

Tree Notes: December 2023

STORM and HAZARD TREE NOTIFICATIONS: Winter is upon us here in Yarmouth. A recent windstorm has ravaged parts of our town and the crews have been hard at work to clean up the mess and restore power.

High winds can be very harsh on our precious trees, but when coupled with heavy rains and warm temperatures, trees will often uproot and present a hazardous condition. There are other conditions that represent a hazard, as well, including broken branches and tops, trees that have fallen into wires, and trees that have been struck by lightning. If you observe what you perceive to be a hazardous tree situation, please leave that dangerous work to the professionals.



If the tree is on your property, please contact one of our local tree professionals, and if applicable, your insurance company. Be sure to take photographs.

If you believe that the tree involved is a town tree, please contact Yarmouth Community Services at (207) 846-2406. We will see that the information is directed to the proper department.

Town trees will often have a small aluminum tag located at about head height and will be located near the road or sidewalk. It is important to note that not all town trees are tagged and not all tagged trees belong to the town. There was a time when trees were planted on private properties as replacements for specimens removed or damaged during road projects, and were tagged. This does not mean they are town trees.

The right-of-way in Yarmouth varies considerably in dimension in different parts of town. A proper determination whether a tree belongs to the town often requires a review of various project maps and blueprints located at the town office.

Once a determination of town ownership is completed, a hazard tree evaluation will be conducted by either the tree warden or a representative of the Department of Public Works. A work order will then be created and properly prioritized. The area may be cordoned off for safety until the tree can be dealt with properly. If you would like to obtain updated information on the status of the tree in question, please contact myself, the Yarmouth Tree Warden, through Yarmouth Community Services.

If you notice a hazard tree while walking on one of Yarmouth's many trails, please contact Yarmouth Community Services and staff from the Parks Division will address the situation. Thank you for following the proper procedure when reporting hazardous trees in our town. It is very helpful to have the additional sets of eyes to gather information in order to better direct our resources.

BROWN TAIL MOTH NESTS: This is the time of year when our nemesis, the BrownTail Moth has set its nest in the very tips of the tree branches on many oaks, cherries, apple varieties and even birches. The nests are white to grey in color, sometimes sparkling silver, triangular in shape, and typically involve a leaf or two.



The photo shows a typical BrownTail nest. It's important to identify them now and make some decisions as to how best to remediate them.

There are several options to achieve this.

- A foliar application of a suitable pesticide, trunk injection or soil injection. There are organic products available that are not detrimental to our beloved honeybee population, as well.

• When nests are found on small fruit trees, they can be successfully removed by pruning. This can be done on larger and taller trees, via professionals as well. Contact your tree care specialist regarding the best approach for your BrownTail moth problem.

It is important to get on the treatment list early. If you have any questions regarding treatment options or pest identification issues, you may contact me through Yarmouth Community Services. We will be conducting our own nest inventory and assessing appropriate treatment options. Likely, we will be treating parks and street-side locations in town regarding these pests in the early spring.

Thank you for the help taking care of our trees.

Warmly,

Scott Couture
Town of Yarmouth
Tree Warden

Yarmouth Parks, Recreation, & Community Services
Contact Phone: (207) 846-2406