

Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association

Organized for the Protection and Preservation of Trees
March 27, 1913 ♦ Dr. George E. Stone, Founder



BARK

2023
Issue 4
Winter

111th Annual Conference

Change in Keynote Speaker

We are thrilled to announce that Francesco Ferrini, PhD, Full Professor at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry at the University of Florence, Italy, will be the keynote speaker at our 2024 Annual Conference in Sturbridge. We anticipate a fabulous and inspiring talk from Dr. Ferrini.

Dr. Ferrini's research includes:

- Impact of shrub hedges along the roads to reduce air pollution;
- Physiological and growth aspects of different species as affected by different cultivation techniques after planting in the urban environment;
- Effect of water stress on growth performance of newly planted trees and selection of drought tolerant species;
- Secondary metabolism in woody species as affected by drought and light;
- Biodiversity in the urban environment.

Dr. Ferrini is co-editor of *The Routledge Handbook of Urban Forestry*. In addition, he has published hundreds of scientific and technical papers in both Italian and English, many of which have received awards and accolades. Most notably, he won the Award of Merit from the International Society of Arboriculture in 2019. Dr. Ferrini has served on the International Society of Arboriculture Board of Directors and as president of its Italian Chapter.

Don't miss his international perspective that will augment our collective efforts across the Commonwealth to become more sustainable in light of the many challenges we face.

Join us for other engaging speakers including Mark Duntemann, Natural Path Forestry, who will be presenting two talks - one on developing a tree risk assessment policy and process and another on the use of logical fallacies in tree risk and Dr. Beth Brantley, Bartlett Tree Experts, who will be talking about beech leaf disease. See page 9 for the full schedule.

Dr. Michael Dirr was originally scheduled to be our keynote speaker, but he is not able to join us for 2024 Annual Conference because of an unanticipated scheduling conflict. He sends his regrets, and looks forward to joining us at a future event.



Dr. Francesco Ferrini, keynote speaker at the 2024 Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association Annual Conference.



Dr. Beth Brantley



Mark Duntemann

Conference Details - Pages 10-11

MTWFA Executive Board 2023

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In this Issue

111th Annual Conference	1
MTWFA Executive Board 2023	2
President's Message	3
New/Returning Members	3
USDA Unveils Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map	5
Mass Qualified Tree Warden Course	6
Spotted Lanternfly Update from UMass Extension	8
2024 Annual Conference Schedule	10
2024 Annual Conference Registration Form.....	11
DCR Updates	12
Exhibitor Information for 2024 Annual Conference	14
Legacy Tree Program	17
MTWFA Scholarships - Apply by February 15.....	17
Index of Advertisers	18
Calendar of Events	20

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MTWFA MASSACHUSETTS TREE WARDENS' AND FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION

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Published Quarterly
Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter

President's Message

I hope this edition of The Bark finds you all well. As I write this letter, late afternoon on November 16th, I look outside to a 65-degree, clear blue-sky day. Boy do we all deserve this little late Fall treat. Especially after all the rainy weekends we have had to endure this year. I was able to enjoy a very rewarding day outside working with the crew and with several of our partners performing field work and finishing our major capital project of this year, a beautiful new softball complex. These are the days that keep me charged up and energized.

While we are on the topic of energy, MTWFA is having another great year. This started with a great 2023 conference. From there a solid line-up of professional development training courses. Culminating with our fourth Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens (MQTW) training course that graduated fifty-two new qualified tree wardens. These offerings were successful because of the passion and participation of a lot of great board members, friends of the association, and our Executive Director, Heather Leff. Our membership numbers are strong. Our Association financials continue to grow. Lastly our Executive Board continues to evolve and reflect a well-represented picture of our state. I want to say thank you to you all for helping be a part of our success.

It is at that time of year that we are making our final preparations behind the scenes for the 2024 conference.

