



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
Friday, September 10, 2010

Time to band your trees

Winnipeg, MB. - The public is advised that the City of Winnipeg's Insect Control and Urban Forestry Branches, along with Trees Winnipeg (formerly Coalition to Save the Elms), strongly recommend that you band your trees as soon as possible, to prevent the potential defoliation of your trees next spring.

Tree banding is an effective way to reduce and control cankerworm infestations which cause unsightly defoliation of our elm, ash, basswood, cherry and apple trees each spring. Tanglefoot® banding of tree trunks is an environmentally-friendly way to control canker worms.

In the fall and spring of each year adult cankerworm moths emerge from the soil around the drip line of deciduous trees. The female moth is wingless and must crawl up the tree trunk to mate and lay eggs in the upper parts of the tree. Male cankerworm moths have wings and are able to fly to the tree to mate with females. Sticky Tanglefoot® bands capture the females before they are able to climb into the upper portion of the tree to lay eggs. Spring and Fall cankerworm caterpillars hatch from the eggs in the upper part of the tree in spring and eat the leaves. As cankerworm caterpillars grow in the spring they are able to infest adjacent trees by hanging from silk threads which contact nearby trees. Thus it is important to band all susceptible trees if they are growing close together. Elm, ash, basswood, cherry and apple trees should be banded.

To avoid larval cankerworm problems in the spring, band your trees in the fall, before the first frost. Bands can remain on the tree over winter. In late winter or by March 15th, check your bands, clean and apply additional Tanglefoot® should be applied to protect the tree from females which will emerge in the spring. If the band is coated with moths and other debris, the cankerworm moth may crawl over the band; therefore it is important to make sure the band is clean and clear of debris.

Take bands off by May 15th. A good rule of thumb is to band the trees in early September and take them off on the May long weekend. Bands that are left on

the trees over the summer can cause tree rot, encourage insect infestations and are unsightly.

Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to the Save the Elms), a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the stewardship of the elm and other trees, forests and the urban environment with the City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch are highly recommending that you band your trees as soon as possible to prevent the potential defoliation of your trees next Spring.

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Media inquiries may be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at (204) 986-6000 or via email at MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.

Or for more information contact:
Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to Save the Elms) at (204) 832-7188