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Narrator: Welcome to the Lawn & Garden Podcast with University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards, and co-host, Jerry Erschabeck, originally aired on KGOS & KERM in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry, and their special guests as they talk all things gardening in Wyoming. Our Lawn & Garden Podcast helps you improve your home garden or small acreage. [MUSIC]

Jeff: Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards. This is the KGOS/KERM Lawn & Garden Program. In studio this morning, I have Dr. Jerry Erschabeck. Good morning, Sir.

Jerry: Good morning, Jeff.

Jeff: How are you today?

Jerry: Good. Thank you.

Jeff: Excellent. As a special guest today, we have Amy Seiler with us, which we always enjoy her hanging out with us and then chatting. Good morning, Amy.

Amy: Good morning. Great to be here with you both. I'm looking forward to a fun conversation.

Jeff: As are we. We enjoy fun conversations. [LAUGHTER] So let's take a moment from our sponsors and we'll be back in a couple of minutes.

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Jeff: All right. Hello, we're back. This is Jeff Edwards. This is the KGOS/KERM Lawn & Garden Program, and Jerry Erschabeck from Erschabeck Chiropractic. Amy Seiler, since last time you were here, you've had a change. So, I'm going to allow you to introduce your title, I guess, let's put it that way.

Amy: All right. Yes. So, I am the Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services for the City of Geuring. I oversee the Five Rocks Amphitheater, Robidoux RV Park, our Monument Shadows Golf Course, and eleven [00:03:00] parks, and our new plaza, and the swimming pool, and I probably forgot a couple of things. But it's been a big change for me.

Jeff: Very busy.

Jerry: Boy, yeah. [LAUGHTER] What an impressive title. I had to take three breaths myself just listening to it. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: So, I'm sure some of our listeners are wondering, "Well, Amy Seiler, why is she talking to us?" But your background is arboriculture, tree care, those types of things. So, we thought that our program today would be about tree care and possibly any other things that we care to chat about today. How does that sound?

Jerry: Sounds good to me.

Amy: I love it.

Jerry: Everything trees.

Jeff: Can we launch into my problem first?

Amy: Yes. Let's get started [LAUGHTER] with the good one.

Jeff: Okay. So, prior to the program, I mentioned to Amy that I have honey locusts. I have three of them in our landscaping, which we suffered a hail about eight years ago. They semi-recovered from the hail, but they had then become infested with some type of borer. Do you happen to know which one that one could be, Amy? It could have just been a secondary pest. I'm not really sure.

Amy: It would most likely have been a secondary pest. I don't recall if lilac ash borer actually will also feed or bore into honey locusts.

Jeff: Oh, okay.

Amy: But I do know— The size of the hole was about the size of a little shotgun? How big was the whole of the bore?

Jeff: So, I didn't really pay attention to the size of the bore. I didn't really notice that they had issues until the woodpeckers came and pecked off all the bark. [LAUGHTER] [Okay.]

Jerry: They're a tell-tale story, aren't they?

Jeff: Yes, they are. These are good size trees, they were probably seven-inch diameter trunks, maybe a little bit larger. What's happening now is what is called epicormic shoots are coming up from the base. Most of the top growth is dead and done, and I'm going to have to cut all of that out. So maybe we should back up a little bit and say, "Okay, can you give us a good definition of what an epicormic shoot is?"

Amy: Oh, man, you're testing me. [LAUGHTER] Of course, I can. So, an epicormic shoot is a response that a tree initiates when there's been some type of damage or injury to the tree. So, it says, "Oh, shoot, I've got an injury. I've got to put out a new [00:06:00] bud or a new shoot," and these often occur anywhere along the trunk, anywhere along the branches around where that injury would have occurred, and it's the tree's response to create some energy to cover over that wound. So, that's what those epicormic shoots are for.

Now, at the base, like what you're describing, the tree is pretty much dead on top. So, the root system still has all of this energy within it and there's still some live buds at the root system or just right at the base of the tree. So, the tree will then put out all of these shoots in response because it doesn't want to die. It still has a lot of energy within the root system. So, it says, "Okay, my top is gone. I'm going to put out a bunch of shoots to see if we can continue living and reproducing."

