

Around the Homestead Podcast
Tree Care and Maintenance – Part 3
Transcript

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Welcome to around the Homestead podcast, where we share information on topics from gardens to goats,

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our aim is to provide small farmers and landowners valuable education on projects that may arise around the homestead.

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Whether you have been on the homestead all your life or you had just began the farm lifestyle,

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we hope you garner helpful tips to make your lifestyle most rewarding.

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Now here are our host Brad McGinley and Shaun Rhoades. Hello and welcome to the Around on the Homestead podcast.

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We appreciate you being with us today. This is the final episode in our tree care and maintenance series.

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we'll be chatting with Mr Carol Guffey again today.

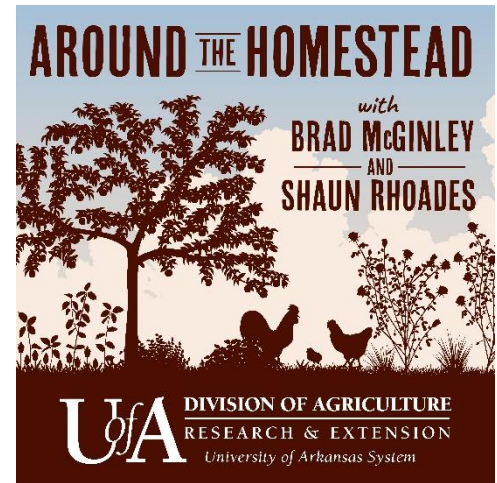
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00:00:58,130 --> 00:01:02,570

He's retired Extension Forester and current Grant County Master Gardener.

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And Carol, you know, we've talked,

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00:01:04,730 --> 00:01:11,870



we've kind of covered a tree planting tree pruning and then kind of the next thing on my list for some common tree issues.

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You know, we've made a lot of a lot of tree visits together over the years.

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And your joke is you never have good news wherever we go.

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I feel that way too on tree calls I just like

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You're probably not going to like what I've got to say. Well, and you know, it's always it's always, well, that tree does that overnight.

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You're looking at it. And yeah, there's a lot of things that happened that didn't happen over that.

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But you know, there are there are some some of the common tree issues that I see are environmental stresses.

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And we kind of hinted about this a little bit. But some of that takes place when the wooden house or barn or shed was constructed.

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You know, if we come in and get a lot of dirt work or change the slope of the property to move water that you know was going in the front yard,

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move it to the side of the yard or something that that can can.

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Impact our trees, driving vehicles, you know, parking your truck underneath a tree, you might not think that's such a big deal,

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but it really is that the soil compaction that occurs if you if you can park that saw the, you know, the tree has water and air.

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And nutrients that they pull out of that, and if you compacted down. To where its a driveway or haul a bunch of gravel in and compact that down,

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then you're going to be impacting the tree, and again, that's very difficult to overcome.

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Once, you know, once you do that soil compaction, it's very hard to undo it.

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You know, it's going to be it's going to be something that the tree has to deal with.

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In many cases, they don't deal with it, you know, they just die. So that's that's some of the some of the things.

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There's also, you know, we have a few common diseases on hardwood.

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We have we have hypoxylon canker. I see that more than anything.

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And usually that comes in because of some type of stress, either the past few years we've had really,

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really up until this year, we had really wet conditions. And then this past year we had a flash drought and those trees, they've been sitting there,

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you know, big, fat and happy because they've gotten all the moisture in the ground. They've had a lot of rain.

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They hadn't had to work for it. And then all of a sudden we had this drought and the trees weren't really prepared for that.

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They hadn't put on a lot of new roots and and things like that because they hadn't had to struggle for water like they normally do.

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And then we had this drought and that stresses a tree, and then we have the like, said the hypoxylon canker.

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Usually we start seeing that after, during and after a drought for a year or two after drought, we'll see that it kills.

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It kills our hardwoods. We don't have just, just a whole lot of diseases that you know, that kill a lot of trees.

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But I think that one a lot and that's on of those.

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You look at the tree and you have when it first occurs, the.

