

# Community Forest News

## City of Bath, Maine

Newsletter of the Bath Community Forestry Committee \* 1 Oak Grove Avenue \* Bath, Maine 04530

Fall 2019

## Is Fall the best time to plant a tree or shrub?

For many people, spring has become the default season when it comes to planting or gardening, understandably so. Harsh winters and the lack of vegetation makes us excited to refresh our gardens and landscape our yards. Spring can be a great time of year to plant, depending on where you live. But, fall may be more ideal for your trees. The best time to plant trees will vary from region to region. In moderate places where the weather is consistent year-round, there may not be a preferred planting period. But for many areas that experience seasons, fall may be better to plant trees.

### Benefits of Fall Planting

Planting in the fall gives trees an extra growing season before the stress of summer. The combination of cooler temperatures and fall rain allows trees to establish their roots, making it easier on them to adjust to extreme heat or drought in the summer.

Many people fear that young trees can't withstand the winter. However, that's not the case. Trees go dormant in the winter, the equivalent of hibernation. This "sleep" state slows down the tree's growth, energy consumption, and metabolism. It's safe to plant trees until the ground is frozen solid, generally after

the first hard frost. Even if there is snow on the ground, if you're able to stick a spade into the soil, it's still okay to plant. When trees are dormant, they shouldn't require any extra care.

### Right Tree Right Place

The time of year you plant can have little impact on your tree if you don't plant it properly. This includes planting the right tree in the right place. Before planting, evaluate your space to make sure it will be suitable for your tree as it grows. Be cautious of planting too close to surrounding. You will also want to consider how much sun, shade, and moisture the tree will get at the planting site. It's not a bad idea to call 811 before you dig to avoid planting on underground utility lines. This free service can be a timesaver down the road. Proper tree care starts by properly planting your tree.

### After Planting

Your tree will require the same care no matter what time of year you plant. Always mulch a two to three-inch ring of mulch around the base of your tree—but don't pile it against the trunk. Water your tree right after planting, yes, even if it's cold outside. During the fall your newly planted tree will still require watering. But it's up to you to figure out how

often and how much.

Use a trowel to dig a 1-inch hole and feel the soil around your tree. If it's moist to the touch, your tree doesn't need water. Tree watering will vary for each tree depending on its size, species, climate, and location.

### Fall Planting Perks

There are perks to fall planting, like a stronger root system and less maintenance. But whether you're planting in the spring or fall, your newly planted tree will still require a little care in the first year of its life.

Though a certain species is typically Zone hardy for a particular region, (Maine is Zone 5 and 6), it may have been grown elsewhere and in fact isn't hardy for Maine. Wrapping the trunk during the first winter after planting should be sufficient, but many pros wrap them for the first three years to play it safe. Vinyl wrapping will prevent critters from attacking the bark during the winter as well. A good three-inch layer of mulch will help your plants retain moisture. In theory, wait until the ground freezes before you mulch and mulch as the season cools. Be sure to leave a bare ring, at least three inches from the trunk.

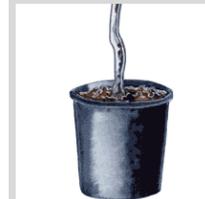
Lastly, one of the best or most important things you can do for all your plants and young trees is to keep them watered.

### How to Plant a Tree

Most trees purchased at a garden or tree center will be bare root, containerized or ball and burlap. Generally, the packaging depends on the size of the tree with ball and burlap being the largest size tree.



Bare Root Tree



Containerized Tree



Ball and Burlap Tree

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/planting/>

## Book Review: *Seeds* by Richard Horan . . . One man's serendipitous journey to find the trees that inspired famous American writers

Richard Horan's enthusiasm for his subject matter is addictive even when he's talking about tiny seeds. His writing is wonderful as is his humor mixed with great information about trees which influenced some of America's great authors.

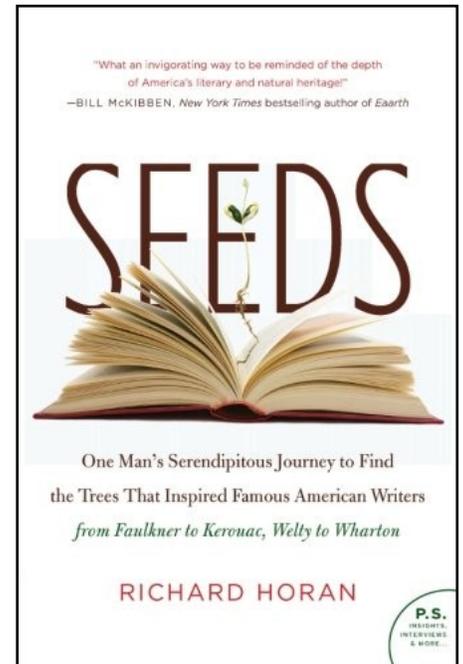
Horan traveled to the homes and gardens of famous writers to collect seeds from the famous trees and plant them for posterity. So cool! He starts at the home of L. Frank Baum to check out the Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove in upstate New York where the writer played as a boy—supposedly the inspiration for those creepy trees that threw apples at Dorothy in the movie. The author visits the homes of Robert Frost, Rachel Carson, Henry Miller, Pearl S. Buck, William Faulkner, Willa Cather, Helen Keller, on and on. Whether it's all just an excuse to travel the country to visit the homes of these legends or check out some cool trees, who cares—the book is a fun read.