Jeff: Taking a chance.

Amy: Yeah.

Jeff: Trying to figure out how to survive. So, I'm just like anybody else, it's hard for me to cut down a tree. I've committed 12 years to this tree, [LAUGHTER] and it's really difficult to make that final decision to just take it out.

Jerry: Whack it.

Jeff: I know. So, I guess my question is, can I select one of these epicormic shoots, cut off all the dead from above and select one of the epicormic shoots to have this tree recover? Is it worth my while or should I just be an aggressive gardener and take the whole thing out?

Amy: I think that's such a great question, and I think a lot of people ask that question when they have a situation such as you're explaining. So, if you had a forestry background.

Jeff: Which I don't.

Amy: Yes. So, one of our western district foresters in Nebraska, Doak Nickerson, he would say, absolutely, he would call that stump sprouting. He's a forester and their philosophy in the forest is, if you remove some trees, you can get that forest to regenerate by stump sprouting a lot of things. So, he would be of the opinion in the forest, stump sprout the heck out of it, just let those sprouts come up everywhere.

But the issue is, in your situation, is that this is in your landscape. What we need to think about is what that rootstock is below, is that desirable in your landscape? The second question is, if it's coming from a part of the trunk down low, we have to start thinking about safety. Because those epicormic sprouts are not attached the same way. So, safety does become an issue as that tree would get older. Is there going to be enough wood built up that would prevent that tree from breaking off in a storm?

Jeff: So potentially, what you're saying is that at the point where it meets [00:09:00] the current trunk, in another 12 years, it'll break off there. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: Potentially. If it does not build enough strength in the wood, yes, the likelihood of it breaking off is probably greater. Now, in the forest, we would not worry about that because there's very few impacts if that tree were to fail. But in your home landscape, and particularly when we're looking at community forestry, things that I would have to think about in our park system, I would probably not stump sprout that in a park system. But for a homeowner, especially if it's out, maybe in a windbreaker, not where there would be a lot of targets, not where you would be walking a lot. I would consider trying to get that tree to grow.

The other thing, Jeff, that we had talked about was, what does this tree look like? Especially with the honey locust. A honey locust, the ones that we grow in the trade now that the nurseries do, it is a what we call a cultivar. A very desirable tree is grafted onto a very hardy tree rootstock. So, we have in the trade a lot of honey locust roots that are super hardy, can handle really low temperatures, drought conditions, high soil pH, they're very adaptable. On the top, they have selected trees and they're mostly male because that's what makes them seedless and they're also thornless.

So, my concern would be for your specific situation is, where are these sprouts coming from? Are they coming from the root which would be most likely something that would

start to produce thorns, that rootstock may be female, so it would start to produce seeds. So that's the chance that you have to take in making this decision.

Jeff: Well, I know what I'll be doing this weekend. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry: Making decision.

Jeff: Probably cutting down a tree.

Jerry: Make good decisions, Jeff.

Jeff: So, Amy, if I cut it off at the ground, I don't have a stump grinder, I'm not going to go in and try to get rid of the stump that's there. If that's the case, that stump I know will attempt to regrow. So, at that point, should I apply something like glyphosate on it to try to prevent that and totally kill that root system?

Amy: Yes, if that's what the product is labeled for.

Jeff: Correct. Good answer. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: But what you would want to do is, [00:12:00] anything that you would do a fresh cut on, you could apply a product that was labeled for that type of use. So that would certainly hinder and that would take that down into the plant. Now, you need to do it when it's fresh.

Jeff: Within 10 minutes of the cut.

Amy: I do not know that. I'm going to take your advice. Ten minutes of the cut?

Jeff: That's the recommendation from the manufacturers who have those types of products. Yeah.

Amy: Okay. Perfect. Because otherwise, it won't be as effective.

Jeff: Correct.

Amy: I know that they do this practice a lot when they're doing the Russian olive removal along the river. So, I know that there's products out there that will work very effectively for that.

Jeff: We're not talking about a drenching of the whole stump. All we're really concerned about is treating the outer cambium layer between the hardwood and the bark. So, it doesn't require a lot of material. You can dab it on with a paintbrush or something. Make sure you throw that away when you're done with it.

