in Sturbridge. See the [conference webpage](#) for the details, program, and schedule, and then [register here](#). **Please note that each person must register from a unique email address.** Each registered attendee will be sent two Zoom links, one for each day. To earn CEUs you must be logged into the webinar the entire time AND you will be asked to answer intermittent quiz questions as proof of attention.

For current paid members for 2020, it's free! The non-member fee of \$85 includes a one-year membership for 2021.

*\*\*\* MTWFA's educational programs are made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forestry.*

## University without Walls – UMass Amherst (online)

Two classes this semester!

Feb 1, 2021 - May 4, 2021

**Sensible Pruning for Beginners and Experts**

Instructor: Dr. Brian Kane.

Find out more at [umass.edu](http://umass.edu).

**Community Forestry**

Instructors: Dr. David Bloniarz, Dr. Richard Harper, and Kristina Bezanson.

Find out more at [umass.edu](http://umass.edu).

# Growing on Trees

## 2021 DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest Theme

### The Trees Out Our Window

Fifth grade classes from schools across the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest by having fifth-grade students create posters highlighting this year’s theme, **The Trees Out Our Window**, and then hosting a school poster contest. The winning poster from each school can be submitted to DCR. Home-schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

The Arbor Day Poster Contest is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association.

For complete rules and guidelines, go to the [Arbor Day Poster Contest page](#) on the DCR website.

## Weather and Climate

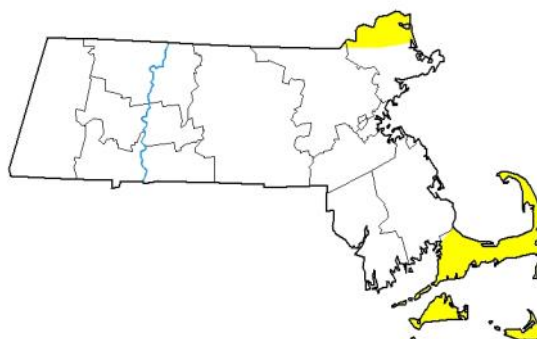
Since last month, Massachusetts has continued to receive rainfall and snow and only has a few areas, comprising about 10% of the state, that are classified as abnormally dry.

### Find out More

- [The Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)
- [The U.S. Drought Portal](#)
- [National Climate Report](#)
- [Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor  
**Massachusetts**

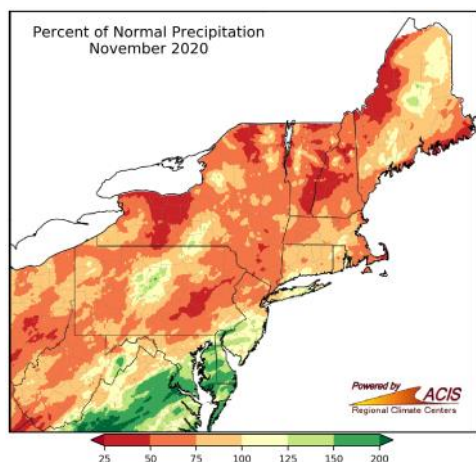
December 22, 2020  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



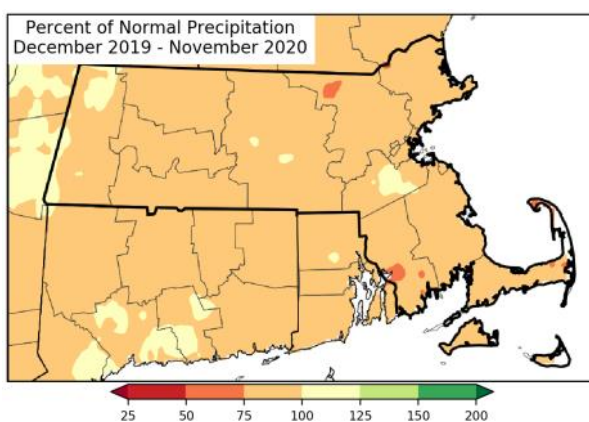
**Intensity:**  
 None  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Moderate Drought  
 D2 Severe Drought  
 D3 Extreme Drought  
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



In November, precipitation was below normal for the northeast.



For the last 12 months, much of Massachusetts has received less than normal precipitation, though a few areas received slightly more than usual.

