

On the Grow

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August 2013

Have Ash Trees?

A new insect pest has them
shaking at their roots.

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For more information regarding articles and advertising
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August Presidents Message

Mike Meiers, IPLCA President



Hello to all. Once again I hope everyone's lawns are looking green. It's hard to believe the season is about halfway through already. Western Iowa is looking good compared to last year; we have been experiencing some decent rainfall so most lawns and trees are recovering nicely from last years drought.

I wanted talk in this issue about something that the Lawn Care community is pretty familiar with: towing and hauling. With all of the heavy product and equipment we use, moving it from one place to another is something we do every day. Hopefully I can offer some tips to make the day-to-day easier and safer.

The first thing to consider is cargo and towing capacity of your truck. Hauling/towing more weight than your truck is designed to can lead to a variety of problems, especially if done daily. Check the owners manual of your vehicle for these numbers, and estimate the weight of your product/equipment to make sure you're not overloading anything.

Another important thing to consider is weight distribution. Putting a pallet of fertilizer in the rear end of a half-ton pickup is just asking for trouble. The same goes for loading a trailer – putting too much weight on the front can put too much tongue weight on the truck and cause the trailer to fishtail or even throw the tow vehicle out of control because of the added weight on the rear axle. The receiver on the truck should be stamped with the maximum tongue weight. This is not an easy number to approximate, so an easy way to check is to stand back and look at the loaded trailer. If it isn't relatively level and is sloped towards the truck, you've probably got too much weight on the front. The same goes for the back – putting too much weight behind the trailer's axle(s) can make the trailer fishtail as well.

Brakes are also very important – getting the load moving may be easy but getting it stopped is another issue. Be sure to keep up on regular maintenance on your truck as well as the trailer brakes if your trailer is so equipped. If you do use trailer brakes it is important

to synchronize them with the pickup. Adjust the controller so that you can come to a safe stop without using too much braking power from the truck or from the trailer. I would also recommend investing in a proportional brake controller, which senses the vehicle's deceleration rate and applies more or less brake pressure accordingly. These controllers can save you from a collision in the event you have to make an emergency stop. I use a Tekonsha Primus IQ controller which also senses grade, making downhill braking much more smooth and controlled than with a standard on/off controller.

Remember also to make sure everything is working correctly on the truck and trailer. Doing a safety check at least once per week should be mandatory. Check all lights, tires, mirrors, and brakes. Keep an eye on the truck's gauges when towing a heavy load so that you can be sure the engine and transmission stay cool. Operating the running gear at high temperatures can lead to some serious repair costs. Give yourself some extra time, and take it slow.

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Upcoming Changes to Hazard Communication Standard

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

To ensure chemical safety in the workplace, information about the identities and hazards of the chemicals used and stored in the workplace must be available and understandable to workers. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires the development and dissemination of such information:

- Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import, and prepare labels and safety data sheets to convey the hazard information to their downstream customers;
- All employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces must have labels and safety data sheets for their exposed workers, and train them to handle the chemicals appropriately.

One of the major changes is from MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) to SDS (Safety Data Sheets)

“Exposure to hazardous chemicals is one of the most

serious threats facing American workers today,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. “Revising OSHA's Hazard Communication standard will improve the quality and consistency of hazard information, making it safer for workers to do their jobs and easier for employers to stay competitive.”

I am having trouble swallowing the ‘stay competitive’ portion of that quote, but like it or not, the new Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). I tried very hard to read the GHS document, but must admit my head hit the desk at page 132. Obviously a miserable failure at reading the 561 pages they have carefully written for us. If you want a crack at the document you can find it at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev04/English/ST-SG-AC10-30-Rev4e.pdf. Good luck.

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Upcoming Changes to Hazard Communication Standard

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If you visit the OSHA page at: <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html> you will find some information that will help you stay compliant with the Hazard Communication Standard. There are a number of links there, including one to the new 'pictograms' that will be used to indicate the level of hazard. Visit: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_Pictogram.html

Here is a summary of the major changes:

- Hazard classification: Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures.
- Labels: Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.

- Safety Data Sheets: Will now have a specified 16-section format.
- Information and training: Employers are required to train workers by December 1, 2013 on the new labels elements and safety data sheets format to facilitate recognition and understanding.

You can also look at the OSHA Fact Sheet at: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3642.pdf>. The fact sheet summarizes the Training Requirements that must be completed by December 31, 2013.

There are some requirements and everyone needs to make certain they are in compliance with the Hazard Communication Standard.

The table below summarizes the phase-in dates required under the revised Hazard Communication Standard:

Effective Completion Date	Requirement(s)	Who
December 1, 2013	Train Employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.	Employers
June 1, 2015 December 1, 2015	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule except: The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	Chemical Manufactures, Importers, Distributors, and Employees
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards	Employers
Transition Period to the Effective completion dates noted above	May comply with either 20 CFR 1910.1200 (The final standard), or the current standard, or both	Chemical Manufactures, Importers, Distributors, and Employees

Email me with your questions and I will continue to work on clarification of the new HCS, jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

How Can We Improve LCO's Image (Professionalism)

Kreg Longnecker, Freedom Landscape & Snow Management

I think it is important to improve professionalism in our industry. I know there are many professional companies out there large and small but there are many small companies and some larger companies that do not spend enough time educating their employees or themselves.

One thing I think is important that doesn't take training is a clean and neat appearance. Uniforms, clean trucks and equipment are critical to your company image.

One of the things I am asking you as fellow lawn care owners and managers to do is to go out and recruit one or two new companies to join the IPLCA. The strength of IPLCA depends on a strong membership. As board members we can't do it all and we need your help.

I would like to see the Iowa Turfgrass Field Day overflowing with new LCO's as well as the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. If you are members you need to bring your team to these events and network and attend the classes.

IPLCA is developing an online tool help you in training your personnel, the online training will be available only to IPLCA members. The training will help in preparation for Iowa Pesticide Applicator Certification.

I also think it is important to support the vendors that support the IPLCA, they will help you in training your people too. I have also asked ISU to attend our winter training and they were happy to help. Use all the resources available to learn. Don't just take the winter off, train your people. We also do our own field day each year. As I am looking at yards with different problems I make a list and we spend 1/2 a day looking at disease, insects and weeds.

Spend time learning the laws and follow them and learn what your true cost of doing business is so that we are all competitive. If you can spend a little more time training your people and yourself your business will grow.

A more professional Lawn Care Industry will help us all in the long run.

Attention Students!

The Iowa Turfgrass Institute Scholarship Application for 2014 is now available!

Deadline: Must be received in the Turfgrass Office no later than October 31, 2013.

To download the application visit:
<http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/itischolarship.html>

Interested in serving on the IPLCA Board?

At-Large Director and North Central Director seat are up for election. Nominations are due by October 31, 2013. The election is held at the IPLCA Annual Meeting during the 2014 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. For more information please contact Sarah at sarah@iowaturfgrass.org

**IOWA PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE ASSOCIATION
NOMINATION FOR "LAWN PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR"**

Eligible nominees are owners, managers, applicators, office personnel related to the turfgrass industry.

Name of Nominee _____

Address of Nominee _____

Name of Company _____

Position _____

Years in the Turfgrass Industry _____

Reasons for nomination of this applicant (i.e. support and promotion of the lawn care industry, professional image, local community involvement, work ethics, etc.)

I certify that the information in these nomination papers are true, accurate and complete and person nominated is employed by a member company in good standing.

Signature of Nominator _____

Name of Nominator _____

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Please return to: Iowa Turfgrass Office, 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210, Ankeny, IA 50023

Have ash trees?

A new insect pest has them shaking in their roots.

By Emma Bruemmer,
Robin Pruisner and Mark H. Shour



Image by: John Obermeyer, Purdue University

If you are similar to other Iowa cities, one-fifth of your street and park trees are ash. This type of tree is well-adapted to harsh planting sites and is a survivor through Iowa's harsh weather. Unfortunately, a destructive insect was introduced to the U.S. last century that has an insatiable appetite only for ash trees-- healthy, damaged or weakened ones.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a tiny, emerald-green beetle that has already claimed the lives of millions of ash trees in the upper Midwest. EAB's impact on Iowa's trees is uncertain, but estimates of \$2.5 billion for tree removal and replanting, as well as \$1 million annualized loss in perpetuity for Iowa's economy have been calculated. Loss of Iowa's 3.1 million urban ash trees may also increase utility costs (heating, cooling, water use) for homeowners.

EAB has been found in 18 states. Its initial finding in Iowa occurred in 2010 on an island in the Mississippi River in Allamakee County. Survey efforts in 2012 revealed EAB was still in Allamakee County, but moved inland to New Albin, Lansing, Black Hawk Point and Plough Slough.