Jerry: Or just a small hand sprayer. [Right.] When we were taking the elm trees out of the rose bushes and out of the undesirable areas, we were doing that and within the 10 minutes, and by golly, that worked.

Jeff: Yeah.

Jerry: They were just small, they were just around two inches in diameter, but that really took care of them.

Jeff: Those stump type treatments has a lot to do with the time of year. I've tried some fall applications. I do not have the same control as I do early on in the spring. To me, I would think if that tree is in the fall, bringing all of the nutrients down into the roots, I would have better control, but it doesn't seem to work that way.

Amy: I think that is so interesting because I would agree with you. My thought process on that would have been, it is really starting to move things down into the roots, like when we're treating dandelions in the fall, and that's when they uptake those chemicals most effectively. I thought the tree situation would be very similar. This is very interesting news.

Jeff: Yeah. I treated last fall and I think some of those are still living, but I need to go around and check them. I think it also depends on the species. I think hackberries don't respond well to that stump type basal treatment. We'll just see how sensitive honey locusts are.
[LAUGHTER]

Jerry: Now, that's not to say that we should put glyphosate on any of the trees that do shoot up. We have what's called a Mayday tree, it looks kind of like a chokecherry tree. Then a catalpa will do the same thing. If it's trying to die, it'll send out shoots. But I don't think that you should treat a living tree that sends out shoots, cut them, and put glyphosate on them because I think you're going to probably ruin your tree.

Jeff: No. If you have a desirable [00:15:00] tree in your landscape and it's sending up suckers and you don't want the suckers, just cut them off. If you can, and correct me if I am speaking wrongly here, but if you can build the soil up over the top of those roots that are sprouting, you can prevent some of that in the future. Is that correct, Amy?

Amy: I've not had that experience. Sometimes, a tree's response is when their roots are covered with additional soil, then they're more stressed and they're going to start sending out more. I think it's probably very species-specific, the situation that you're describing.

Jeff: Okay. I've had good luck with cottonless cottonwoods who have sprouted from roots that are right along the soil surface. I've brought in soil, I've brought in mulch, and it's reduced that extraneous germination. So, it might not work for all species, but it did for these.

Jerry: Yeah.

Amy: That is very interesting. I'm going to have to start observing that more. With the cottonwood, that is one that really likes to sprout anyway, [Yep.] so that's a great solution for that. I don't know if I would do that practice with an oak or others because they're not as adaptable to having excess soil over their roots, and I think that might be a problem.

Jeff: Okay.

Jerry: We used to always think about painting a cut surface of a tree and now, that's not in vogue anymore.

Jeff: That's a bad no-no.

Jerry: Yeah.

Jeff: Yeah.

Jerry: Not in vogue.

Jeff: So, can you tell us why, Amy?

Amy: Yes. Because the tree has its own defense mechanisms to seal those wounds and when we would put a paint over the top of a wound, we actually have the potential to lock some bacteria or cover some bacteria underneath that wound. You're not allowing the tree

to do its natural processes. So, trees for thousands of years, before we got this crazy idea to paint over the top of them, had been sealing their wounds very effectively. [OVERLAPPING]

Jeff: Doing just fine without us.

[LAUGHTER]

Amy: I can't believe it. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: So now, I have another tangential question that just popped into my mind. In places that are fruit-producing places, they have a tendency to paint the trunks white. Do you know anything about that?

Amy: Not that I would like to talk about. I have seen it. [Okay.] I have read some different things. Off the top of my head, I don't recall if it had to do with reflection to reduce sun scald on the trunks. I don't know much about that.

Jeff: Okay. I think in our area, people have done the painting of the trunks [00:18:00] and it does reduce sun scald in things like plums and potentially peaches, if people are growing peaches, and some apples. So, I don't know if that's something that we should be talking more about or not.

Amy: Well, here's the thing that I would be thinking about, particularly if the tree is young, we need to remember that there is a lot of gas exchange on the trunk of the tree. While before it forms thick bark, especially on fruit trees, they're called lenticels, and they actually do a lot of oxygen exchange. They're absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, I believe. And when you cover that up, you prevent the tree from effectively having that gas exchange, and that could be problematic.

