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At ArborLawn, one of our primary goals is to further the knowledge of our customers. This information will give you a better understanding of the needs of your trees so you will be able to make more informed decisions regarding their care.

IRON INJECTION

Iron Chlorosis

Iron is necessary for the formation of chlorophyll, which is responsible for the green color in plants and is the source of plant food and energy. When the amount of iron available to plants is inadequate for normal growth, leaves become pale green, yellow or white and eventually brown, particularly between the veins. Mildly affected plants become unsightly and grow poorly. Severely affected plants fail to grow flower or fruit and may even die from lack of iron.

Iron chlorosis occurs most often in pin oak, white oak, white pine, magnolia, holly, sweet gum, dogwood, azalea and rhododendron.

Iron chlorosis may occur as a result of one or a combination of causes. The condition is often due to high pH, which makes it possible for other elements to interfere with the absorption of iron, rather than to a lack of iron in the soil. This occurs in neutral to alkaline soils when the pH is above 6.5.

Chlorosis may be caused by an actual deficiency of iron or by application of excessive amounts of lime or phosphate to certain soils. It may be caused by over-watering, poor drainage or high levels of certain mineral elements in the soil such as manganese, copper or zinc.

The visual symptoms are often confused with other conditions such as a deficiency of magnesium, manganese or boron, or possibly other non-nutrient related problems.

Control

If over watering or poor drainage are possible causes, they should be corrected. Poor drainage is quite common in much of the silt and clay loam soils.

This information is provided by Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet HYG-1009-88 Author: Elton M. Smith