*Seeds* is a wonderful and carefree book that allows you to skip around without losing any part of the story. Well-done, realistic illustrations of seeds, seedpods,

cones, samaras, acorns, nut cases, buds, and leaves grace the first page of each chapter. Also, in each chapter, Horan lists the popular species name and the Latin name associated with the tree.

Horan started his journey in search of the infamous tree that inspired Betty Smith in a *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Of course his dream was squashed when he found it no longer existed. The tree was actually an invasive species, *Ailanthus*, that thrived in inhospitable environments. How many of us can forget the lines: "There's a tree that grows in Brooklyn. Some people call it the Tree of Heaven. No matter where its seed falls, it makes a tree, which struggles to reach the sky."

Horan's journey ends at Helen Keller's home, Ivy Green, in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Keller is Horan's hero in life because he lagged behind in school because of a hyperactivity disorder. Her life and her writing opened his eyes to the power of the written word. The experience at Keller's home was a rude awakening for the seed collector, but we won't reveal the ending!



**Seeds** by Richard Horan  
Published by Harper Perennial  
Pages 347  
Copyright 2011

## Announcement: BCFC Taking Newsletter Digital



The Bath Community Forestry Committee would like to announce *Community Forest News* is going digital. For many years the BCFC has printed and sent out our newsletter to better reach the Community we serve here in Bath. Over these past few years technology has improved in such a way that reaching members of the community can be accomplished in a more sustainable manner. The ability to send along an E-copy of the newsletter reduces the consumption of paper while taking additional materials out our recycling stream.

This decision comes after much debate as we are aware that many folks rely on the printed copy for various reasons. The Committee feels it is a positive step forward. The ability to reduce the use of paper products while potentially reaching an ever technology focused readership makes transitioning to an E-copy a natural progression. We must all be good stewards and this transition is one way the BCFC can contribute to sustainability in a deliberate and tangible way.

We look forward to providing news from Bath's community forest as it is such a terrific resource here in Maine's Cool Little City. We welcome your thoughts and feedback as we transition. Many of you reading this who may require a printed copy please contact us with your information and we will do our best to make certain our newsletter will reach you.

For those readers who would enjoy receiving an E-copy of the *Community Forest News* please email the BCFC at [bathmetrees@gmail.com](mailto:bathmetrees@gmail.com) to be placed on the list!

You may also 'LIKE' BCFC on Facebook. We will also post a link to newsletters on our website [www.BathForestry.com](http://www.BathForestry.com)

# Maine's Invasive Plants for 2019 - 2020 from DACF

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry released a list this year of non-native plants found to pose a threat to habitats and natural resources in Maine. The Advisory List is an informal tool for landowners, wildlife biologists, foresters, land stewards, conservation commissions, and others interested in controlling invasive plants and preventing their spread. It is intended for education and outreach, land management, and other non-regulatory uses.

## What is an invasive plant?

An invasive plant is defined as a plant that is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are currently approximately 2,100 plant species recorded from Maine. Approximately one third of those are not native. Of those plants that are not native, only a small fraction are considered invasive, but these have the potential to cause great harm to our landscape. Please visit our list of fact sheets to determine if a particular species is considered invasive in Maine. The DACF has a new invasive plant brochure for a general overview-including the do not sell list @ [www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invasives.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm)

## How do these plants reach our landscape

In many cases, people have imported invasive species for ornamental and landscaping purposes because many of these species are very attractive. In other cases, these plant species are purposely planted because they have strong root systems and can provide soil stabilization and prevent erosion. Accidental introduction through tagging along with other plants purchased at garden shops and through soil contamination are also possible. Aquatic invasives are easily transported on boats, float planes, and their gear. Watercraft registration fees in Maine help fund the prevention and control of aquatic invasive plants and fish.