I don't know what products they're using, I don't know enough about it to say one way or the other. But my thoughts are that you really have got to have that gas exchange and I think that that painting may inhibit it a bit. But I'm sure that these fruit producers have some really good reasons and I'm sure some great research that backs some of this up, but I think that we would want to use caution and do a lot of research before we did those practices.

Jeff: So, we need to search the literature and see how effective that particular treatment is. Okay. Perfect.

Amy: I would not do that on an ornamental tree in my yard just because I think it looks [goofy?] not natural.

[LAUGHTER]

Amy: I was trying to choose positive words. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: Yeah. But people do what they want to do.

Jerry: We've mentioned apple trees. Is this a good time now to trim our apples, open them up? I've seen that my apple tree has some really nice buds for me. But when we cut, we should try to clean our cutting apparatus, our saws, our pruners, right?

Amy: Yes. We've had a lot of fire blight and if you have fruit trees that are susceptible to fire blight, you want to be extra diligent about keeping your tools clean. And that's for any pruning practices, but fire blight is spread so easily on those pruning tools that you need to

be very, very careful. But as you said, it is a good time to be pruning right now. All right. So, the cleaning material, a little Clorox and water?

Jeff: Bleach.

Amy: Bleach.

Jerry: Excuse me, bleach! [LAUGHTER]. It's soil, not dirt; it's bleach, not the other thing. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: Yes.

Jerry: Yeah. All right. Thank you. [LAUGHTER]

Sorry to our offended listeners [LAUGHTER] and the station. And whoever else.

Jeff: Sorry to interrupt. So, if it's a bleach-type solution, is it a 10 percent, is it a three percent solution? Do you have recommendations?

Amy: This is going to go to this conversation that we had off-air about— [00:21:00] Some things I just don't have memorized in my head because I know that I can look them up so easily. So, I don't recall. I would have to look that up. I don't know if it's 1:4. I don't recall. Do you know, Jeff?

Jeff: Hey, Jerry, why don't you Google that while we're taking a commercial break?

Jerry: Yeah, I don't do that with my phone.

[LAUGHTER]

Jeff: I'm sorry to interrupt. Our time just goes amazingly fast when you're here, Amy. So, we're going to take a break and listen to the rest of our sponsors, and then we'll get back into this.

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Jeff: We're back. This is Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck, and Amy Seiler on the KGOS/KERM Lawn & Garden Program. It's Friday the 13th. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: Really? I did not know that.

Jeff: Which maybe some of us didn't realize yet, but that's okay.

[Male Voice] I didn't figure that either.

[LAUGHTER]

Amy: I could have went all day without knowing that. [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much.

Jeff: You're welcome. So could a whole lot of other people. We're going to continue having our conversation, but I'm going to throw this out. If there are people that have questions who would like to chat with Amy, the phone number at the radio station is [307] 532-2158 or chat with Jerry and myself. [LAUGHTER]

We're supposed to be pruning things right now, what is the latest that we should probably be pruning?

Amy: Well, I think that we can prune until the buds are really swelling, and right before leaf push, that is such an extremely critical time in the tree and it's using a lot of energy to start to push those new leaves on. Then if it immediately, at the same time, is trying to use its energy to seal over wounds, I think that is [00:24:00] not as ideal as if we could do some of our pruning right now. Then maybe I would say towards the middle of April, it just depends on your species.

Jeff: Okay.

Jerry: Well, I've got a species. My brother-in-law gave us a redbud tree, but it is a redbud bush right now. It's only about two feet tall and it has many, many sprouts.

Jeff: How long have you had it?

Jerry: This is its second or third winter. [Okay.] We have a debate going at home, so we don't know for sure.

Jeff: That happens at home.

Jerry: Yeah, that does. [LAUGHTER] So when should I determine whether or not I want to bush or a tree? Then do I just cut off all the little stamps and try to form an [inaudible 00:24:51]?

Amy: So, I think you have to first determine how you want this tree to function. Redbuds are a specimen tree in your yard. So, it can be a very cool specimen tree with three trunks, two trunks, or just one single. You also have to consider how you function around that tree before you determine what you want to do. The next thing is that you don't want to, all at once, take all of those branches off besides the one that you determine to be your main tree. You want to phase it. So, you may want to look and you might have three branches that are going in three really good directions. So, you may want it to start taking maybe two, maybe three of those other sprouts that are in the tree. You might take a few of those off this year.

