

# Drought leaves trees, bushes more vulnerable to diseases

Damaging and sometimes deadly cankers are beginning to show up in high-value trees and shrubs. The basic reason: drought's stranglehold on central U.S. landscapes.

"Our trees and shrubs have been experiencing long-term stress. Last year was dry. Winter was dry. Spring was dry, too. Things are pretty crispy out there now, even in areas that got several decent rainfalls," said Megan Kennelly, K-State Research and Extension plant pathologist.

Most plant diseases thrive in wet conditions, Kennelly added. For the pathogens that cause cankers, however, drought-weakened woody plants can be prime places to attack.

Cankers are localized dead areas in bark, she said. They result after a canker pathogen gains access to inner bark through some kind of wound – much as an infection gets into a human scrape or cut. Once in, the pathogen colonizes. It can work on twigs, stems, branches and trunks.

"Many types of injuries and environmental stresses can foster colonization," Kennelly said. "Drought-stressed ornamentals, for example, can have root die-back, as well as brittle branch cracks."

On thin-barked plants, cankers often look like sharply defined and slightly sunken (depressed) areas that are off-color – a dark shade of

red, brown or black.

"On thick or rough-barked trees, cankers can be harder to detect. To get a look at them, you may have to shave off suspicious-looking outer bark with a knife – being careful not to injure the plant's inner tissues," she said.

While diseased bark is dying, it also can look water-soaked, be resinous or exude a foul-smelling sap.

Later on, canker pathogens may form spore-producing structures on top of dead bark. Their appearance can range from black pepper-like spots to small, red coral-like clusters.

"Healthy woody plants will produce a relatively light-colored ring of callus tissue that's designed to contain the canker – prevent it from spreading. The tissue is a built-in, natural control," Kennelly said. "But, some canker pathogens are more aggressive than others. And, stress interferes with plants' ability to fight back."

Certain types of tree, for example, can end up with a target-shaped canker that's perennial. It slowly enlarges as the disease pathogen persists, colonizing each year's new ring of callus tissue.

In contrast, sometimes a pathogen's speed is aggressive. Trees can be disfigured or killed in a single year if a pathogen colonizes so rapidly that cankers totally girdle a branch or the plant's trunk.

Fortunately, unless other factors

are playing a part, most tree trunks recover – even from a fairly good-sized canker wound, she said. In general, trees' odds for survival become unlikely only when a canker infection is still active and has already damaged more than a third of the trunk's circumference.

"You can remove a branch that's exhibiting active, serious disease if you can prune at least 2 to 3 inches below the canker margin and down at the base of the branch, to avoid leaving a stub," Kennelly said. "Branch pruning won't necessarily eliminate future canker development, but it can help."

Disposing of diseased limbs limits the number of pathogens available to infect healthy tissues, she said.

"In the end, though, the best way to manage cankers is by preventing them in the first place," Kennelly said. "That can include avoiding mower and trimmer injury. This year, it includes providing adequate irrigation."

Advice about what's "adequate" is available at any county or district extension office, she said. Facts about watering mature trees and shrubs also are online at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2801.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2801.pdf). Advice about watering newly-planted ornamentals is at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2800.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2800.pdf).

## Property Transfers

### Real Estate recorded July 13 to Aug. 13

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Thomas County register of deeds:

- July 31, Ronald D. and Krista A. Alexander to Jean M. Johnson; Lot 6, Block 2, Colby Pine Hill Addition.

- July 31, Norman L. and Betty J. Behring to Ronald D. and Krista A. Alexander; west 82.5' of south 18' of Lot 13 and west 82.5' of Lots 14-15, Block 76, Colby West Addition.

- Aug. 1, Hodges Family Trust to Robert and Connie Renner Trust; NW/4 of Sec. 16, T9, R32.

- Aug. 1, Derald D. Nye Trust to Robert and Connie Renner Trust; NW/4 of Sec. 16, T9, R32.

- Aug. 1, Larry L. Chambers to Thomas H. and Brenda L. Thompson; Lot 7, Block 2, Colby Westwood Subdivision.

- Aug. 1, Larry L. Chambers to Thomas H. and Brenda L. Thompson; south 40' of Lots 1-4, Block 10, Colby Gilmore and Larson Subdivision.

- Aug. 1, Larry L. Chambers to Thomas H. and Brenda L. Thompson; north 2/5 of Lots 17-20, Block 10, Colby Gilmore and Larson Subdivision.

- Aug. 1, Larry L. Chambers to Thomas H. and Brenda L. Thompson; Lot 1, Block 4, Colby Swart-

wood First Addition.

- Aug. 2, Michael S. and Sharon L. Shirley to Paul and Danita M. Fisher; tract of SE/4 of Sec. 7, T8, R33.

- Aug. 3, Norman L. and Betty J. Behring to Mary Pat McLaughlin; Lots 42-45 less tract, Block 127, Colby North Addition.

- Aug. 3, Martin Lee and Cecilia Anne Rinehart to John Henry Rinehart; E/2 of Lot 7 and W/2 of Lot 8, Block 4, Colby Swartwood First Addition.

- Aug. 3, quit claim deed, Marguerite L. Black to Keith and Marceil Gilbert; Lots 4-7, Block 6, Havice Addition Rexford.

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- Aug. 6, Rose Mae Schulte to Kevin W. and Susan K. Wark; SW/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31.

- Aug. 6, Mitchell A. and Carolyn E. Griffin to Trevor Karol and Jamie Lee Willemssen; Lots 3-4 and north 7' of Lot 5, Block 39, Colby South Park Annex.

