

# Shade Tree Report

Prepared for:  
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Treeton, MA

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## Summary

I met with Mr. David Jones at his property in Treeton on Oct. 8, 2011. The following report is a result of observations made on some of the trees on the property. A soil test analysis report from U. Mass is also attached as a PDF file.

## Sugar Maples



### Observations:

The sugar maples growing along the driveway are fine specimens indeed. The crowns are fairly well balanced and well pruned. Most of the structural concerns observed (primarily v-shaped crotches with included bark) on the major scaffold limbs have been addressed with cables where needed.

Much of the foliage appears somewhat sparse, and the leaves smaller than normal. Some leaf drop has already occurred. This may be attributed to many factors including feeding by winter moth, various leaf diseases due to wetter than normal weather, and the recent rain and wind storm that came through the area.

Three of the maples have large mulched areas around the root zone. Two soil tests taken from the area revealed a pH near 7, somewhat higher than the norm for this area.

The crowns of two of the sugar maples (see site map, pg.6) exhibit a slight decline. This may be related to observations made at the root crown of these trees, where there is evidence of girdling roots.

### Recommendations:

- In late fall, early winter, watch for presence moths, an indicator for possible winter moth infestation

- Refrain from applying any lime to the area for the time being
- Apply a topdressing of fertilizer per instructions supplied with the soil test results
- Establish mulch zones around maples not yet done. This is the most cost effective, beneficial thing you can do for any tree. Composted wood chips are best, but any wood chips will do.
- Consider an air-spade excavation of the trees with suspect root problems to see if any remediation is possible



*The flat area on the root crown of maple 1 (arrow), and the crossing surface roots on maple 2 are sure signs of girdling root issues.*

### **Beech tree**



**Observations:**

This juvenile copper beech shows fine form, and has been given the room to grow. The crown is well balanced and has a decent structure. The root zone is undisturbed. My biggest concern with this tree is the root crown area and the presence of girdling roots. While they do not appear to be having a significant affect as of yet, I believe there will be future problems.

The organic matter of the soil is good, though phosphorous and potassium levels are in the low range. The ph of 6.2 is in the desired range.

**Recommendations:**

- Apply a topdressing of fertilizer per instructions supplied with the soil test results
- Monitor during bud break and spring for insect or disease issues, including winter moth and wooly aphid. Watch for any signs of decline in the upper crown.
- Consider an air-spade excavation of the root crown to see if any remediation is possible



*Several girdling roots are evident on this beech*

## Oak



### Observations:

This large mature oak tree is showing it's age. Old wounds and cavities are evident throughout. Recent crown cleaning has removed all the crown die-back in the tree. The remaining foliage is small and sparse.

The root zone is all thick turf grass. The soil test showed a desired ph of 6.2 and high organic matter. The phosphorous, nitrogen, and potassium levels were all in the low range.

### Recommendations:

- Continued decline is likely, but can be slowed.
- The roots of this tree are in direct competition with the lush turf. Establish a mulch zone. This is the most cost effective, beneficial thing you could do for any tree. Composted wood chips are best, but any wood chips will do.
- If the turf remains, applications of fertilizer made via soil injection may be preferable. A 5-10-10 fertilizer as described in the soil test recommendations would be fine.
- Monitor during bud break and spring for insect or disease issues.
- Monitor crown for continued dieback, prune as needed.

## Young Elm



This fast growing young elm exhibits poor architecture. The arrows indicate likely areas of failure. Proper corrective pruning performed over time will be necessary to abate future scaffold failures.

**Mature Elm**

- Continue preventative treatments and monitoring for DED
- Perform crown cleaning (removal of dead and diseased wood). Late February through bud break, or late August through September would be best.

**Hemlock hedge**

- Monitor for Hemlock wooly adelgid
- Consider crown cleaning.

**Site Map**