# Growing on Trees– Grants

**The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** – Due January 11, 2021 – The Community Forest Program is a competitive grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests that provide community benefits through fee simple acquisition of private forest land. Lands must be private forest that is at least five acres in size, suitable to sustain natural vegetation, and at least 75 percent forested. The lands must also be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses, must be offered for sale by a willing seller, and if acquired by an eligible entity, must provide defined community benefits under CFP and allow public access. [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-17838/request-for-applications-the-community-forest-and-open-space-conservation-program](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-17838/request-for-applications-the-community-forest-and-open-space-conservation-program)

**Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities Grant**– Due January 29, 2021 – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes federal funds available through the new Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) grant program to states, local communities, tribes and territories (SLTTs) for pre-disaster mitigation activities. To apply for funding made available for FY20 through the BRIC program, applicants must adhere to the following application and funding deadlines: application opening - September 30, 2020 and application deadline - January 29, 2021 (3:00 p.m. EST). [www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2020-nofo](http://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2020-nofo)

## Greening the Gateway Cities

DCR Urban Foresters with the Greening the Gateway Cities Program safely wrapped up the 2020 fall planting season in November. Overcoming numerous challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program planted 1,622 trees this fall in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts. To date, the program has planted over 28,000 trees. If you would like to know more about the Greening the Gateway Cities program, go to [maurban canopy.org](http://maurban canopy.org).



Planting in Haverhill (Mathew Cahill)



Planting in Holyoke. Crews had signs reminding the public to give the planters distance. (Rachel DeMatte)

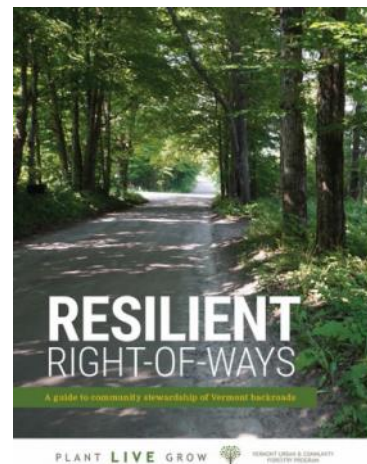


Planting in Revere (Hilary Dimino)

# Gleanings

## Resilient Right of Ways

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program has wrapped up a five-year USFS-funded roadside vegetation initiative with the publication of [Resilient Right-of-Ways: A guide to community stewardship of Vermont backroads](#). Informed by 200 miles of rural roadside vegetation assessments in 10 pilot towns and input from over 60 local volunteers and municipally focused professionals, the guide provides concise and referenced explanations of 10 common elements of the Vermont backroad that require maintenance and management and 10 processes that community members can perform to advance the care and resilience of their roadside trees and forests. Learn more about the entire Resilient Right-of-Ways project at [vtcommunityforestry.org/resilientROW](http://vtcommunityforestry.org/resilientROW).



## American Forests Releases Tree Equity Score for Pilot Locations

Tree Equity is about ensuring every neighborhood has enough trees so that every person can reap the benefits that trees have to offer. American Forests can now calculate a Tree Equity Score for urban areas – cities and nearby small towns that have at least 50,000 people – across the United States.

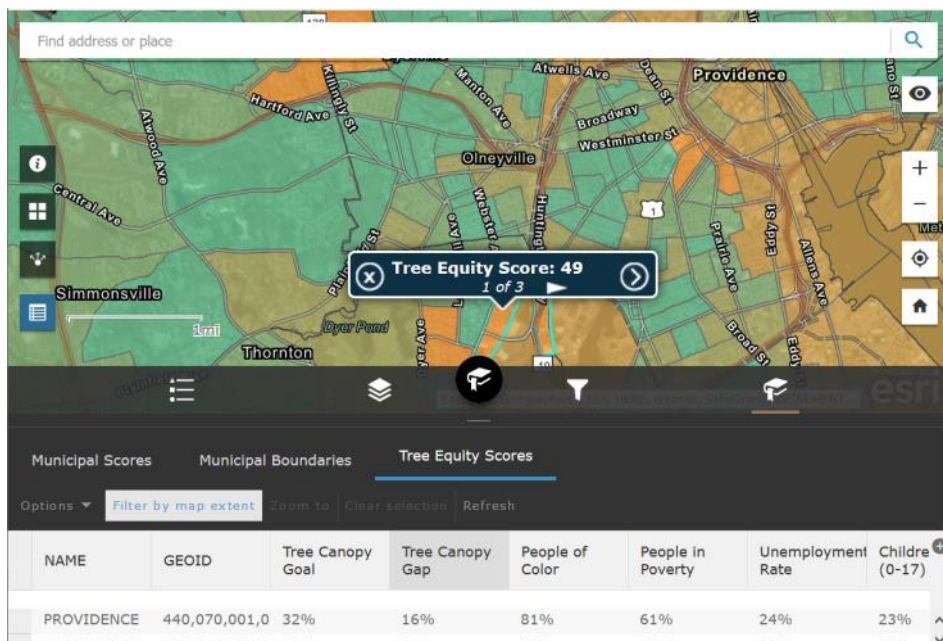
The score is an indicator of whether the neighborhood has the right number of trees so all people experience the health, economic and other benefits that trees provide. It is based on such factors as the existing tree cover, population density, income, employment, race and ethnicity, age and urban heat island effect (as measured by surface temperature).

American Forests hopes that the score helps governments, community activists, urban foresters, and others can use the score to make the case for tree planting in areas where low tree canopy cover and socioeconomic and environmental needs overlap.

Currently, the Tree Equity Score is available for Rhode Island, Maricopa County, AZ, and the San Francisco Bay Area. American Forests expects to roll out more in 2021.

Find out more at the [American Forests website](http://American Forests website).

In the meantime, if you're curious about visualizing tree canopy and demographic information from the Census, like income, education, minority status, housing info, and more, you can do that in [i-Tree Landscape](#) and even set up a prioritization scheme for planting based on demographic data.



# News

## APHIS Changes Approach to Fight Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

### Federal Domestic Quarantine Removed

WASHINGTON, December 14, 2020 —The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is changing its approach to fight the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation that has spread through much of the United States. The Agency is publishing a final rule that removes the federal domestic EAB quarantine regulations that have proved ineffective and will redirect resources to more promising methods.

APHIS has been transparent about the challenges associated with controlling the emerald ash borer and that the domestic quarantine has not proven effective in stopping its spread. The Agency has worked to identify more effective and less intrusive methods and will now direct available resources toward non-regulatory options for management and containment of the pest, such as rearing and releasing biological control agents. Results have already proved effective and the actions announced today will allow the Agency to increase their use.



Emerald ash borer adult.

Removing the quarantine regulations ends APHIS' domestic regulatory activities, which includes actions such as issuing permits, certificates and compliance agreements, making site visits, and conducting investigations of suspected violations.

The final rule and the response to the comments we received will publish in the Federal Register on December 15, 2020 and be rule will be effective on January 14, 2021. Documents may be viewed online at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2017-0056> upon publication.

## Headlines in Brief

[Westfield Next in Line For 2,700 Trees in DCR Program](#)

[A Fight for Forest Equity Takes on New Urgency Amid Pandemic](#)

[Widespread Underfilling of the Potential Ranges of North American Trees](#)

[Climate Change and California's Favorite Trees](#)

[How New Yorkers Want to Change the Streetscape for Good](#)

[How the Forests in New England Are Connected to Forests Everywhere](#) (Opinion)

[Why One Group is Counting Trees](#) (Opinion)

[This Year My Christmas Tree Moved Outside](#)

[Climate Warming Linked to Tree Leaf Unfolding and Flowering Growing Apart](#)

[Delicious and Disease-Free: Scientists Attempting New Citrus Varieties](#)

[Tiny Treetop Flowers Foster Incredible Beetle Biodiversity](#)

# On the Horizon

- Jan 12 Webinar: [IPM After the Storm – Vector Considerations, Part 1](#)
- Jan 12-13 Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association Annual Conference (Virtual), [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org)
- Jan 13 TCIA Virtual Summit, [www.tcia.org](http://www.tcia.org)
- Jan 13 [Urban Forest Connections Webinar](#), 1pm, USDA Forest Service
- Jan 14 Urban Forestry Today Webcast, 12pm, [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com), 187-245-571
- Jan 19 [Arborist Short Course](#) (Virtual), Penn State Extension
- Jan 20 Webinar: [Successful Safety Culture](#), 1pm, Utility Arborist Association
- Mar 9 Webinar: [Invasive Woody Plant Management \(part 2\)](#), 2pm, US EPA

Mar 15 [Deadline for DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest](#)

Apr 30 Arbor Day in Massachusetts

The Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Ed, and Tree Line USA application deadline was **December 31**. Contact [Mollie Freilicher](#) with any questions on your application.

The New England Chapter-ISA has been maintaining a calendar with many online opportunities. Check it out here: <https://newenglandisa.org/events>

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**Bureau of Forestry**  
**Department of Conservation and Recreation**  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114

Julie Coop, Urban and Community Forester  
[julie.coop@mass.gov](mailto:julie.coop@mass.gov) | (617) 626-1468

Mollie Freilicher, Community Action Forester  
[mollie.freilicher@mass.gov](mailto:mollie.freilicher@mass.gov) | (413) 577-2966

[www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry)

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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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