

*BRANCHING OUT - An integrated pest management newsletter
for trees and shrubs*

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Branching Out - An Integrated Pest Management Newsletter for Trees and Shrubs is published every two weeks from mid-April through mid-July. From July through September, we publish every three weeks for a total of 11 issues per season. In 1998, about 600 people in the Northeast subscribed to *Branching Out*. Their \$35.00 subscription fees, together with grants from the New York State Arborists Assoc, the Long Island Arborists, Hendrickson - The Care of Trees and the NYS-IPM program allow us to pay our bills and keep the program going.

Each issue contains a scouting report - comprised of results of our own scouting in sites from Farmingdale, Long Island to Rochester together with reports from county Cooperative Extension agents, Cornell's Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, and knowledgeable tree care professionals throughout the state. We also report growing degree days and phenological observations and pick one pest or group of pests for the subject of an in-depth feature article. And, we publish regional reports prepared by Cornell Cooperative Extension Educators and members of the IPM program staff. Occasionally, an item that we think is especially important for our readers to know about comes to our attention, and we publish that under the "Miscellany" category.

In 1998, *Branching Out* subscribers were especially well-prepared to deal with pest problems that came to their attention. It was a banner year for leaf diseases because of the very wet weather from mid-May and mid-June, when many pathogens were beginning their infection cycles for the year. For instance, in the scouting reports - we provided continual coverage of developing epidemics of tar spot of Norway maple and sycamore anthracnose. The former was especially bad in several central NY communities with many trees turning brown and dropping leaves by mid-July. Concern for the health of trees on city streets and in residential landscapes was voiced by many people via phone calls, letters, and e-mail to us and to county offices, and articles in *Branching Out* helped to keep things in perspective.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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