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00:04:19,850 --> 00:04:22,250

Well, usually what happens when you first notice it,

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the tree just turns brown over night all the leaves turn brown and it's a natural disease, but we can't do anything about it.

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Once it becomes established, the trees are going to die.

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And if you'll notice when it starts fruiting, it looked like cocoa powder on the side of the tree you tap in and those spores odors.

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You know, it's just like cocoa or the tree. It'll they'll just fly out into the into the air.

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But again, it's really not. The disease finally kills the tree, but the tree.

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We're already stressed to begin with for the disease to become established.

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We do have a few insects that some of our pine trees, we have bark beetles that affect pine trees and,

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you know, in your yard or even in the forest, we see that.

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We see some. Some of our boring insects in the hardwoods and especially fruit trees, fruit trees.

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Have a tough way to go in Arkansas.

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You know, if if you're not planning to do a lot of spraying and a lot of treating, and again, I'm I'm not pro or against that, but.

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We don't have we don't have a lot of organic ways to treat some of these insects because these insects are new.

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I mean, they did, they didn't, you know, they didn't occur here, they brought in from Asia or some other place and that that causes problems.

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So if if you just want to plant a fruit tree and leave it, don't waste your time because you're not going to get fruit production.

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It may bloom, but it's not going to produce fruit. Something is going to affect it before it produces enough fruit.

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So again, that kind of a soapbox, I guess.

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But if fruit trees are a lot of work, and if you're not, if you're not into spraying on multiple spray cycles during a year,

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you're you're not going to be very successful with a lot of especially the stone fruit,

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you know, the the plums and the peaches and to a lesser extent, apples and pears.

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You know, they have that now some of our small fruit, blueberries, blackberries, they have less of a problem with with these type of insects.

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And we do have got them a new insect, the emerald ash borer that came in again from Asia.

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So. It got to the point where we don't recommend planting ash trees in landscape anymore because they're not going to survive,

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this insect is going to eventually kill all the ash trees in Arkansas.

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And in North America, general, and I guess one of the final things.

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Is I've showed Brad or told Brad, you know, that, well, let's that weedeater blight or lawnmower blight.

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It's not actually a disease, but we have when we're doing our yard care, you know,

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we bumped the tree with the lawn mower or our son gets out there with weed eater and gets right up

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00:07:23,870 --> 00:07:29,600

next to the bark of that tree whips it with the weed eater line that has an effect on trees,

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00:07:29,600 --> 00:07:37,370

especially younger trees, and it will eventually kill them or get him to the point where they're weakened and they'll fall over from,

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00:07:37,370 --> 00:07:44,530

you know, a windstorm or something. Excuse me.

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00:07:44,530 --> 00:07:55,250

So again, avoid avoid any contact with the trees, with our lawn mowers and weed eaters and your trees will do much better.

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Yeah, that's that's a lot of times when we go out and make homeowner calls,

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it's that we need a disease that has gotten a lot of these newly planted trees.

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And you know, is there anything we can put around the trunk of a tree,

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newly planted tree that you would recommend to kind of help protect those trees?

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Carol, as you know, if you want to weed up next to one, there's something we can do to help avoid that.

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There are there are some commercial things there called tree shelters and there's several different designs, but usually it's a plastic.

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It's either a. It comes either as as a plastic tube,

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more or less that you slip over the tree or some of them are plastic sheets that you wrap around a tree and then tie them together.

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00:08:42,760 --> 00:08:50,080
And did that kind of protect then you usually put a stake down to hold that to keep it away from the tree,

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00:08:50,080 --> 00:08:54,280
but you hold it in place and those will protect the tree.

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00:08:54,280 --> 00:09:00,580
And in some cases, especially if you're planning a tree out in a, you know,

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00:09:00,580 --> 00:09:08,380
in an environment where maybe it's a field or something like that where you're not going to be able to come in and keep the grass away from it,

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that might be a good, a good choice. And some of the research shows that trees actually thrive better.

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It creates kind of a macro environment inside that plastic.

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00:09:19,280 --> 00:09:28,220

Tube or sheet that, you know, they get more moisture, they get more sunlight, they get, you know, and and they will actually grow faster.

