

THE SHADE TREE

A BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO NEW JERSEY'S SHADE TREES

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AN INVITATION TO THE 98TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The NJ Shade Tree Federation's 98th Annual Conference will be held October 26 & 27, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, NJ.

It is a pleasure to announce that the event we tree-folk look forward to every year is right around the corner. Registration is open for the NJ Shade Tree Federation's 98th Annual Conference, and while I do not wish to repeat the contents of our August Program Booklet there are some exciting 2023 conference features that justify a highlight or two.

Missed our August mailer? Conference details and registration information are available on our website. Early Registration Rates end Oct 2nd. <https://njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php>

NJ Urban & Community Forestry (NJUCF) Program Community Representative (CORE) Training will be held on Thursday, October 26.

To anybody who has looked at a tree and thought, "I wonder-?", we cannot stress enough the value of knowing the basics. This full-day training, held in conjunction with the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference, is the perfect starting point for anyone in our state interested in answering those "I wonder" questions and for towns looking to bolster their local capacity.

Take the opportunity to build a knowledge base that can assist you in all aspects of your work. Be it improving quality of life for residents, preserving canopy cover, preparing for the future, or just simply knowing when to call in a tree expert, NJUCF CORE training lays out a starting line.

Meet & Mingle: Networking Event Thursday, October 26, 4:30-6:00pm

Those present at the NJ Shade Tree Federation banquets held in past decades remember the days of fancy dress dinners and actual, literal ballroom dancing. Such

BULLETIN OF THE NEW JERSEY SHADE TREE FEDERATION

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grand affairs will remain fond memories. While we won't be donning tuxedos and ballgowns soon, we understand the importance of spaces reserved for community-building. It is called networking and it is as valuable now as it was then.

Hence, the Meet & Mingle. A new, modern networking event that helps us foster the face-to-face interactions we community-based groups need to pool resources and share ideas without terrifying our younger generations with the prospect of sweeping across the dance floor.

There is no entry fee for the Meet & Mingle; we encourage all our Thursday conference registrants to stick around to snack, sip, and chat after the education sessions end. Take an extra minute to peruse the exhibits, catch up with familiar faces, and most importantly meet new people.

Exhibitors at the NJ Shade Tree Federation 98th Annual Conference

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Spanish Language & Bilingual Courses will be held on Friday, October 27.

To help provide professional education options for everyone, our 2023 conference includes a Spanish Language Track. These sessions feature industry experts presenting in their native language and dual language collaborations with English speakers. And for those learning Spanish as a secondary language why not kill two birds with one stone? Earn CEUs and NJ Pesticide Re-certification credits in the Spanish Track Courses while simultaneously building your multi-lingual communication skills. Bilingualism is a highly marketable skill. Especially in the tree care industry where safety and best management practices are vital to successful business.

There will be no recordings or online CEU offerings of the 2023 Conference.

In an effort to prioritize the networking and collaborative aspects of the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference, there will be no recordings or virtual CEU offerings of 2023 conference sessions. I urge everyone to do their best to make an in-person appearance

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and offer the assurance that we will strive to provide accessible education options separate from the Annual Conferences in the future.

Thank you to the Partners & Corporate Sponsors for making this event possible!



THE NEW JERSEY SHADE TREE FEDERATION IS GETTING SOCIAL!

We're pleased to announce that the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation is now on social media. Find our new Facebook and Instagram. We hope you'll join us as we grow in our mission to bring our state's tree mindful communities and individuals together. Find us @njshadetreefederation

<https://www.facebook.com/njshadetreefederation/>
<https://www.instagram.com/njshadetreefederation/>

PROGRESS REPORT: THE CRANFORD CANOPY PROJECT

We're happy to share the latest comments from last year's 2022 William J. Porter Community Tree Project Award Winner. Check out their project in detail and hear the 2023 award announcement at the NJ Shade Tree Federation 98th Annual Conference!

Cranford, NJ has many flood-prone areas during heavy rainfalls due to stormwater runoff. Though trees are a natural and highly effective method of mitigating runoff, the township has lost an estimated 1000 trees in the last decade, due to disease, storms and uncontrolled removal.

