Walton: Borers in Dogwood

greater percentage of the trees infested with borers. Declining trees could simply be more attractive to borers than healthy trees. However, Potter and Timmons (4) reported that crown dieback did not significantly affect the chance of infestation. This suggests the second possibility that borers are an important factor in the causation of the severe decline symptoms and the ultimate death of many of the trees, especially in landscape plantings.

Borers clearly are not the only factor that causes the severe decline symptoms and ultimate death of many trees as shown by examination of dogwoods in wooded areas. A number of these dogwoods had greater than 35% of the crown affected yet 64% of the trees were free of borers. In conclusion, it appears that the recent decline of the flowering dogwood probably is not initiated by a dogwood borer infestation, but that, borers may be important in the progression of the decline.

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Abstract

KHATAMIAN, H. 1985. Staking and wrapping trees for winter. Grounds Maintenance 20(9):70-71.

Staking young trees is particularly important when planting bare-root or container-grown trees that have weak trunks. Protective staking also is necessary when there is danger of damage from lawn equipment or vandals. When planting large trees, a support or anchoring system is required to minimize shifting of the newly transplanted root ball. Thin- and smooth-barked young trees like maple, mountain ash, honeylocust, and London plane are susceptible to damage from sudden exposure to sun. To protect the trunk from sun damage, winter desiccation, equipment, or animals, wrap the tree up to the first limb. Use paper tree wrap, burlap strips, vinyl tree guard, or a similar material. Start wrapping from the bottom of the trunk, overlapping on each turn to give a shingle effect that will help keep the trunk dry. Secure the wrap with twine or heavy string, wrapping in the opposite direction of the tree wrap.