

THE PURDUE LANDSCAPE REPORT

Enjoy Your Trees While Checking Them

By: Ben McCallister, bmccalli@purdue.edu

August was *National Check Your Tree Month*, but this is something that every tree owner/manager should be doing year-round. As the last hot days of summer are finishing up and we look forward to cooler fall days, we can look to our trees for different signs of trouble.



Most people tend to look up at the canopy before anything else in trees. Check leaves for dieback, discoloration, stickiness, or signs of chewing. Check branches and the main stem for damage like splits and breaks, peeling bark, tunneling patterns under the bark, oozing wet spots, or sawdust around the tree. These could be

signs of issues in the root system, pathogens like bacteria or fungal organisms, insect problems, or structural damage.

This is not an exhaustive list and if you notice these or anything else that seems off, it could be time for a deeper dive into what might be wrong. If you know the species of your tree the [Purdue Plant Doctor](#) is a great tool to narrow down a diagnosis. You can also contact your local [Extension office](#) or an [ISA Certified Arborist](#).

On a more positive side, you don't have to be on the lookout for damage, decline, or signs of pathogens and pests. It is also a matter of enjoying the trees in your landscape. Take some time out of your day to sit in the shade especially as we transition from hot summer temperatures into the cooling of autumn. Revel in the color changes as chlorophyll production slows revealing the carotenoids (that give us yellows, oranges, and browns) and anthocyanin (that produces reds and purples). In winter, not only can you better see damage in the canopy hidden by leaves in the growing seasons, but also the structure and architecture of the canopies in different tree species and the differences in bark textures. And in Spring, new growth of leaves and flowers shows us Winter is nearing its end, bringing warmer days.

So check your trees throughout the year. But not only for potential issues and risk management but also for enjoyment. Trees offer us no many benefits and sometimes it takes a little reminder. If you do see any signs of decline or damage, again, be sure to contact your local [Extension office](#) or an [ISA Certified Arborist](#).

It is the policy of the Purdue University that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats. 1-888-EXT-INFO Disclaimer: Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others which may have similar uses. Any person using products listed in this publication assumes full responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.

Purdue Landscape Report © Purdue University - www.purduelandscape.com