CICADAs 2024!!!

... It's going to be a buzz-fest!!

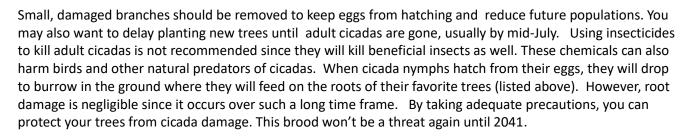
Between May and July 2024, the 17-year cicadas will return. After having spent time slowly developing underground, adult cicadas will emerge and begin their climb into trees and shrubs. Their presence will be unmistakable— expect a buzzing noise that rises to a thundering crescendo and recedes again.

This year, we will see an enormous number of cicadas, as two groups will be hatching at the same time. This has not occurred since the 1880's! Due to the enormous size of this year's brood, damage to woody plants is a greater concern than when smaller, annual broods arrive. Expect the cicadas to be around soon – and remain for about 4-6 weeks.

The adult cicadas do not have mouths, and therefore do not eat leaves. The damage primarily occurs when female cicadas lay their eggs by **creating slits in limbs %" -- ½ inch in diameter.** Frequently, foliage on these limbs will wilt and die. Generally, cicadas prefer oaks, maples, hawthorns, redbuds, and fruit trees—especially cherry and pear. Also any young tree is susceptible to damage since its limbs are usually the ideal egg-laying diameter. Larger, more mature trees typically sustain only minor damage from cicadas. but young trees can undergo significant damage if left unprotected. Additionally, cicadas avoid evergreens and do not damage flowers or vegetable plants, though you may see them perched on these plants.

Preventing Damage

To protect newly planted trees and those with small diameter branches, cover them with netting with openings of ½" or less, cheesecloth, or row-cover fabric (see photo - right). The material should be tied securely at the base. This will prevent cicadas from crawling up a tree's trunk when they emerge.











Information provided by the Edgebrook Community Association
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