



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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It's Not Easy Being Green

Dustin Chalfant, *Certified Applicator*

Have you noticed the chlorotic trees around town? They're pretty easy to spot next to our lush green trees. A chlorotic tree appears to be more yellowish than it should be and its veins will be very visible.

What causes chlorosis? There are many speculated causes, but the two most commonly agreed upon are: 1) lack of iron in the soil available for uptake by the tree's roots and 2) an insufficient root system. In the end, all that basically means is that the tree has lost its ability to make enough chlorophyll and the tree cannot produce the energy it needs to live and grow, much like a human would be without enough food. Some common trees that are susceptible to chlorosis are pin oak, silver maple, baldcypress, crabapple and sweet gum. According to Kansas State University, chlorosis can also affect white pine, elm, London plane tree, cottonwood, walnut, sugar maple, Eastern red cedar, Bradford pear and willow trees.

At Johnson's, we offer several chlorosis solutions. The first is Medicap Systemic Iron Implants that are applied to the tree by drilling into the trunk and then slipping them in. This puts the iron directly into the tree's "blood stream" allowing for instant uptake. You could also use ferti•lome Liquid Iron around your tree for root uptake. The drawback to both of these options is that they are a yearly process. A third option is an Iron Chlorosis Treatment provided by Johnson's. This treatment puts a cache of iron in the ground for root uptake that will last approximately 10+ years! Give us a call today for your free estimate. ■