Eddie

Ed Olsen

President 2023-2024



We did receive some unfortunate news recently that Michael Dirr will not be able to join us at the conference, but we are sure that he will be back soon to join us all again. The good news is that we are so lucky to have Richard Parasiliti, tree warden of Northampton MA, as our Vice President and annual conference chair. He quickly went back to the drawing board and was somehow able to secure a world-renowned scientist, educator, speaker, and presenter, Dr. Francesco Ferrini from the University of Florence, Italy.

Professor Ferrini brings to us a wealth of experience and history, having worked for decades as a research scientist. He has traveled the world and published more than 360 scientific and technical papers. He has given more than 300 talks at several international and national congresses. In 2019 he received the Award of Merit, the highest honor bestowed by the International Society of Arboriculture, which recognizes a career of outstanding, meritorious service in advancing the principles, ideals, and practice of arboriculture. We all look forward to having him as our Keynote Speaker and conference guest. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Happy Holidays and please enjoy that sunshine while it lasts.

New/Returning Members

Max Bock, MQTW, Town of Belchertown

Zachary Bolles, Hartney Greymont

John Broderick, MQTW, Town of South Hadley

James Evers, MQTW, Town of Holden

Cate Fox-Lent, MQTW, City of Chelsea

Jordan Friede, MQTW, City of Northampton

Joshua Fritz, Hartney Greymont

Shane Gokey, MQTW, Town of Norwell

Leah Grigorov, MQTW, Town of Longmeadow

Kevin Hardiman, MQTW, Town of Tewksbury

Mike Herbst, MQTW, Town of Shrewsbury

Kevin Jose, MQTW, Town of Oxford

Linda Leduc, Town of Belchertown

Chris Martin, MQTW, City of Fall River

Michael McCormick, MQTW, Town of Leicester

Mark Oliver, MQTW, Town of Charlton

Peter Pearson, MQTW, Town of Devens

Nate Pucko, MQTW, City of Springfield

James Sacco, Town of Sandwich

Richard Savary, MQTW, Town of Westford

Keith Schleyer, MQTW, Town of Holden

Stephen Sullivan, MQTW, Town of Shutesbury

Jaret Thiem, MQTW, Town of Royalston

Joseph Vigeant Sr., MQTW, Town of Oxford

Kevin West, Town of Monterey

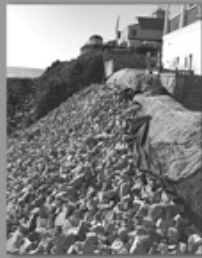
Brian White, MQTW, Town of Burlington

Gary Wildes, MQTW, Town of Topsfield

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USDA Unveils Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map

WASHINGTON, DC, Nov. 15, 2023—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today released a new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating this valuable tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 2012. USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The new map—jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group—is more accurate and contains greater detail than prior versions.

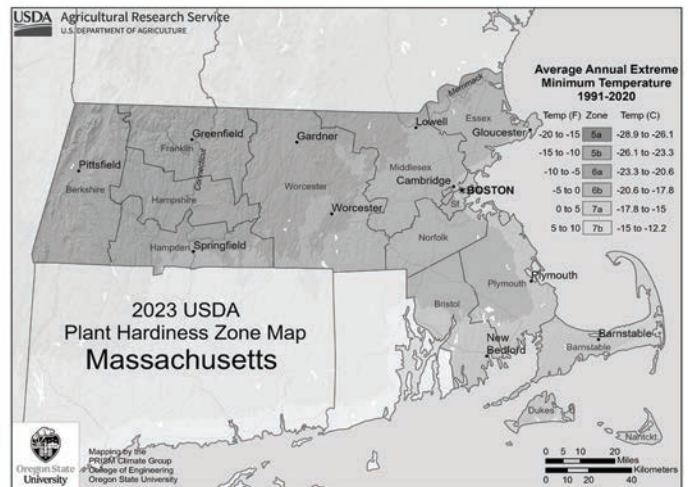
It is available online at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>.

The 2023 map is based on 30-year averages of the lowest annual winter temperatures at specific locations, is divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones and further divided into 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zones. Like the 2012 map, the 2023 web version offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format and is specifically designed to be user-friendly. The 2023 map incorporates data from 13,412 weather stations compared to the 7,983 that were used for the 2012 map.

