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THE "VITACARE" COMPANY
MORGAN TREE SERVICE

Did You Know . . .

. . . that trees have the ability to compartmentalize the decay process and can in some cases thereby contain and outgrow a wound, which though continuing to be a flaw, may not ever jeopardize the safe continuance of the tree on the site. This unique ability varies in its effectiveness according to *which* defensive "wall" the decay pathogen is attempting to breach. Alex Shigo, in his research, has formulated these processes into a **CODIT model**. The weakest barrier wall is vertical (up and down). The second restricts decay in a horizontal plane across annual growth rings. Wall #3, formed by ray cells in the tree, retards decay in a radial pattern (inward, toward the center) and is the strongest pre-existing wall at the time of wounding. The fourth and most effective wall is formed by the cambium (the living peripheral vascular tissue) in the growing season following the wounding. This wall usually stops the progress of decay pathogen from moving into new (post-wound) growing tissue.

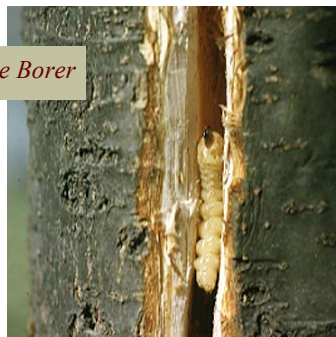
. . . that while the pH of the clay soil in our area tends to continually slide toward the acidic side (below 7.0), excessive liming intended to counteract this for good grass growth can in fact elevate the pH to a point that begins to retard the mineral benefits to lower-pH-loving trees. It is a good idea to get an occasional soil test to insure that soil pH in tree areas is in an acceptable range.



Another Reminder About Borer Prevention

By the time I get to this last page panel when I'm writing the content of this quarterly newsletter, I have more than once run into a small but recurring dilemma. The space available is by then down to the *short rows*. My job then is to select for it just the right topic that does not need extensive commentary (space), yet is worthwhile useful information. So this time I want to mention a service that harks back to the lead article in my

Apple Borer



Spring '06 newsletter a year ago: **Tree Borers and What To Do About Them.**

There is no surefire cure or preventative guarantee against the advent of boring insects (usually the larval stage of several flies or moths) in weak and/or species-susceptible trees. However, regular topical applications with a borer control insecticide like chlorpyrifos can provide significant help as a preventative. We have been doing

this for so long now as a standard part of our client care program that it has in some ways become almost invisible . . . or maybe better to say, unconsciously and unintentionally downgraded by familiarity to an expendable service that is too often taken for granted and dropped.

So whether our folks are doing it for you or you are doing it yourself, let this be a reminder that you are not wasting your time with quarterly (at least) topical applications to oak, dogwood, and maple collars and lower trunks.