The Cranford Environmental Commission has identified private property and school property as two areas in the town that have the most opportunity to increase tree cover. So, we started the Cranford Canopy Project, with the goal of increasing awareness of the importance of trees and lower the barriers to plant trees.



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With the William J Porter Grant and a contribution from the Cranford Environmental Commission, we will be providing trees to residents of the town at a significant discount. Thanks to the grant, township contribution, volunteer help, and the ability to buy trees at a bulk discount, the Cranford Canopy Project will be able to supply residents with healthy, native 7 gallon container trees for a remarkable price of \$25 each. The Project is purchasing more than 100 trees for delivery in the fall of 2023, and volunteers will coordinate the distribution of trees and provide education.

These trees will be planted throughout the community and help mitigate flooding. We also hope residents will experience the joy of caring for and watching their own tree grow through the years, and the sense of pride in seeing their tree thrive. We hope this will lead to a deeper interest in environmental issues and more generally consider our community's place in our environment.

WHEN A SINGLE TREE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By American University, Phys.org, July 13, 2021

A single tree along a city street or in a backyard can provide measurable cooling benefits, according to a new study from American University. The research shows that “distributed” trees, those that are stand-alone and scattered throughout urban neighborhoods, can help to reduce evening heat. The research suggests that planting individual trees can be a strategy to mitigate urban heat, particularly in areas where land for parks can be scarce.

“There are plenty of good reasons to plant trees, but our study shows we shouldn’t underestimate the role that individual trees can play in mitigating heat in urban areas,” said Michael Alonzo, assistant professor of environmental science and lead author of the new study. “City planners can take advantage of the small spaces that abound in urban areas to plant individual trees.” The study is published in *Environmental Research Letters*.

While urban parks provide important mid-day cooling for residents and visitors, the key to cooling from individual trees happens in the evening. In the new study, which was conducted in Washington, D.C., cooling benefits from distributed trees were found to occur around 6 or 7 p.m. and after sunset. The study revealed lower temperatures in neighborhoods where at least half the area was covered by canopy from distributed trees. Temperatures were 1.4 degrees Celsius cooler in the evening compared with areas with few trees. Even in the predawn hour, areas with only modest distributed canopy cover (about 20 percent of the area) were cooler than those with no trees, showing that on average, afternoon and evening cooling effects last well into the night, Alonzo added.

To arrive at the findings, Alonzo and his colleagues examined air temperature readings. The data was collected over one hot summer day in 2018, across different areas in Washington, D.C. and at multiple times throughout the day, resulting in more than 70,000 air temperature readings. In their analysis, Alonzo and his colleagues examined tree canopy over paved surfaces, over unpaved surfaces, and both patches such as parks, and distributed trees, such as those one might plant in their back or front yards.

WHEN A SINGLE TREE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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The new study confirms that planting individual trees should be considered as part of a strategy to combat rising temperatures in urban areas. In hot summer months many cities across the United States turn into “heat islands.” Due to the urban heat island effect, urban areas, with fewer green spaces and higher amounts of impervious surface, get hotter compared to their rural surroundings.

In urban areas, people are more likely to live adjacent to distributed trees rather than parks. In D.C., there are many places to plant individual trees where canopy will shade paved or unpaved surfaces: on streets with single family homes, streets with rowhouses, backyard or small park plantings, Alonzo said. This opens up avenues for increasing the racial and socioeconomic equity of tree planting, but more effort is required to first reduce impervious surface cover in the most built-up residential and commercial districts, Alonzo added. The top five trees along D.C.’s streets include several species of maples, oaks and elms, all of which provide plentiful shade.

Climate studies show that urban temperatures are warming at all times of day including evenings. Yet studying the cooling benefits from individual trees, as well as their benefits during evening hours, has not been widely researched, Alonzo said, and this is an area scientists should continue to explore. More research will be needed in other locations in the United States and under different weather conditions. Alonzo also plans to conduct more research and has collected air temperature readings by bicycle around D.C. during the pandemic.

Though the study was conducted in D.C., Alonzo said the findings are likely applicable along the East Coast or in other cities with a similar climate.