Plant hardiness zone designations represent what's known as the "average annual extreme minimum temperature" at a given location during a particular time period (30 years, in this instance). Put another way, the designations do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.

As with the 2012 map, the new version has 13 zones across the United States and its territories. Each zone is broken into half zones, designated as "A" and "B." For example, zone 7 is divided into 7a and 7b half zones. When compared to the 2012 map, the 2023 version reveals that about half of the country shifted to the next warmer half zone, and the other half of the country remained in the same half zone. That shift to the next warmer half zone means those areas warmed somewhere in the range of 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit; however, some locations experienced warming in the range of 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit without moving to another half zone.

These national differences in zonal boundaries are mostly a result of incorporating temperature data from a more recent time period. The 2023 map includes data measured at weather stations from 1991 to 2020. Notably, the 2023 map for Alaska is "warmer" than the 2012 version. That's mainly because the new map uses more data representing



the state's mountain regions where, during winter, warm air overlies cold air that settles into low-elevation valleys, creating warmer temperatures.

The annual extreme minimum temperature represents the coldest night of the year, which can be highly variable from year to year, depending on local weather patterns. Some changes in zonal boundaries are also the result of using increasingly sophisticated mapping methods and the inclusion of data from more weather stations.

Temperature updates to plant hardiness zones are not necessarily reflective of global climate change because of the highly variable nature of the extreme minimum temperature of the year, as well as the use of increasingly sophisticated mapping methods and the inclusion of data from more weather stations. Consequently, map developers involved in the project cautioned against attributing temperature updates made to some zones as reliable and accurate indicators of global climate change (which is usually based on trends in overall average temperatures recorded over long time periods).

View the map for Massachusetts with the QR code on the right.



The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in U.S. agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.



Read the full press release from the USDA at <https://tinyurl.com/4u3yc56j> or at the QR code at left.

Mass Qualified Tree Warden Course



Graduates from the 2023 Mass. Qualified Tree Warden course.

The MQTW course has wrapped up for 2023. Thank you to our amazing instructors who included: Marc Welch (course coordinator and overall MQTW-guru), Tom Brady, Dave Hawkins, Julie Coop, Rick Harper, Paul Sellers, George Ackerson, Kristina Bezanson, Dave Lefcourt, Rich Parasiliti, and Tim Lockett.

Fifty-two folks from Gill to Springfield graduated after six days of amazing education. Massachusetts trees are in great hands! Congratulations, graduates!

The Mass Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) course will be offered again in 2025. MQTW is designed to educate tree wardens about what they need to know to fulfill their duties. Those who successfully complete the course receive the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden (MQTW) designation and certificate of achievement.



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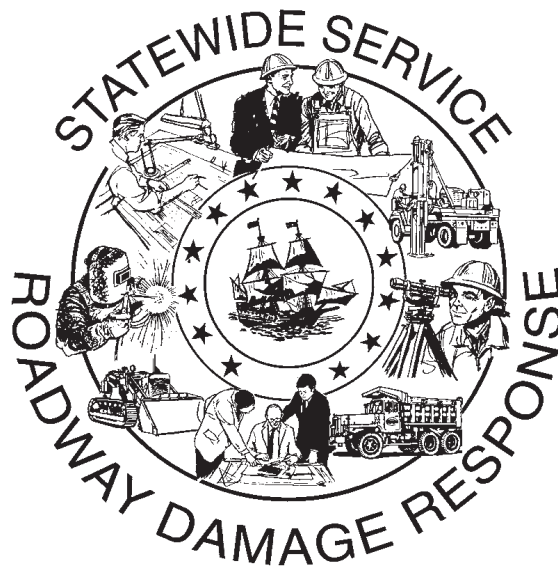
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Spotted Lanternfly Update from UMass Extension

From the Landscape Message, November 17, 2023



Spotted Lanternfly: (*Lycorma delicatula*, SLF) is a non-native, invasive insect that feeds on over 103 species of plants, including many trees and shrubs that are important in our landscapes.

