



## It Is Time for Change

Over the past year there is one word that we have heard repeated many times. That word is “change.” How does that apply to us in tree care? Well, there are many ways, but one of the most important that I think is tree selection and planting.

I look out my back window at two large silver maples with included bark and very poor structure and I can only ask, “Who would plant such a tree?” My answer to that is, “someone with little or no knowledge of tree care and who wanted a fast-growing tree that was readily available.” Silver maples may not be readily available anymore, but there are some species that place a close second to silver maples which are.

There are a large number of you that have witnessed the devastation of Dutch elm disease. Now we have emerald ash borer knocking on the doors of some of our communities. What can we do to limit the devastation in the future? We need to “change” how we select our trees and



residential landscaping. Most of us are aware of this topic, but I challenge you to be even more diverse in your plantings. Maybe, think outside the pot.

Change is all around us whether it is the seasons, age, or the state of our employment. Some change is good; some change can be bad. Being more diverse in our planting selection is one of those good changes, and not changing our planting selection is the bad one.

I know that we can't predict what will happen in the future, but we can limit the devastation it may bring by being more diverse. If we change how we plant now, it will change what we have to remove in the future. Most of us would agree that homeowners would rather see a tree being planted than removed. So when we are thinking about planting to replace that ash or elm that was just removed, we need to dig a little deeper into our tree selection list.

Cory Gritzmacher,  
WAA President