You can even evaluate during the growing season, oh, this is getting out of control, I might take another one off. So, I think there's several things that you have to determine before you decide what you want to do, but you want to phase it for sure.

Jerry: Slow and steady approach. It's beautiful. The flowers are gorgeous.

Jeff: Yeah, they're very fun trees to have in your landscape.

Jerry: Yeah. So good.

Amy: I'm going to jump in here on that redbud conversation quickly. I too love redbuds very much. I think that we can enjoy redbuds in this part of the country, but we have to make sure that those trees are coming from a northern seed source, like the Minnesota, and eastern South Dakota, eastern Nebraska seed source. Because they are more hardy, their rootstock is more adapted to our very cold temperatures and also our different soil types. If you're getting a redbud from a nursery in Oklahoma or Arkansas, those are not as cold hardy, most likely, just because of genetics as the varieties that would come from a northern seed source.

Jeff: Maybe a two-season bush. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry: At least. [00:27:00] I think my brother-in-law, lives in Denver, had a redbud and it had an offshoot. He dug up the offshoot, babied it for a while, and put it in a pot and gave it to us. And, thank God, it's performing well.

Jeff: Yeah, redbuds are very cool.

Amy: They are cool. So, here's a thought. So, Chadron State College in Nebraska has a beautiful redbud and they collect the seeds off of it every year and their horticulturist, Lucinda Mays— If people are interested in trying that, they could potentially get some seed and get a redbud started. But she will save those seeds and sometimes, she gives them out in little seed packets and things like that. She's very clever.

Jeff: Yeah. She's also been a guest before.

Amy: I thought she had. Yes.

Jerry: So, we've been talking about honey locust and another time, you had mentioned that you like to mulch with the seed pods. I went, well, we gather them up, but we do mulch them with the mulching mower. So, we mulch our lawn with honey locust pods rather than throwing them away. But we don't seem to put them all into one planting section to try to keep weeds down.

Amy: I still love it because you're still grinding that up and those minerals are going back into the soil, and I think that's a great idea as well.

Jeff: So, honey locust, are they in the bean?

Amy: They are legume.

Jeff: They are legume family? Okay.

Jerry: So if you were really that hungry, you could actually eat them?

Amy: Probably not.

Jerry: Not so much.

Jeff: I've been told you could, but I think you'd want to be pretty desperate.

Jerry: But I'm not that hungry. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: Squirrels enjoy them.

Jerry: Squirrels really enjoy them. [LAUGHTER] You'll hear them cracking them up in the fall. Yeah.

Amy: I think you have to be very careful. I think do your research on that in advance because Kentucky coffeetree is also.

Jeff: In the legume family?

Amy: That you may not eat or you will die. So that I think you need to look up, and there are some great websites out there on toxic plant species. So, you might just want to check it out.

Jeff: Don't try it before you research it.

Amy: Yeah.

Jeff: Yeah, don't do that.

Jerry: How many ways can you walk your honey locust? [LAUGHTER]

So, I saw something fun on the Internet and then of course, you know if it's on the Internet, it's true. But they were talking about aerial seeding, and so they were using what they were calling seed bombs. They'd plant trees inside this biodegradable container with little pointy tips and they're filled with fertilizer and the tree plants. [00:30:00] With this method, they think that they can plant a billion trees a year. They use a C-130 and they drop these.

Jeff: Cherry bomb trees.

Jerry: Yeah. They strike the earth at about 200 miles an hour and they're positioned to bury themselves as if they were planted by hand. So, what a great way to plant a burned section with minimal effort on the land. You just may want to do it after a nice rainstorm or that sort of thing. Yeah. But I thought that was really interesting. [Interesting.]

Amy: I think it's incredibly interesting. I'm curious to see what the results are and what the actual viability of all the seeds are. I had heard at a talk one time that a tree produces over a billion seeds, and out of that, maybe one grows to full maturity. So, it'll be very interesting to see what their survival rate actually would be. I think it'd be fascinating.