As of November 2023, the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has confirmed the presence of additional populations of spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts. This brings the total established populations of spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts to those in the following communities: Agawam, Springfield, Holyoke, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Fitchburg, Southborough, Ashland, Wellesley, Weston, and Chelmsford, MA.



Scan for map of spotted lanternfly in MA.

As a reminder, there is no reason to be preemptively treating for this insect in other areas of Massachusetts. If you suspect you have found spotted lanternfly in additional locations, please report it immediately to MDAR. If you are living and working in the above listed areas, please be vigilant and continue to report anything suspicious. Additionally, information about managing spotted lanternfly is provided in the Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide for Professionals, below.

For More Information:



Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide for Professionals: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/spotted-lanternfly-management> (or scan QR code at left)

*Note that management may only be necessary in areas where this insect has become established in Massachusetts and if high value host plants are at risk. Preemptive management of the spotted lanternfly is not recommended.

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2024 Annual Conference Schedule

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

- 7:45-8:30 Registration and Coffee**
- 8:30-8:45 Opening Session Annual Meeting**
- 8:45-8:55 Massachusetts Urban and Community Forestry Update - Julie Coop** - An overview of the State's Urban and Community Forestry Program and program highlights.
- 8:55-9:05 UMass Update - Dr. Rick Harper** - Learn about research activities and student-led tree inventories.
- 9:05-9:55 Massachusetts Forest Health Update - Nicole Keleher** - Learn about the major forest health concerns and highlights in 2023, what to expect in 2024, and potential future invaders.
- 9:55-10:35 Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:35-11:25 The Use of Logical Fallacies - Mark Duntemann** - Learn about logical fallacies in the context of tree risk management.
- 11:25-11:55 Citizen Science - Deborah Merriam** - Conservation organizations can embrace citizen science to engage volunteers to collect scientific data to accomplish their management goals.
- 11:55-1:00 Luncheon—Banquet and Annual Meeting**
- 1:00-2:30 KEYNOTE — How Urban Green Can Help to Mitigate the Hazards and Risks of Climate Change Impacts. Future-Proof Green Cities Make Future-Proof Countries—Dr. Francesco Ferrini** - This presentation underscores the multifaceted benefits of urban greenery in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change impacts and charts a roadmap for building resilient cities, and by extension, resilient nations.
- 2:30-3:10 Break with Exhibitors**
- 3:10-4:10 Beech Leaf Disease - Dr. Beth Brantley** - Biological threats including phytophthora, beech bark disease, wood decay pathogens, foliar feeding arthropods, and beech leaf disease will be discussed, including management strategies and results from recent research.
- 4:10-4:30 Wrap-Up—Door Prizes**
- 4:30-6:00 Reception in Exhibit Hall. Join us for a social generously supported by our exhibitors.**

*The conference educational program is funded in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program.

In addition, if attending the Annual Conference is a financial burden, the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided grant dollars to support conference registration.

Please contact staff@masstreewardens.org to apply.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

- 8:30-9:15 Registration and Coffee**
- 9:15-10:15 Developing a Tree Risk Assessment Policy and Process - Mark Duntemann** This session will present a framework for companies, government agencies, and land managers for campuses, homeowner associations, golf courses and the like to establish and implement a simple policy on conducting tree risk assessments.
- 10:15-10:55 Break with Exhibitors**
- 10:55-11:55 Department of Labor Standards Workplace Safety and Health - Dawn Toon** - One of tree work's most significant hazards is falls from heights, other common risks include falling branches or trees, exposure to electrical lines, exposure to hazardous noise levels, inhalation of particulates, and contact with hazardous materials. We will discuss various solutions and strategies to mitigate these hazards effectively.
- 11:55-12:55 Lunch**
- 12:55-1:55 Tree Warden Panel - Sustainable Arboriculture and Urban Forestry in our Communities** - Moderated by **Dave Hawkins** with tree wardens from a variety of communities - This discussion will focus on how municipalities are taking advantage of the tremendous opportunities for urban forestry and urban greening to align with municipal sustainability initiatives.
- 1:55-2:45 Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape: 2023 Disease Review - Dr. Nicholas J. Brazee** - Dr. Brazee will cover the most important diseases affecting landscape trees and shrubs over this past year. When applicable, management recommendations will be discussed.
- 2:50 Childs Fund Raffle, Door Prizes and Closing**



Scan with a smartphone for online registration.