- Aug. 7, Robert M. andorgetta K. Schoenfeld to Jayson R. and Jennifer R. Schoenfeld; tract of N/2 of Sec. 12, T10, R33.

- Aug. 7, Jayson R. and Jennifer R. Schoenfeld to Jayson R. and Jennifer R. Schoenfeld; N/2 of Sec. 12, T10, R33.

- Aug. 7, Earle D. and Betty S. Rice to Dwight M. and Rebecca A. Williams; Lot 6, Block 5, Colby Eastern Heights Addition.

- Aug. 8, Kenneth C. and Courtney Ann McCarty to Kenneth C. and Courtney Ann McCarty; Lots 13-15, Block 15, Colby Gilmore and Larson Subdivision.

- Aug. 10, E.L. McCormick Trust A to Brenda Keith; SE/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31; NW/4 and SE/4 of Sec. 24, T7, R31.

- Aug. 10, E.L. McCormick Trust B to Beth Welsh; SE/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31; NW/4 and SE/4 of Sec. 24, T7, R31.

- Aug. 10, E.L. McCormick Trust No. 1 to Brenda Keith; Sec. 24, T7, R31; SE/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31.

- Aug. 10, McCormick Family Trust No. 2 to Beth Welsh; Sec. 24, T7, R31; SE/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31.

- Aug. 10, McCormick Family Trust No. 3 to Karen O'Neal; Sec. 24, T7, R31; SE/4 of Sec. 13, T7, R31.

- Aug. 10, McKee Inc. to Parker and Whitney McKee; Lots 2-3, Block 30, Colby South View Addition.

## Study finds surgery might prevent diabetes

By Marilyn Marchione

AP Chief Medical Writer

Doctors are reporting a new benefit from weight-loss surgery – preventing diabetes. Far fewer obese people developed that disease if they had stomach-shrinking operations rather than usual care to try to slim down, a large study in Sweden found.

The results, published in last Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*, are provoking fresh debate about when adjustable bands and other bariatric procedures should be offered.

It is "provocative and exciting" that surgery can prevent diabetes, but it is "impractical and unjustified" to think of doing it on millions of obese adults, Dr. Danny Jacobs, a Duke University surgeon, wrote in a commentary in the medical journal.

Dr. Mitchell Roslin, bariatric surgery chief at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, disagreed.

"If surgery is the only treatment we have, we have to accept the cost ramifications of that" and give up "the naive notion" that we can just teach severely obese people how to lose weight, said Roslin, who consults for some makers of bariatric surgery equipment.

Millions of Americans have Type 2 diabetes brought on by obesity. Earlier this year, two studies showed that obesity surgery can reverse diabetes and keep it away for many years, possibly for good.

The new study went a step further, to see if it could prevent diabetes in the first place among people who are obese.

Researchers led by Dr. Lars Sjöström of Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden, tracked 1,658 patients who had bariatric surgery – mostly bands and stomach stapling – and 1,771 similar patients who just got usual care and counseling on how to lose weight.

None had diabetes when the study began. After about 10 years on average among those still in the study, 392 developed diabetes in the usual care group versus 110 in the surgery group. Researchers calculated that surgery had reduced the odds of getting diabetes by 78 percent.

That is "absolutely remarkable," said Dr. Philip Schauer, a Cleveland Clinic surgeon who also has consulted for some surgery equipment makers and thinks surgery should be used more often for obesity.

Weight-loss surgery costs \$15,000 to \$25,000, and Medicare often covers it for diabetics. Proponents note that complications of diabetes and obesity are expensive, too, especially if dialysis or a kidney transplant is needed.

The government recently lowered the weight limits for gastric band surgery for those with diabetes or heart disease.

## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE Monday

3:37 a.m. – Provided assistance for subject with a flat tire on S. Range to address on W. Walnut.

9:16 a.m. – Caller reported theft of apples from trees in backyard.

10:05 a.m. – Caller reported neighbor threw a chair at her dog. Spoke to subjects.

11:35 a.m. – Caller reported her daughter missing. Report filed; was located at 2:14 p.m. All OK.

12:50 p.m. – Cell phone stolen last Saturday night.

2:52 p.m. – Caller reported subject left small child in car seat in vehicle and went inside Walmart. Spoke to subject on traffic stop.

9:01 p.m. – Caller reported vehicle leaving residence at high

speed. Contacted all parties.

### Tuesday

9 a.m. – Subject brought cell phone to station found at Franklin and Third. Owner came and picked it up.

11:46 a.m. – Caller reported vehicle parked in alley. Vehicle posted.

12:06 p.m. – Identity theft: subject advised of someone trying to open credit card in her name. Report filed.

12:11 p.m. – Caller reported parked trailer. Located owner.

8:40 p.m. – Report filed for theft of bicycle.

### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Monday

10:02 a.m. – Rawlins County

Sheriff's Office received report of cattle out in the 2300 block of K-25. All OK; were inside hot fence.

10:51 a.m. – Oakley Police reported cow out at High Plains Campground. Unable to locate.

10:51 a.m. – Caller reported her dog attacked by another dog. Spoke to all subjects.

10:48 p.m. – Report filed on traffic complaint in Rexford.

### Tuesday

9:42 a.m. – Report filed about bull at large on Aug. 13.

7:23 p.m. – Booked Steven Cox.

8:35 p.m. – Accident with deer on U.S. 24.

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