Jerry: For a lot of pines, doesn't the heat of the fire make the seed pop out as well?

Amy: I don't know for a lot of pines, but there are some pines that do have that very special mechanism. Is lodgepole one? I know that...not lodgepole.

Jeff: I can't remember either, but I do know that the heat of the fire opens up the cones and allows the seed to come out.

Amy: Lodgepole or I can't remember if it's jack pine. I can't remember.

Jerry: Yeah.

Amy: Sorry, everybody. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry: Well, since we are talking about trees, I'll slip this in. The Goshen County Master Gardener tree sale is going on until March 31st. Call 307-532-2436, talk to Caleb or Linda Farrier at the Goshen County Extension office.

Jeff: Okay.

Jerry: So, tree sale.

Jeff: Perfect.

Amy: Oooh, can I ask you a question about that? What kind of trees are you selling?

Jerry: Well, it said if you ever heard of a Ginkgo tree or a Canada Red Chokecherry, or a red oak, or a majestic bur oak, or linden, or hardy poinsettia?

Amy: Ponderosa. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry: Ponderosa pine. It's Friday the 13th, huh? Blue spruce, with many more.

Jeff: Ginkgos.

Amy: Oh, fun.

Jeff: Let's talk about Ginkgos a little bit. Ginkgos are a prehistoric tree. Am I saying that correctly?

Amy: Yes. You are.

Jeff: We only want the males, I believe. Is that correct?

Amy: Well, you can have the female if you want your landscape to smell like rotten dog poop all summer long. That's really what it smells like.

Jeff Nice. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: The females' odor is very offensive, but the super interesting thing is, that awful smell attracts a lot of animals [00:33:00] [Pollinators?] and things that would want to eat it and then spread it. So, it's probably one of its mechanisms to get it out into the landscape more. Isn't that crazy?

Jerry: So Amy, this begs the question.

Jeff: [LAUGHTER] Go ahead, Jerry.

Jerry: How do you tell if it's a male or a female tree?

Amy: So, I don't know how they do that. The nursery industry has determined that, but you can tell once it's an adult because the stench of the female, it's incredible.

Jerry: Yeah.

Amy: An example is at Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City, when you're walking around there in late summer, you think, "My gosh, do they have a problem with people not picking up their dog waste?"

[LAUGHTER] **Jeff:** A dog park.

Amy: It is truly a horrific odor. Many cities actually, on their tree list, will not allow female trees to be planted, only male.

Jeff: One of the most interesting places that I've seen where Ginkgos had been used is the campus on Purdue University. They have used a lot of Ginkgo trees. Primarily, the reason for that is since they're an ancient tree, they are resistant to a lot of diseases and pests that we have now. So, they're really a good tree to have in your landscape.

Jerry: But have you heard this as well that, of course, a male tree is going to put off a lot of pollen, and most of our kiddos have some sort of an allergy, whether it's peanut or whatever, and we're putting and planting mostly male trees around schools. So, wouldn't it behoove us to plant more female trees, sucking up all that pollen and reducing that pollen load?

Amy: This is difficult, Jerry, because there are some trees that are only male, and they have male and female trees. There are some trees that have both, like oaks, they're both. So, they have male and female.

Jeff: Male and female parts.

Amy: On the same tree. So, you have to understand all of that before you start making those planting decisions.

Jerry: The plot thickens. Yeah.

Amy: It does, dun, dun, dun. People that are thinking about planting around their schools, they need to have a really good conversation with their nurserymen or their local nurseries. Also, maybe visit with their local extension people [Yes.] And find out—

Jeff: Or the Director of Parks in Gering, Nebraska. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: Just come talk to me, bro. [LAUGHTER]

We'll get you hooked up. But I think what you're mentioning is very important because we want our kids to be healthy. And—

Jerry: As much as possible. The nut allergies are such that, boy, if you have a kid that reacts [00:36:00] [NOISE] and reacts poorly to nut, peanut, you really want to know what's being served at the birthday party.

Amy: So, peanuts are not actually a nut though, are they?

Jerry: No, they're...

Jeff: They're not a tree nut.

Jerry: They're not a tree nut.

Amy. Right. They're not a tree nut.

Jerry: They're on the ground.

