# A Chemical Romance

The last few weeks we have addressed Plant Health Care as a holistic approach to keeping trees healthy thus less susceptible to insects and diseases. We acknowledged that there are times however when an insect population or disease reaches a certain threshold despite our best efforts and a spray or systemic treatment may be needed. More and more homeowners however are becoming sensitive and cautious to what is being used in their yard and I think that is a good thing. If there is a spray or treatment need, most people call a spray service and let the professionals handle the problem. They prefer not to comprehend, use and store chemicals, myself included. Further, there is the height factor that dissuades most homeowners from attempting to spray their trees. Some applicators spray everything from house hold pest like wasps, ants and spiders, as well as lawns and trees. Others specialize in only one of those areas of service. The arena where I have seen the most damage done to trees is in lawn treatments. While mistakes can be made, most professional applicators and spray services are competent and careful. The problem I see is done by the “do it yourself” homeowner. I think this originates from the thought that it’s just grass and how hard can it be? Dump a little of this, sprinkle a bit of that and presto! While it’s true, it is not rocket science I believe the problem is twofold. One, many lawn products are harmful to trees and two, trees roots are often just below the very grass that is being treated. I cannot fully address this topic with my limited space this week. Next week I will talk about the most common sprays, treatments and products that I see negatively affecting trees. I will also address what people can do to avoid it from happening on their property.

For further questions, quotes or consultations, give us a call today and thank you in advance for your patience with our backlog!