2024 Annual Conference Registration Form

<i>Names</i>					
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
<i>Contact Affiliation</i>					
Organization					
Address					
City/State/Zip					
Phone			Email		
PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION before Jan 5th					
	Name A	Name B	Name C	Name D	Name E
Member Fee \$220*	\$				
Non-Member Fee \$235*	\$				
Full-Time Student (Free)*	\$				
Optional 2023 Dues					
Individual \$85	\$				
Commercial \$120	\$				
Student or Senior \$25	\$				
CURRENT MQTW (place check in box)					
CURRENT TREE WARDEN (place check in box)					
LATE REGISTRATION after Jan. 5th					
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**The conference educational program is funded in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Bureau of Forestry Program. In addition, if attending the Annual Conference is a financial burden, the USDA Forest Service through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided grant dollars to support conference registration. Please contact staff@masstreewardens.org to apply.*

DCR Updates

2023 Tree City USA Applications Due December 31

It's that time of year again! If you are a longtime Tree City USA or are applying for the first time, the best way to submit your application is through the Arbor Day Foundation online portal. www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa.



TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

About Tree City USA

The Tree City USA program provides communities with a framework to maintain and grow their tree canopy and provides recognition that a city or town has established trees as a priority and has made good decisions about the management of these resources.

It fosters a sense of pride and good will toward the appearance and livability of your community. Tree City status is also considered if you apply to the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Your community can receive annual Tree City recognition by meeting four standards:

1. Tree Board or Department:
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. Minimum Community Forestry Annual Budget of \$2 per Capita
4. Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Growth Award



We encourage existing Tree City USA communities to apply for a Growth Award. Categories of activities eligible for a Growth Award include: Building the Team; Measuring Trees & Forests; Planning the Work; Performing the Work; and The Community Framework. Did your community support or sponsor employees or partners to attend state, ISA, or TCIA professional development opportunities? That counts! Did your program start a community tree nursery? That counts! Find out more details about the work the Growth Award recognizes at www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa.

To find out more about Tree City USA and how to apply, visit the DCR Urban & Community Forestry website www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf or contact Mathew Cahill, mathew.cahill@mass.gov.

Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders

2024 Theme:

Healthy Trees, Healthy Towns

We are pleased to announce the expansion of the Arbor Day Poster Contest to include 3rd and 4th grades, in addition to 5th grade students.

How it works: Each school holds its own poster contest for each participating grade and submits their winning poster(s) to the DCR. Prizes include art and science supplies, a tree planting, and recognition awards. The DCR can accept one poster from each eligible grade (3rd, 4th, and 5th) per school. Not every eligible grade needs to participate in each school. Home schooled or non-participating school students may submit their posters and enter the contest individually.

2024 Arbor Day
POSTER CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S THEME:
**Healthy Trees,
Healthy Towns**

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in Massachusetts are invited to participate in this annual contest that combines art and science. For contest rules, information and how to apply visit:
mass.gov/guides/annual-arbor-day-poster-contest