“Evenings are not quite the respite from heat that we once had,” Alonzo said. “These distributed trees do help the city cool off in the evening and that’s important for human health.”

PLANS TO PLANT BILLIONS OF TREES THREATENED BY MASSIVE UNDERSUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

By University of Vermont, Science Daily, July 31, 2023

Major government and private funding is being invested in planting trees as a powerful tool to fight climate change. But new research shows a troubling bottleneck that could threaten these efforts: U.S. tree nurseries don’t grow close to enough trees--nor have the species diversity needed--to meet ambitious planting and restoration goals.

The REPLANT Act provides money for the US Forest Service to plant more than a billion trees in the next nine years. The World Economic Forum aims to help plant a trillion trees around the world by 2030. Many US cities have plans to shade their streets with millions of trees. Major government and private funding is being invested in planting trees as a powerful tool to fight climate change, protect water, clean air, and cool cities. In short, trees are hot.

But new research shows a troubling bottleneck that could threaten these

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PLANS TO PLANT BILLIONS OF TREES THREATENED BY MASSIVE UNDERSUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

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efforts: U.S. tree nurseries don't grow close to enough trees -- nor have the species diversity needed -- to meet ambitious plans. The study was published in the journal *Bioscience* on July 31, 2023.

Seedling Scarcity

"Trees are this amazing natural solution to a lot of our challenges, including climate change. We urgently need to plant many millions of them," says University of Vermont scientist Tony D'Amato who co-led the new research. "But what this paper points out is that we are woefully underserved by any kind of regional or national scale inventory of seedlings to get the job done."

A team of 13 scientists, led by D'Amato and UVM post-doctoral scientist Peter Clark, studied 605 plant nurseries across twenty northern states. Only 56 of these grow and sell seedlings in the volumes needed for conservation and reforestation and only 14 of them were government-operated, they report. The team was more dismayed to discover an "overwhelming scarcity of seedlings," they write, from different species and "seed collection zones" -- trees adapted to local conditions and climate. In essence, forest nurseries tended to maintain a limited inventory of a select few species, electing to prioritize those valued for commercial timber production over species required for conservation, ecological restoration, or climate adaptation. Moreover, many areas had no locally adapted tree stock available. And within the seedlings available, there were not enough types of trees and "future-climate-suitable" genetics to meet goals for conservation and forest restoration in a hot future.

"The world is thinking about a warming climate -- can we plant towards that warming climate? We know we're losing ecologically important species across North America and around the world. So, the goal is: can we restore these trees or replace them with similar species? It's a powerful idea," says UVM's Peter Clark, the lead author on the new study. "But -- despite the excitement and novelty of that idea in many policy and philanthropy circles -- when push comes to shove, it's very challenging on the ground to actually find either the species or the seed sources needed."

"The number of seedlings is a challenge," Clark says, "but finding the diversity we need to restore ecologically complex forests -- not just a few industrial workhorse species commonly used for commercial timber operations, like white pine -- is an even bigger bottleneck."

One extreme example is red spruce. This ecologically important species along hundreds of miles of eastern North America has been under stress for decades from climate change, pests, and land clearing. Yet, in their 20-state survey, the team only found two tree nurseries that had inventory of red spruce, a species from which many millions of seedlings are needed to meet restoration goals. "Remarkably, only 800 red spruce seedlings were commercially available for purchase in 2022," the team reports in their new *Bioscience* study, " -- enough to reforest less than one hectare."

"It really points to just how bare the cupboard is when it comes to the

PLANS TO PLANT BILLIONS OF TREES THREATENED BY MASSIVE UNDERSUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

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diversity of options,” says Tony D’Amato, director of the Forestry Program in UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, “but also the quantity that’s needed to make any meaningful impact.”

Increased Investment

The team argues that dramatic increases in both seedling production and diversity at many regional nurseries will be central to any successful campaign to address climate change with tree planting. However, the novelty and risk involved, “likely generates uncertainty among forest nurseries, hampering investment,” they write. This appears to be especially true in regions, like the Northeast, where nurseries have declined over recent decades, the study reports, and where speculative investment -- in growing new, future-climate-adapted, non-timber species and seedlots -- may carry high financial risk.

Additionally, seedlings brought in from outside a region may be less likely to succeed. The new study reports that the vast majority (80%) of seedlings in the northern states, where the study was conducted, are produced in the North Central states -- and very few in the Northeastern states. “Such concentration of production will hinder tree planting efforts,” they write, “because species and seed sources likely originate from similar geographic or bioclimatic zones.” On top of this challenge, seedlings are sensitive to stress. A misalignment between when seedlings are available -- say in a southern nursery months before northern soils are frost free -- and when they are needed, may doom their chances.

The team of researchers -- including scientists from UVM; the USDA’s Northern Forest Research Stations in Minnesota, Michigan and New Hampshire; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; University of Minnesota; the USDA’s Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science; and The Nature Conservancy (Albany, NY) -- recommend a series of improvements from improved policy and financing to better training and expanded research.

For example, today government agencies, such as the US Forest Service and many US state governments, lack clear policies about the movement of tree species and tree genetics. They often rely on seed zones established in the 1970s based on historical climate conditions, not future ones -- even though up-to-date guidelines for moving species under a warming climate are becoming available. Additionally, much forest policy and research has been framed around species important for timber production -- rather than efforts to diversify species and climate-adapted seed-sourcing.

The team of scientists suggest that expanded federal and state investment will be needed to boost both public tree nurseries and seed collection efforts. “This strategy may stimulate production from private nurseries once a stable demand is apparent,” they write. In 2023, the federal government made an investment of \$35 million in expanding federal nursery capacity. “However, given the existing (and growing) reforestation backlog, declines in nursery infrastructure, and complex needs for diverse seeds and seedlings, it is likely that substantially more public investment in the form of grants, loans, and cost-share programs will be needed to

PLANS TO PLANT BILLIONS OF TREES THREATENED BY MASSIVE UNDERSUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS

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reinvigorate, diversify, and expand forest nurseries,” they write.

“People want trillions of trees,” says the University of Vermont’s Peter Clark, “but often, on the ground, it’s one old farmer walking around to collect acorns. There’s a massive disconnect.”

HOW TO HIRE A TREE CARE PROFESSIONAL

**By Jason Grabosky, Nicholas Polanin, Pam Zipse, Roslyn Dvorin,
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS019, Updated August 2023**

Trees are valuable landscape assets. They provide beauty and shade, along with several social, environmental, community, and economic benefits to our cities, towns, suburbs, and landscapes. For these reasons, trees require an investment of time, money, and expertise for their proper selection, planting, care, maintenance, and removal. When problems occur, such as storm or insect damage, or general maintenance is required, the help of a tree care professional may be warranted. Pruning or removing large trees can be dangerous work, especially if it requires climbing or working from an elevated position. Therefore, such work should be left to trained and qualified tree care professionals.

Tree care professionals, as defined by the New Jersey Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act (N.J.S.A. 45:15C-11 et seq.) fall into two categories: Licensed Tree Care Operator (LTCO) and Licensed Tree Expert (LTE). LTCO services include “tree pruning, repairing, brush cutting or removal, tree removal, and stump grinding or removal.” LTE Services include all of the above, along with “tree establishment, fertilization, cabling and bracing, lightning protection, consulting, diagnosis, and treatment of tree problems or diseases, tree management during site planning and development, tree assessment and risk management, and application of pesticides or any other form of tree maintenance.” In special circumstances, consulting services might include serving as an expert witness to provide expertise and testimony in legal cases involving damage or injury related to trees.

Finding a Tree Care Professional

In New Jersey, businesses that provide tree care services are legally required to be registered with the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts and must have a licensed individual on staff at the principal office and each branch office.

As of April 2017, all businesses providing tree care services in the state of New Jersey are required to:

- Register with the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts.
- Employ at least one LTCO or LTE.
- Maintain current liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000.00 and workers compensation insurance for their employees.
- Abide by current industry standards as set forth in the regulations of the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts.
- Provide safety training for their employees.



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HOW TO HIRE A TREE CARE PROFESSIONAL

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- Individuals licensed as LTCOs or LTEs must retain their license certificate, abide by industry standards for arboriculture and safety as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:3A-8.1, and shall earn 32 credits or more of continuing education for each 2-year licensing period.

