



CHESTERMERE

Elm Trees

When warm weather approaches, so does the early hatching of pests. Traditionally Chestermere Elm trees have been attacked every spring with Elm Scale and Woolly Elm Aphid. These pests suck the sap from the tree causing stunted growth and in extreme cases, the ultimate failure of the tree. A by-product of the pests is a honeydew they produce. The honeydew falls onto the bark and anything parked under the tree. When the honeydew stays on the bark it attracts a fungus and together they produce Black Sooty Mold. The mold eventually gets so thick on the bark of the tree it begins to hinder the trees breathing this again contributes to stunted growth and tree failure. This mold is why many of the Elms in our area look to have black bark. The natural colour should be a light grey to brown.

This season, the City of Chestermere will be injecting our elm trees with a systemic insecticide called TreeAzin. TreeAzin is produced from Neem Tree seeds. It is injected under the bark of the tree into the conductive tissues, and then is translocated within the tree. TreeAzin kills insects feeding on the tree's tissue. Once a tree is treated, TreeAzin provides effective coverage for up to two years. It can also be used to treat Birch Leaf Miner insects on birch trees.

You may also see City trucks spraying some of the worst affected trees. This will be done with high pressure water. This procedure is to wash off the sooty mold that has built up on the bark.

All applications are done by a Certified Pesticide Applicator according to the guidelines set out by the Government of Alberta. If you have any questions or concerns please call the City of Chestermere's Parks Department at (403) 207-2807.