Questions? Contact:
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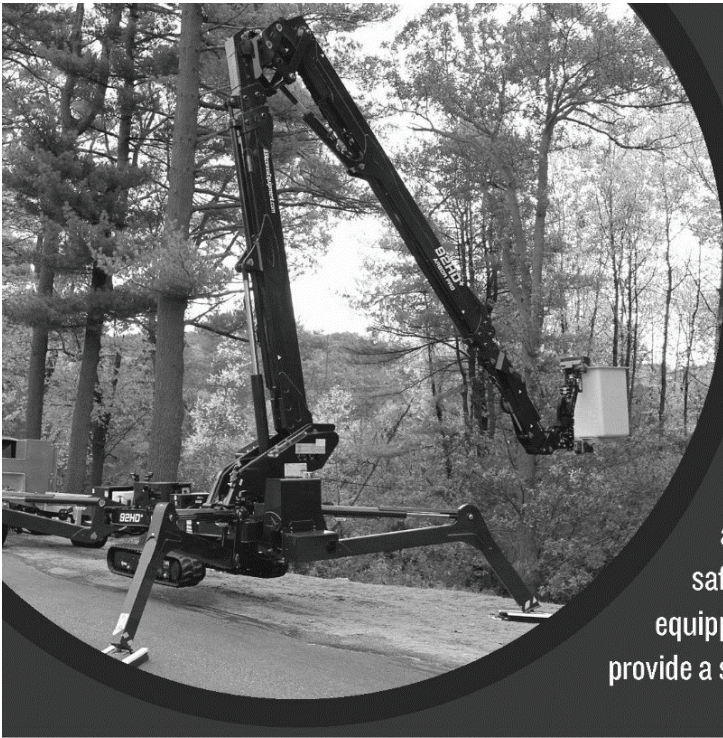


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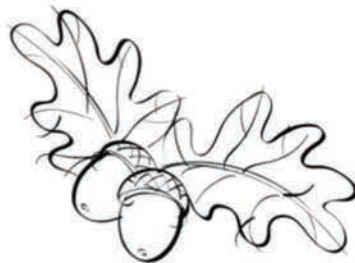
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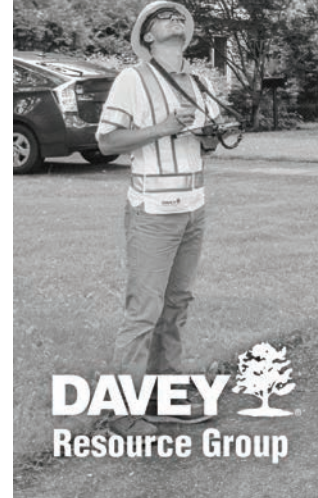
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Index of Advertisers

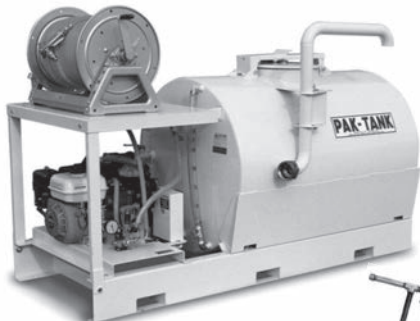
Acorn Tree and Landscape	16
All Access Equipment.....	15
Amherst Nurseries	13
AutoBeGreen	8
Bartlett Consolidated	7
Cleaves Company.....	4
Davey Resource Group	18
Favreau Forestry.....	13
Mayer Power Products.....	14
Mayer Tree Service.....	9
Millican Nurseries	9
Northeast Nursery	4
OESCO, Inc.	19
ProBark	6
RBG, Inc.....	15
Read Custom Soils	4
Shelter Tree.....	18
Stockbridge School.....	17
Urban Forestry Solutions.....	13

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Calendar of Events

December 4, 2023	Beech Leaf and Bark Diseases: Emerging Threats to Beech Trees	www.epa.gov/ipm
December 12-13, 2023	ISA Virtual Event	www.isa-arbor.com
December 14, 2023	Tough Trees for Tough Urban Sites Webcast	www.urbanforestrytoday.org/
January 9-10, 2024	MTWFA Annual Conference and Tradeshow	www.masstreewardens.org
February 2, 2024	Urban Tree Symposium	www.nebg.org
February 26, 2024	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Renewal	www.newenglandisa.org
February 27-29, 2024	Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course	www.newenglandisa.org