Advertisement by a tree care company must include its New Jersey Tree Care Operator registration number. A registered business can only advertise services for which it has received approval. There are many registrations and licenses offered by the State of New Jersey. Additionally, many national and local organizations offer professional credentials. To do tree care business in New Jersey, a business needs to be registered with the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts and employ at least one licensed individual. Consumers can be misled by a general business license or a pesticide license. Consumers should ask to see a copy of the company's business registration, its proper insurance coverage, and the name of the company's Licensed Tree Expert.

In addition, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) administers a voluntary certification program, which measures an arborist's level of knowledge and expertise across "domains" of tree care, from biology to identification. While any certification is not a guarantee of quality work, it does indicate a commitment to professionalism and education. Another indication of commitment to professionalism is membership in professional organizations such as the Tree Care Industry Association or the American Society of Consulting Arborists, to name a few.

It is important to inquire about experience, training, insurance, and references. Compile a short list of companies or individuals to contact and ask for recommendations from family, friends, or neighbors who have had tree work done. Not every tree care company provides every service, so search for an expert who has experience with your specific tree care need.

Choosing a Tree Care Professional

One way to increase the likelihood of hiring a professional that you are satisfied with is to be an educated consumer. Read what you can about the proper pruning and maintenance of trees. You can also contact your local county offices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, which can provide information and advice. Be sure to check your municipality's local ordinances that limit or impact your ability to prune or remove trees and be sure the chosen contractor is also aware of local ordinances, which may vary between municipalities.

After you have your short list of quality tree care companies, obtain more than one evaluation of the condition of your trees, the specific work requested or required, and a written cost estimate. There may be a charge for the consultation, assessment and/or the estimate itself. If tree removal is recommended, the estimate should specify the reasons why the tree needs to be removed. These might include: the tree is dead or clearly dying; the tree poses an unacceptable risk because of identified problems with the tree itself due to less than optimal growing conditions or poor location; the tree is an obstruction and there is no other remedy; or the tree is undesirable (e.g., structurally weak, disease or insect prone, or an invasive species). Beware of companies that solicit business "door-to-door," require advance payment other than for plant and landscape materials, offer a special deal for fast decisions,

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A detailed photograph of various arborist equipment. The items include a large coil of rope, several pulleys of different sizes, a hand saw, a chainsaw, various carabiners and shackles, and other climbing hardware. The items are arranged on a wooden surface.

HOW TO HIRE A TREE CARE PROFESSIONAL

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or show up unannounced in the aftermath of a tree-damaging storm. Also, beware of those who advertise or recommend topping, which is the improper pruning or rounding-over of trees at a pre-determined height. Proper pruning should never remove more than 25% of the branches or limbs in a given year, and all cuts should be done appropriately to avoid leaving stubs or rip cuts in the bark. Other harmful or unethical tree care practices to avoid include the use of climbing spikes or spurs while working on live trees or tree removal without clear evidence of the need. An LTCO or LTE should be able to provide, on request, a written statement of need, estimate, contract, current business registration, and LTCO or LTE license, insurance, and pesticide applicator license (if appropriate).

Contracting a Tree Care Professional

Once your tree care professional is selected, the contract will be prepared. Read it carefully. It should specify the beginning and end date of work; details of the work to be done with clear identification of the trees to be worked on; the standards to be used for pruning; specifics of insect and disease control and notification as required by New Jersey law; clean-up work that will be done; how any firewood will be handled – size, where stacked; how stumps, if any, will be handled; total cost of specified work and an hourly rate for any unexpected additional work that may be needed outside of the contracted work. If pesticides for insect or disease control will be applied, New Jersey law has additional licensing requirements.

For links to referenced resources view this Factsheet online: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS019/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| September 13th | NJSTF Tree Talk – 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom link to be sent to member email list in September. |
| October 26th-27th | NJ Shade Tree Federation 98th Annual Conference – Cherry Hill, NJ |
| November 14th-16th | League of Municipalities 108th Annual Conference – Atlantic City, NJ |
| December 6th | NJSTF Tree Talk – 7:00-8:30 pm, Zoom link to be sent to member email list in December. |



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