Amy: Yeah. Are they a legume?

Jeff: Yes, they are.

Amy: That's what I thought. I want to go back to this Ginkgo conversation in a second.

Jeff: Okay.

Amy: So, Jeff, you had said something really interesting about that they are not really susceptible to a lot of insects or disease. The other reason for that, them being an ancient tree, is Ginkgo is the only tree in its family. It's Ginkgo biloba. From what I understand, I hope I'm not misleading anybody.

So, the insects and disease don't put a lot of energy into wanting to munch on a Ginkgo because that's like only one item at the salad bar. If you can go at the maple, you have silver maples, and red maples, and all those different types of maples that grow all over. So those pests are more inclined to be attracted to those because there's more items at the salad bar to eat, per se.

Jeff: So, speaking of the salad bar and pests, let's segue into the emerald ash borer and the threat of the emerald ash borer in the State of Wyoming. Currently not found here yet, but it is knocking at our doors. So, the salad bar, emerald ash borer feeds primarily on the variety of ash trees that are available. We do have many ash trees planted in Wyoming, and it's usually in the top three of the trees that are planted in cities.

If this particular... excuse me, maybe I should say when. [LAUGHTER] When this particular pest reaches Wyoming, it could significantly impact the landscape of our towns and cities in Wyoming.

Jerry: Cheyenne has already selectively looking at these ash trees. If they look to be problematic, sickly, or otherwise undesirable, they're removing them now.

Jeff: Which is a good idea.

Jerry: I think that they are putting the bait boxes in the trees and trying to count their numbers.

Jeff: So those are pheromone bait traps. Again, Amy, if I'm speaking out of turn here, jump right in. So those are only available through, I believe, the USDA.

Amy: That is correct.

Jeff: Those pheromone bait traps are monitoring devices to see if they collect any of those adult beetles in them over the course of the season.

Amy: They're funky looking.

Jeff: Yeah.

Amy: They're purple.

Jeff: Right, they're purple.

Amy: Like a purple triangle kite.

Jeff: Like a kite, a purple kite stuck in a tree.

[00:39:00] **Amy:** Like a box kite, yes.

Jeff: Yes. Exactly.

Amy: Yes.

Jeff: The reason that we bring this up is emerald ash borer, I believe, was first 2012, 2010, maybe a little bit earlier than that.

Amy: 2002.

Jeff: Thank you. But 2012 in Colorado.

Amy: Yeah, 2013. [Yeah.] Technically, yes. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff: Yeah, technically.

Amy: Sorry.

Jeff: But it was probably there a little bit earlier.

Amy: Yes. Yep.

Jeff. In Colorado, in Boulder County. And in 2020, they've actually found it in the counties that are bumping up to the state of Wyoming. So again, when it shows up, it'll most likely show up in Cheyenne first, maybe Laramie, and then work its way into the state. Now, how it got to Colorado is an interesting thing because it's a big jump from its range on the eastern side of Nebraska, eastern side of South Dakota, basically is where it had invaded too. They think that the primary means of relocating it was transport of firewood from those areas into the Boulder area.

So, Amy, if you have anything to add to that. The key thing here is, don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally if you're going to go camp.

Amy: That is key to slowing down the spread of the disease.

Jeff: Spread of the insect, insect's not a disease, right?

Amy: Well, yeah. [LAUGHTER] I guess. It's a pathogen, isn't it?

Jeff: No. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: No? You're right. Excuse me, the pest. How about that?

Jeff: Perfect. Thank you.

Amy: Yeah, I'm not on my A game for terms today, my gosh.

Jeff: I know.

Amy: Where's my coffee?

Jeff: Another cup of coffee.

Amy: Yeah. So, to slow down the spread, we just need to not move firewood and people need to be really diligent about doing that because we know that this will eventually arrive. But if we can slow the spread of it, we can manage it better, and it won't be as severe an impact on our communities as if that it spreads quickly, it's harder to manage.

We have more mortality at a more rapid rate. So, we just need to be very, very diligent, and use burn wood where you buy it.

