



Ohio buckeye, Credit: Daniel Buelow

Springtime Tree Replacement

By Daniel Buelow, Shelly's Garden Country

April is a great time to assess your landscape to determine if any trees need replacement.

Look for branches and leaf buds that are abnormally dark in color or dry and brittle to the touch which may signal dieback. If unsure, you can remove a bud or scrape a small spot of bark back to check for life. Dieback does not necessarily require full tree replacement; if in doubt, let the tree leaf out.

Circular or D-shaped holes in the bark suggest borer insect damage, particularly in ash trees. A very destructive pest called Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) entered Colorado in 2013 and leaves D-shaped holes in affected ash bark. Any borer insect infestation will require pesticide treatments or tree replacement with something less susceptible to the insect. It is not recommended to plant new ash trees because all native ash tree species are susceptible to EAB.

Deep vertical cracking and separation of the bark from the tree on the south and west sides may be sunscald. Usually found on the lower main trunk, this damage occurs from drastic or repetitive temperature changes between freezing (contraction) and thawing (expansion) of the tree. Protect any affected trees with a tree wrap from Nov. 1st to Mother's Day, or until we have passed freezing nighttime temperatures. Young trees have thinner bark and should be wrapped preventatively. If sunscald wraps all the way around the tree, replacement may be required.

If tree replacement is needed, here are a few beautiful shade and ornamental trees that are underused in Colorado urban landscapes:

Bigtooth maple – *Acer grandidentatum*

Ohio buckeye – *Aesculus glabra*

Kentucky coffeetree – *Gymnocladus dioica*

Chinkapin oak – *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Shumard oak – *Quercus shumardii*

American yellowwood – *Cladrastis kentukea*

Turkish filbert – *Corylus colurna*

Hot Wings Tatarian maple – *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn'