



**CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER**

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[WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM](http://WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM)



## **Banner photo: Larry Gilds Photography**

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Weekly Sales:

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### **30% Off:**

All Trees, Shrubs, Perennials and Annuals  
Fall Bulbs

All gift items: Pottery, Chimes, yard art,  
you name it!

### **50% Off:**

Asiatic and Oriental Lily  
Hardy Hibiscus and Butterfly Bush  
Japanese Maple  
Roses and Weigela

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## **Lazy Gardener**



*Note the scarring over on the cut of this tree branch.*

We have discussed this topic previously, but going into deer rub season we wanted to give you a reminder. Frost crack, deer rub, rabbit damage, and storm damage all of these situations can leave your trees inner layers exposed. Should you paint the wound? Should you wrap it with plastic wrap? What would you say if I suggested you leave it exposed?

Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D., Extension Horticulturist and Associate Professor, Washington State University said it best, "For some inexplicable reason, people are compelled to "manage" a process that plants have evolved over millions of years." A tree will naturally begin to heal itself, with or without our help. So for once, we get to be a "lazy" gardener. I suggest you just sit back and let your tree callous over naturally. The callous will never turn into bark to completely heal itself, but rather acts as a scar to protect the cambium layer.

An exposed wound does create a place where insects can easily access the cambium layers of the tree. You should check your tree for insect activity every couple of weeks. If you start to see damage, spray the wound with an insecticide.

In certain situations, we may suggest a permeable cardboard wrap. Thin barked trees such as Crabapples, Honeylocust, and soft maples may need protection in the winter from further sunscald or frost cracking damage. Start at the bottom of your tree and work your way to the top of the wound. The tree should be wrapped end of November through April. You can unwrap it earlier if temperatures are relatively even.

Other reason to keep away from dressing wounds (paint):

- seal in moisture and decay
- can serve as a food source for pathogens
- prevent wound wood from forming
- eventually crack, exposing the tree to pathogens

Unfortunately, you cannot settle to far into the arm chair. If you saw symptoms of disease or insects on any tree, shrub, or perennial this year you will need to be sure to clean up the fallen debris yet this season. The spores of many fungus overwinter in the fallen debris. The best way to prevent infestation next spring is to do work this fall.



*Ash Anthracnose, this fungus doesn't kill the tree but the debris should be cleaned up each fall.*



*Powdery Mildew on Ninebark*

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## Fluttering Friends

### **A few of our lesser known Moths and Butterflies**

As sad as it is, our pollinator's season is all but finished. We are still seeing a few beauties fluttering by, but mostly they have moved on to warmer days. Earlier last week, the Monarch migration had reached Oklahoma (the massive migration was spotted on a meteorological radar).

A couple of our staff members attended the Linn Co Landowner Forum last weekend as representatives for our company. We were asked to join because we sell native plants and woody material. While they were there, they picked up a great book provided by the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund. The book highlights pollinators in Iowa, a guide to bees, butterflies, moths, and beneficial insects. The below list is a few of our favorites we were lucky enough to see at the garden center, at home, or from our wonderful customers.



## **Black Swallowtail**

Host plants:

Leaves of plants in the parsley family (Apiaceae) including Queen Anne's Lace, carrot, celery and dill. Sometimes plants in the citrus family (Rutaceae) are preferred.

Fun Fact: The female will lay up from 200-430 pale yellow eggs, at a rate of about 30-50 per day. The eggs will turn a dark gray just before hatching, which takes about 10-13 days.



## **Spurge Hawk Moth**

Shared with us by a customer

Host plants: Euphorbia family; commonly called Spurge

Fun fact: The US granted permission to release this shockingly pretty moth to help control Spruge. The caterpillar stage of this moth only feeds on Spruge, but did little to control the aggressive plant out west. It is believed to few of the caterpillars make it to the pupa stage to survive and be effective.



*One of many instar stages the Spurge Hawk Moth will go through.*



*These caterpillars go through multiple instar stages prior to morphing into pupa.*



*Pupa stage*



### **Leaf Cutter Bee**

Gentle, efficient, and hardworking. These bees are solitary. This means each nest only has one queen. She both lays the young and performs the work herself.

Fun fact: Because the pollen is carried dry on her hair, it falls off easily as

she moves from blossom to blosssom. The result is significantly more pollinated flowers than her cousin, the honey bee, who wets the pollen so it sticks to the legs during transport to the hive.

[Click here, and enjoy this quick video and the important role of working bees.](#)



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