# Spring fever

Our crews have enjoyed returning to work the past few weeks as the lack of snow has allowed us to get back into yards. (Knock on wood as while I write this a winter storm watch is in effect for tonight!) Either way it is evident that we are drawing closer to the wake up of vegetation life here in north Idaho. I have seen buds on both Maples and Aspens already opening last week! That is a little early if we do get hit with some winter weather, especially cold temps. I have looked back at prior years and we have experienced this before. Just a few years ago, a large amount of Maples experienced frost damage to their trunks. This happens when warm temperatures wake a tree up and translocation of water begins but a cold snap follows. This is in essence water freezing in the pipes. The damage is splitting bark, especially to the trunk area. Most of those trees still show the traumatic scars but survived. That following autumn these same Maples expressed this stress by turning fall colors early. The trees whose buds have opened early may be impacted from producing less fruit, flowers and even some tip dieback or leaf drop. We could also see an increase in insects and disease this spring/summer as stressed trees battle to combat their weakened condition. It may become important to fertilize and mulch these stressed trees this spring. Other trees however seem to be simply adapting to the weather changes just fine. In the weeks ahead we will be reporting on what we see happening locally regarding tree response to these rollercoaster weather patterns. We will also discuss evaluating your trees for damage from the ice storm we received right before the New Year.

As always, for further questions, quotes or consultations, give us a call today! For more information on Grace Tree Service check out our website at gracetreeservice.com!