Iowa, Firewood and EAB

Firewood is popular for both home heating and recreational use in camping adventures. However, movement of firewood can spread numerous forest insect pests such as EAB, Sirex wood wasp, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth, as well as plant diseases such as beech bark disease, sudden oak death and oak wilt.

Eighteen states, including the District of Columbia, are partially or entirely quarantined for EAB. The federal firewood transport quarantine has been established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and State Departments of Agriculture to prevent the spread of EAB.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) requires all firewood sold or acquired in Iowa to have specific information on the label or packages or delivery ticket of bulk firewood. So, you must place a firewood label on the firewood that you sell. Furthermore, some campgrounds are checking for labels on firewood brought into the park; if you harvest the wood yourself, make sure you have a document with the pertinent

firewood information.

Firewood is defined as any wood less than four feet (4') in length. Anyone that moves/ transports a piece or multiple pieces of wood that are four feet in length or less will require a firewood label accompanying the firewood.

Every firewood label must contain:

- Identification of the commodity (the word "firewood" must appear on the label)
- Net quantity in terms of cubic feet or cubic meters, including fractions
 - A cord is also acceptable, as it is 128 cubic feet, ranked and well stowed
- The name and address of the seller, packer, or distributor
- The price per unit of measurement (how much the firewood sells for). If the price is posted at the site of sale, it is not necessary to have this on the label.
- The harvest location of the firewood by county and state

For assistance, including sample firewood labels, contact the State Entomologist's Office at IDALS, (515) 725-1470 or Entomology@IowaAgriculture.gov.

Tree Inventory Calculations

One of the first steps in planning for EAB is to conduct a tree inventory as the basis for making budget and management decisions. A complete street tree inventory is preferred because it will guide replacement planting and future decisions beyond EAB. If a complete tree inventory is not possible, an inventory of all ash trees and a sampling of the remaining trees are recommended. With this data, the city can effectively estimate the costs associated with EAB. The cost of removing all trees in poor condition (including ash with multiple signs of EAB) should be estimated, and removing hazardous trees should be the first priority, regardless of species. Then options for management of the remaining ash trees can be considered. A suggested tool for this purpose is available as the Emerald Ash Borer Cost Calculator (<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/>).

Using the Emerald Ash Borer Cost Calculator and local information, cost comparisons for two examples of management

scenarios were run. Estimates assume the management actions will occur over a 25-year period. Treatment with an appropriate insecticide would occur on an every-other-year cycle over the long term. Please note that the removal and replacement cost does not include the tree benefits that are lost while transitioning from a large tree to a newly planted tree. These examples are for demonstration purposes only since there are many variables that determine specific costs.

Example 1: A small city park with 12 ash trees of varying sizes. Ash comprises 19 percent of the park's species composition.

Remove 100% of trees and replace	\$2,848
Treat 30% to buy time; remove and replace 100%	\$8,115
Treat 50%, remove and replace 50%	\$9,205
Treat all ash over 25 years	\$10,021

Example 2: A community with a population of around 5,000 and 383 ash trees of varying sizes, on city -owned land including a cemetery, parks, and street rights-of-way. In this community, 16 percent of city owned trees are ash.

Remove 100% of trees and replace	\$520,842
Treat 30% to buy time; remove and replace 100%	\$699,684
Treat 50%, remove and replace 50%	\$445,391
Treat all ash over 25 years	\$334,404

Treatment Options

Homeowners are discouraged from treating their healthy ash trees with insecticides if they live more than 15 miles from known infestations. Preventive treatments for individual healthy ash trees (full crowns, elongating branches, and bark tightly held to the trunk/branches) are more successful than once a tree is infested with EAB. Research at Michigan State University has shown emamectin benzoate is an effective control, lasting for 2 years. Other



The larval stage (the one doing all the damage) of emerald ash borer. Image by: BioForest Technologies.

insecticides (e.g., imidacloprid, dinotefuran) must be applied each season to protect ashes.

For trees with a 25-inch circumference (8 inches in diameter) or smaller, homeowners can treat their own trees following Iowa State University Extension and Outreach soil drench recommendations found in PM2084 (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=13114>). Larger trees require assistance from a commercial pesticide applicator.

For More Information:

- www.IowaTreePests.com
- www.iowadnr.gov/eab
- www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/EmeraldAshBorer.html

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