## Why are invasive plants so successful on our landscape?

Invasive plant species often lack natural predators, diseases, and other pathogens that keep them in check in their native habitats. They have competitive adaptations including early leaf-out, aggressive reproductive strategies, and efficient dispersal methods. In many cases, they take advantage of disturbances, like road construction, and establish themselves before native species can get a foothold.

## Why should you care?

Invasive plants are a direct threat to what we value about Maine's natural and working landscapes. The aggressive growth of invasive plants increases the costs of agriculture, can affect forest regeneration, threatens our recreational experiences, and potentially decrease property values. Species like Japanese barberry and multiflora rose can form thorny, impenetrable thickets in forests and agricultural fields. Aquatic invasives can choke waterways, making it difficult to boat or swim. Invasive species are the second-greatest threat to global biodiversity after loss of habitat. Invading plants out compete native species by hogging sunlight, nutrients, and space. They change animal habitat by eliminating native foods, altering cover, and destroying nesting opportunities. Some invaders are so aggressive they leave no room for our natives.

## What can you do to help?

Our natural landscape depends on the choices we make. When buying plants or moving them from place to place consider whether the plants are likely to "escape". Plants advertised as fast growing, prolific, and tolerant of many growing conditions are often the ones that become invasive. Maine won't be Maine if the plants dominating our landscape are all from away. Verify that plants you buy for your yard or garden are not invasive. Ask your local garden supplier to include more native species. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water. Don't release aquarium plants, fish, live bait, or other exotic animals into the wild. Volunteer to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the problem. Learn what plants are problematic in Maine and tell your state representatives that you care about the future of Maine's natural landscape.



What is iMap?

## INVASIVE PESTS ABOUND THROUGHOUT MID COAST MAINE... EMERALD ASH BORER NOT YET IN BATH



The Emerald Ash Borer is not in Bath YET...thankfully!

The BCFC has done considerable coverage of the various invasive insects that invade the City each year. Bath City Arborist, Kyle Rosenberg, recently verified that Bath does have Browntail moth, Winter moth, Hemlock Woolley

Adelgid, Fall Webworm and Hickory Tussock moth. While the Gypsy moth has invaded over the past two seasons, it is more of a problem in Woolwich, said Rosenberg. Photos, further descriptions of the pests, the species of trees they inhabit, their origin, symptoms, and potential damage to trees can be found on Maine's Forest Service website at [www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/invasive\\_threats/](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/).

Hemlock Woolley Adelgid is pictured at the left.



Newest member brings ecology and management experience to BCFC

“When I moved to Bath two years ago, I was interested in getting involved in town activities. With almost 40 years of professional experience managing nature preserves, the Bath Community Forestry Committee is a perfect match for my expertise and my passion and an opportunity to give back to the community. Forests have always held a special interest for me as a place of exploration and meditation,” said Nancy Sferra, the newest member of the BCFC.

Most recently, Ms. Sferra was the Director of Stewardship and Ecological Management for The Nature Conservancy in the Brunswick office. Many Bath residents will recognize her as a gifted musician.

Keep Bath Green and Growing with your generous contribution!!!

BCFC, 1 Oak Grove Ave., Bath, ME 04530

Support Bath’s trees! Your contribution will be used wisely and be greatly appreciated. Forward to the address above. Make checks payable to BCFC and allocate the check to the opposite accounts. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bath Community Forestry Committee Operations & Projects

\_\_\_ \$300 Oak \_\_\_ \$100 Elm \_\_\_ \$50 Maple \_\_\_ \$25 Pine \_\_\_ Other

Bath Community Forestry Trust

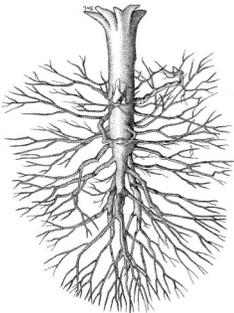
\_\_\_ \$300 Chestnut \_\_\_ \$100 Hickory \_\_\_ \$50 Hazelnut \_\_\_ \$25 Beech \_\_\_ Other

Druid Park \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like to be notified to volunteer on future projects or in the nursery.

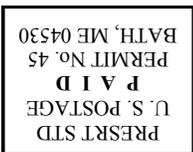
JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING! Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month from September to June at 6:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Bath Recreation Department, 4 Sheridan Road. See us on Facebook at bathcommunityforestrycommittee or on the web at www.bathforestry.com

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR PROJECTS!



- Aaron Park-Interim Chairman
Julie Ambrosino
Thomas Barrington
Bruce Brennan
James Hummer
Mike Jakubowski
Myra Keeble
Timothy Pratt
Nancy Sferra
Deborah Goodwin

2019 Committee Members



Bath Community Forestry Committee
1 Oak Grove Avenue
Bath, Maine 04530