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You know, they're they're a little expensive are not really terribly expensive,

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00:09:31,760 --> 00:09:40,450

but it is a good thing and especially if you're going to be if you're going to be weed-eating around them stuff.

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That's a line of defense that kind of helps helps the tree again.

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Anything we can do to keep the weed eater the lawn mower away from the trunk of the tree is a good thing.

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So those tree shelters, you know, again, I really think they're worth the money.

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And especially if you were going to, maybe it wasn't just right in your yard,

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but it was more of a of a farm type setting where where you have some grass and stuff in a pasture or something like that.

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The grass on newly planted trees grass is a very heavy competitor because, you know, the roots are pretty low.

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We just planting them so they're they're sucking all the moisture out and you're sucking all the nutrients out of the ground.

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So. And again, that's another reason we don't like to fertilize new trees because that usually promotes more grass growing.

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And again, that's that's a competitor.

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00:10:31,390 --> 00:10:42,100

So but the the more of the grass that you can keep down, the better, whatever way, whether using mulch or or weed barrier or in some cases,

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00:10:42,100 --> 00:10:56,360

you know, herbicide if if you can keep it off the trees, keeping the grass down, especially for the first year, will definitely help the tree.

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00:10:56,360 --> 00:11:06,140

Yeah, the those tree shelters. Is that something you have to replace as the tree grows or they come in standard sizes or?

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That's kind of that's kind of the early growth.

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You know, you put it on right after you plant the tree and then in a few years, that shelter is going to break down.

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You know, the satellite's going to break it down. And then after that, you're probably down to the tree shelter.

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00:11:20,690 --> 00:11:23,210

You may have to come up with some other, you know,

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00:11:23,210 --> 00:11:28,220

you might put some other type of plastic ring or something around the tree to keep the weed eater away.

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00:11:28,220 --> 00:11:34,940

But after the first couple of years at Tree Shelter's kind of done all its.

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00:11:34,940 --> 00:11:39,380

They to do is help the tree grow, so, you know,

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00:11:39,380 --> 00:11:48,830

if you're going to try to protect it for its lifetime and then you may have to come up with some other type of mechanism again to kind of keep it,

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00:11:48,830 --> 00:11:53,810

keep the weed eaters and stuff away.

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00:11:53,810 --> 00:12:02,240

Yeah, that's a good point, because I know, but we planted some fruit trees in our side yard, some apple trees a couple of years ago,

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00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:07,760

and I always get nervous when it's time to go over there and I usually turn the weed-eater off and bend over

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00:12:07,760 --> 00:12:14,300

and try to pull the handful of the weeds away from the edge of the tree because it's just too nervous.

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00:12:14,300 --> 00:12:18,380

Exactly. Thing to try to get up close to that, that tree.

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00:12:18,380 --> 00:12:22,430

With that weed-eater you know so well.

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00:12:22,430 --> 00:12:30,270

Appreciate you joining us today, Carol. We've covered a lot of ground even covered part of a fruit podcast where for the next time around.

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00:12:30,270 --> 00:12:38,570

So well, that's good. But anyways, appreciate you joining us today on Around the Homestead podcast.

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00:12:38,570 --> 00:12:47,690

Again, we have a lot of great resources on our website, which is www.uaex.uada.edu

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There's a lot of great tree resources on there.

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00:12:50,150 --> 00:12:56,750

If you're thinking about planting a tree, I would encourage you to contact your local county extension agent Shaun or I.

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00:12:56,750 --> 00:13:03,560

We can make a great recommendation or help you make a recommendation on what kind of tree you need for the certain situation,

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00:13:03,560 --> 00:13:08,180

and that will certainly help you be more successful until next time.

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00:13:08,180 --> 00:13:17,030

We'll see you around the homestead. We hope you enjoyed this episode of Around the Homestead podcast to learn more about today's topic.

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00:13:17,030 --> 00:13:23,180

Be sure to visit our website at uaex.uada.edu

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00:13:23,180 --> 00:14:44,496

Be sure to join us next time on around the Homestead podcast.