



# Johnson's Garden Talk

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

## Johnson's Garden Talk

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Wichita, KS 67203  
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### EAST STORE

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Wichita, KS 67203  
316-687-5451

### RIDGE ROAD STORE

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## Iron "Shot" For Chlorotic Trees

Jeremy Johnson, Nursery Buyer & Kansas Certified Nursery Professional

Trees are, in some ways, very much like people. While they cannot show human emotions, they can get sick like us.

When we get sick, we go see a doctor who then either prescribes medication in the form of a pill, or gives us a shot. Previously our only options on trees have been to either spray the entire leaf surface, which can be very difficult on large trees, or a soil treatment, which can be very beneficial in some cases and impractical in others.

We have performed iron chlorosis soil treatments for several years now, but have found that certain trees respond better than others. Severe cases of iron chlorosis have always been a challenge, as the tree is doing about all it can to simply survive. There have been other options, such as hanging an "IV" bag on the tree and iron trunk implants, both requiring drilling into the trunk. This drilling process then opens up the tree to disease and insect problems and can damage the vascular tissues of the trees, reducing its ability to move and store nutrients.

We now have a better option! Just like your doctor would give a shot, we now have the opportunity to give chlorotic (yellow) trees a "shot" to get them green again—often with results in as little as a week!

Our new system simply removes a small core of the BARK ONLY. A small plug is inserted to prevent backflow and the chemical is injected directly into the tissue which carries it to the leaves. When possible, the treatment is performed near the root flare at the base of the tree to maximize uptake. The iron treatment goes into effect instantly! No waiting for rain or dragging hoses to water in the treatment. Treatment timing is also quite flexible with this system, as temperature, wind and rain do not affect our ability to treat.

Many of our Ridge Rd. store customers may have noticed the two very chlorotic Pin Oaks in front of our landscaping office. One of the trees was at the point that we were thinking of removing the tree, as it had massive amounts of limb dieback, severely stunted and yellow leaves, and was pretty much an eye sore. As a last-ditch effort, we treated this tree on August 8th. By the 14th, only six days later, we were seeing marked improvement in foliage color. A check on the 17th (nine days after treatment) showed signs of new leaves emerging from what looked like dead branches! While this tree is a very severe case, and it remains to be seen whether or not it may be completely saved, the treatment definitely greened up the tree and it is showing huge signs of improvement in just a few short weeks.

As mentioned above, we are still performing our soil chlorosis treatments, which are a great choice for many trees. If you would like an estimate for either of the treatments, please stop by any of our stores, or give us a call at 942-3751. ■