



VITACARE CLIENT

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**THE "VITACARE" COMPANY
 MORGAN TREE SERVICE, INC.**



Repeating the Basics



As time goes on and one season flows into another some things seem to beg for repetition and reiteration. In my business the same is true. So I find myself feeling a need to repeat the basics things. And maybe I shouldn't be bothered about that at all because it's adherence to those basics that keep us on the straight and narrow, day in, day out, year in, year out.

So right here on this last page of this letter I have once more offered a

reminder about timely treatments for oak gall. When April comes around next year

and we look up to see all that gall in the trees, that action will suddenly be "too late."

And here's another one: **Soil reports.** It is particularly difficult, if not impossible, to accurately administer fertilizer in correct dosages and formu-

That is the primary function of soil sampling and updated soil reports. If your soil report is older than two or three years, it may be time to get another one. These diagnostic tools are not expensive and can be worth their weight in gold for the value they deliver in targeted plant care.

An effective soil report will include not only pH values but also organic content percentages for the soil and levels of Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium and Magnesium. pH levels can significantly influence the ability of certain minerals to remain soluble and available for plant use. Organic content in urban and suburban soil that is below 3% is a good indicator of oxygen

deprived soils, which in turn diminishes the presence of mycorrhizal spores associated with plant root hairs.



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Test	Results	SOIL TEST RATINGS					Calculated Cation Exchange Capacity
		Very Low	Low	Medium	Optimum	Very High	
Soil pH	4.9						7.1
Buffer pH	7.69						meq/100g
Phosphorus (P)	44 LB/ACRE		P				Calculated Cation Saturation
Potassium (K)	184 LB/ACRE		K				%K 3.3
Calcium (Ca)	1238 LB/ACRE						%Ca 43.6
Magnesium (Mg)	300 LB/ACRE						%Mg 17.6
Sulfur (S)							%H 34.9
Boron (B)							K: Mg Ratio
Copper (Cu)							0.19
Iron (Fe)							
Manganese (Mn)							
Zinc (Zn)							
Sodium (Na)							
Soluble Salts							
Organic Matter	1.3 % ENR 70						
Nitrate Nitrogen							

Handwritten notes on the table:
 - Next to Phosphorus (P): SLIGHTLY LOW
 - Next to Potassium (K): TOO LOW
 - Next to Organic Matter: TOO LOW. NEEDS TO BE 3.0% OR HIGHER TO SUSTAIN MYCORRHIZAE
 - Next to Soil pH: NEEDS TO BE 5.6-7

lations without some knowledge of the constitution of and deficiencies in the soil.

Another Gall Prevention Reminder

I have included a brief description of the benefits of Merit soil drenches for oak gall control in a number of previous newsletters. And now I am doing it again because administration of the material into the soil in the upcoming months of December and January allow uptake time so that it is there, locked and loaded when it is needed. Imidacloprid (Merit) has a good record of arresting a high percentage of new gall production and that is the key to cleaning up your gall-laden oak.



The other very nice feature of this product is its broad spectrum effect for many tree predators and its season-long presence in the tissue.

Call us to get your oak on the list for this winter season.



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