[OVERLAPPING]

Jerry: Isn't tree health one of those ideas as well? I asked you about my ash trees, and you said, "Well, are you watering them?" I go, "Well, when it rains." [LAUGHTER]

You said, "Well, get a better watering program on there. Keep your trees healthier, and they'll be a little stronger, more resistant to emerald ash borer."

Amy: Not emerald ash borer, maybe other ash. But emerald ash borer is non-selective. It's going to go for a healthy ash or a sick ash, [Oh my.] it doesn't care. Whereas [00:42:00] our native ash borers, they are attracted to trees that are in a stress state. That's probably like

why Jeff's honey locust, too. It was in a stress state, that's why it was more susceptible to bores.

Jeff: Oh, yeah. It was stressed. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: It probably had canker all over from the hail and whatnot. But emerald ash borer is non-selective. It will go after anything.

Jerry: What an ugly thing.

Amy: It's an ugly thing.

Jeff: Well, anything in the ash family, correct?

Amy: Yes, and they are finding it, not that we get to grow it out here, but like fringe tree, they've also found that it will munch on fringe tree, which you'll see more in the Eastern United States. So, it's finding other things to eat after it's killed most of the ash.

Jeff: So, pictures of these things that you'll see online, it shows this great big beetle. It's metallic green. It's a really pretty beetle.

Amy: Really pretty.

Jeff: It has a flat head. But then when you see him in real life, you go, "Oh, that's it?" But they're small. They're about an eighth-inch wide. You don't really notice them, I guess, if you're not really looking for them.

Amy: They have a lot of look-alikes too, by the way.

Jeff: Right. The most significant thing right now is that there isn't a viable control method for them. So that's why it is important to not transport lumber or wood from one place to another so that we can get these plans in place to try to replace these trees before they are 100 percent in decline.

Amy: I'm going to hop in here for a second. There are some treatments that you can pre-treat your trees. They're somewhat costly, and they just kind of prolong the inevitable. But what many communities have chosen to do is, if they have special ash trees in their community that are significant historically, or they just provide great benefit for shade and those types of things, is that communities are choosing to utilize these treatment methods on some of those trees, and then determining other trees that are not as beneficial. They are not treating those.

So, there is a product. But I'm going to say this very firmly. There is no point whatsoever in treating your tree right now in Wyoming because the insect has not been found within 15 miles of your location. The insect on its own moves very slowly. With the movement of firewood, it can move quicker. But I don't know what Wyoming's recommendations are, but the Nebraska Forest Service recommendations were, "Do not treat until it's within 15 miles of your location." That's because the chemical is an intense chemical, and we just don't want it to be used.

[00:45:00] It's very complicated. If you decide that you want to treat, don't treat right now, but get that information ready for when it is reported close to you, that you're prepared and you know what to use. But do not treat right now.

Jeff: I might have to talk to you off air and get the product thing.

Amy: Okay. Perfect.

Jeff: Perfect. Then we can do a bulletin and have it ready for the Extension people in Wyoming. How does that sound?

Jerry: Sounds good by me.

Jeff: All right. Oh, geez, guess what?

Jerry: It's that time again.

Jeff: Our time has gone away. Amy, thank you very much for being here.

Amy: Of course.

Jeff: I'm going to ask you right now. I'd like it to have you back in the fall. I'm putting you on the spot. Would you be willing to do that?

Amy: I'd love to do that.

Jeff: Okay. [LAUGHTER]

Amy: This is like the highlight of my spring. [LAUGHTER] You've started me in a good direction. Thanks, guys.

Jeff: Fantastic. Thank you for being here. Thank you, Jerry.

Jerry: Happy Friday the 13th.

Jeff: Happy Friday the 13th. Our next date for our program is in April. I believe, it's the second week. Then we will definitely be here the last week of April, as Jerry looks for his calendar very quickly. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry: It will be the 10th of April.

Jeff: The 10th and the 24th of April. [OVERLAPPING]

Jerry: We're upping our game. We're twice a month now.

Jeff: Yes, we are. Yes. Thank you all for listening. Hope you enjoyed the program, and we'll see you the 10th of April.

Narrator: You've been listening to Lawn & Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards, and co-host, Jerry Erschabeck. Presented by KGOS & KERM Radio in Torrington and by University of Wyoming Extension, growing people, knowledge, and communities. [MUSIC]