

Spring 2015



Caring for your  
**Colorado Landscape**

*Brought to you by the experts at Swingle*



Some of life's best moments happen in your yard™



## Tom's Talk

By Tom Tolkacz, CEO

“ EAB will affect our community on a much larger scale than any pest we've ever seen. ”

The weather is warming, and soon our landscapes will be in full bloom. Count on Swingle to keep you updated and informed on what you need to know about how to care for your Colorado landscape in 2015.

One pest we must mention again this year is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB will affect our community on a much larger scale than any pest we've ever seen. Swingle will continue its diligence in fighting to save our trees - just as we have with many other pests we've dealt with over the years. If you have an unprotected ash tree, schedule a consultation today with one of our expert Landscape Care Consultants.

November of 2014 might seem like a distant memory, but come spring we could be reminded of how damaging the severe cold can be to our trees and shrubs. Unfortunately, we won't know the realities right away. As we service your property, we will observe, make notes, leave recommendations and adjust programs as needed, and when critical have a Landscape Care Consultant evaluate your property.

When looking at your landscape, it's important to diversify, just as you would with financial investments to minimize risk. Planting a variety of plants will help make sure your landscape is better prepared to weather events such as freezes, storms, and pests.

Our experts can help you select the right variety for your specific needs and outdoor space.

We look forward to making your life more enjoyable this year.

*Keeping the green side up!*



Thomas R. Tolkacz, CEO



✓ = Swingle Can Help!

## Early Spring Prep Checklist

Aerate	✓
Fertilize	✓
Lawn Weed Control	✓
Bed & Border Weed Control	✓
Tree & Shrub Pruning	✓
Indoor Pest Control	✓



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# What to Expect This Spring: Tree & Shrub Damage

Mild temperatures during the fall of 2014 came to an abrupt end in mid-November. The high temperature on November 10th was 64 degrees. The night of November 12th, the record low temperature was -13 degrees. This was a **77 degree change in temperature in three days**, the 3rd greatest temperature drop recorded in Denver since 1872.

When the freeze hit, many plants still had their foliage and some had not fully hardened for winter. Initially we thought our landscapes wouldn't be negatively affected until the spring of 2015, but after just a few weeks the damage became evident. The south sides of spruce and pines turned a bleached, straw color and junipers turned bronze. Many shrubs, fruit trees, and especially roses, are also showing signs of freeze damage, with brown, shriveling twigs.

As we service your property, we will observe, make notes, leave recommendations and adjust programs as needed, and when critical have a Landscape Care Consultant evaluate your property.

# 77°

This was the most severe temperature drop and sustained cold November weather event ever recorded at the Denver weather station.



**If your trees or shrubs look like these, contact us to schedule a free evaluation.**

**A Landscape Care Consultant can check the buds and tissue below the bark to evaluate if the plant will survive.**



## 2015 PESTS: What You Need to Know

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### Emerald Ash Borer

Discovered in Boulder in 2013, emerald ash borer continues to create concern for the surrounding communities along the Front Range. This past year, some important developments transpired:

- The City of Boulder is considered infested with emerald ash borer and is under quarantine
- Many trees over several city blocks are symptomatic of EAB infestation and dying
- Loveland plans to remove 50-100 ash trees this year to reduce the impact of EAB on the City



It's estimated that emerald ash borer has been feeding on ash trees in Boulder for approximately six years. Emerald ash borer is unquestionably the worst urban landscape pest to reach North America and is ready to wreak havoc on the Front Range. We believe within the next 18 months, the borer will be discovered outside of Boulder and immediate actions will be needed to save ash trees. We are taking a proactive approach to protecting our urban forests and recommend meeting with an arborist to discuss your options, which include treatment.



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### Pine Wilt Nematode

States just east of Colorado have lost thousands of Scotch and Austrian pines to pine wilt. A wood boring insect (pine sawyer) spreads a tiny worm-like animal called a nematode to healthy pine trees. The nematode multiplies and clogs up water conducting tissues. In the late summer and fall, infested trees die rapidly. In 2012's unusually hot summer, we experienced a definite increase in tree loss. The good news is that in both 2013 and 2014, moderate summer temperatures as well as above normal rainfall, dampened the nematode's destruction. The nematode is still active in our area and with a hot spring we could see many pine trees die in the fall.

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### Japanese Beetle

For those from the Eastern United States, you might be very familiar with this insect. Japanese beetles need consistent soil moisture to mature - especially in the winter. During the winter of 2013 and 2014, we had abundant moisture and saw an increase in Japanese beetle activity in the summer of 2014. Japanese beetles feed on plants such as roses, Virginia creeper (vine), linden trees and many other ornamentals. Adult Japanese beetles chew and defoliate plants in the middle of the summer. If this winter continues with consistent moisture, be on the lookout for Japanese beetles in early July.



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### What to Do

For more information on the best treatment options available for protecting your Colorado landscape, please call to schedule a free evaluation of your trees with a Swingle arborist- your local Landscape Care Consultant.



# Beebecause We Care™



As pollinators, bees are a critical part of our ecosystem and food supply, which is why at Swingle we believe it's important to take precautions to look out for our little honey-making friends while performing services for our customers.

Swingle has been recognized for leading the green industry in pollinator protection, as we proactively make changes to our application methods for treating your landscape and the products we use. We also look for opportunities to re-locate hives when possible and have successfully re-located numerous large colonies.

## Fertilization is Key to Healthy Trees



### Swingle Smart Tip:

A healthy tree will effectively absorb the nutrients from a fertilization and thrive, while an unhealthy tree should be evaluated by an expert before fertilizing. Are your trees and shrubs healthy, need fertilizer, need to be pruned, or need to be replaced? Swingle can help.

For more Smart Tips, visit [myswingle.com](http://myswingle.com) or [Facebook.com/myswingle](https://www.facebook.com/myswingle)

The needs of trees and shrubs change as they grow. Swingle's three-stage fertilization program promotes healthy growth throughout the life of your trees and shrubs.

**Stage One - First 4:** Recommended once a year for the first four years after planting, this fertilization treatment is specifically formulated to help increase root development in newly planted trees and shrubs.

**Stage Two - Root Builder:** Recommended once a year until the plant reaches the mature stage, this treatment is formulated for established trees and shrubs. Root Builder provides nutrients to alleviate nutrient-deficient soils, which are common in Colorado.

**Stage Three - Root Builder Mature:** This root building and enhancing fertilization is recommended once a year to help maintain the beauty and health of your trees and shrubs through their mature life.

Swingle's experts can evaluate your trees and shrubs to ensure they are healthy and beautiful for you to enjoy for years to come.

## Spring 2015

Early Spring Prep Checklist

What to Expect this Spring:  
Tree & Shrub Damage

2015 Pest Predictions:  
EAB, Pine Wilt, Japanese Beetle

Fertilizing Your Trees & Shrubs

And More!

# Get ready for spring!

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