

Forests Ontario has tips on summer lovin' for your trees

With planting season winding down, summer is the time to turn attention to caring for trees, those that are newly planted and those that have been around for years.

Summer is the ideal time to identify potential threats to trees and apply proper care, ensuring that they continue to thrive.

Forests Ontario has a few helpful tips that can be used this summer to ensure optimal health for trees and for the ecosystem. For more assistance or information, a list of forestry and tree care services is available from the Ontario Woodlot Association.

? Late summer is a good time to observe changes in the crown of hardwood trees. Dead branches or dieback are potential signs of declining health. If these issues are identified, it is best to have a professional assess the health of the tree.

? Check for signs of the Emerald Ash Borer. Look for dieback in the upper crown or sprouts coming from the base of the trunk. Less visible signs include small D-shaped holes in the trunk.

? If an ash tree shows no signs of infestation, it may be treated using TreeAzin.

? Defective limbs are easier to identify during the summer, making it an appropriate season for pruning.

? If there are any questions, be sure to consult a forestry professional or arborist for assistance.

Ontario's forest includes all trees and green spaces, from expansive boreal forests and large plantings on rural lands to urban parks and street trees. Everyone can foster healthy forests through choices and actions to support healthier and more vibrant communities. That's why Forests Ontario administers Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program, designed to plant 50 million trees across the province by 2025. Started in 2008, the program works to increase Ontario's forest cover by planting on marginal farmland and other idle, yet productive land areas. Landowners with areas suitable for tree planting of one hectare or larger may be eligible. Forests Ontario connects interested landowners with local planting partners who assess each individual property to provide a thoughtfully designed planting scheme tailored for your land, plus advice on tree maintenance and management.

Planting windbreaks, stream edges or marginal land can improve a farm operation. Simple hedgerows can have benefits for both crops and wildlife. Planting trees helps fight climate change, increase wildlife habitat, improve water conservation, increase property values and leave a legacy for future generations.

The 50 Million Tree Program is designed to make the tree planting process as easy as possible. Through the program, landowners are able to access subsidies covering up to 85 per cent of total planting costs, as well as practical support and ongoing forest management assistance. Find out more about the 50 Million Tree Program at www.forestsontario.ca or by calling 1-877-646-1193, ext. 239 or at info@forestsontario.ca.

