

SEASONAL REPORT  
Fall 2007

5926 Fillmore Street • Allendale, MI 49401



## Biomass Fuels Update - Federal & Local

### U.S. House Passes Renewable Energy Standard

August 4, 2007 - The U.S. House passed a Federal Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). If it becomes law, the measure would lead to 15% of the nation's electricity coming from renewable energy by 2020.

Soon after Congress re-convenes in September, the House and Senate will reconcile their differing versions of the Energy Bill and take up the issue of the RES again.

**Environmental Law & Policy Center**  
<http://www.elpc.org/energy/rps/index.php>

**Federal Energy Management Program**  
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/>

**Michigan Renewables Energy Program**  
<http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16393-40484--,00.html>

For more helpful articles and links,  
go to the Biomass Fuels page on our website.

The State of Michigan is working on an energy mandate called a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This RPS requires all large energy providers to have 10% of their energy coming from renewable resources. This includes wind, solar, and biomass energy.

Michigan has some of the largest forests in the nation. They need to be properly maintained for density, light and species of trees to keep the value of lumber high for future generations. Our forests are currently way behind and going down in value as densities are not maintained. A managed forest (which is a renewable resource) can be thinned every ten to fifteen years. Material generated from managing our forests (biomass) will help reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.

Lansing is anticipating to have the RPS voted in by the end of 2007 and, within 2 years after that, we should have a functional biomass power plant.

[WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM](http://WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM)

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**INTEGRITY  
TREE  
SERVICES**

Fall 2007

**SEASONAL REPORT**

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## A Quick Look Over Summer

It has been an intense year and summer has flown by. Summer vacations are ending and kids are heading back-to-school. However, before we put summer completely behind us, we would like to focus on some important natural events which occurred. These events do, in fact, affect your landscape.

The first is the harsh winds we endured just weeks ago. Many of our clients had trees and limbs fall on their houses requiring our emergency crews to use cranes to lift them off. There is still some aftermath as clients are noticing large cracked or snagged limbs hanging in their trees. The unfortunate thing is that most of the trees we lifted off houses should have been removed years ago. We urge you to take a moment and look at the trees near your home and call one of our arborists if you have a situation that is suspicious in any way. We would rather take the time to send out an arborist to look over your trees than watch any of our clients go through the anguish of rebuilding their homes or, even worse, having someone get seriously hurt.

Our arborists will inspect the structural integrity of your trees. Although we cannot "play God" and tell you exactly when a tree could or would fail, we are able to identify any trees that have a high potential for structural failure. Our many years of experience could save you from going through similar situations in which other clients recently found themselves (see inside article "Integrity Tree Saved My Cottage!").

We watch for the following issues then determine their severity: Cracks, Hollows, Root Decay, Trunk Decay, Fruiting Bodies (Fungal Decay), Included Bark (creating weak unions in a "Y" or cluster of trees), and old injuries that are healing over.

The second major event that stands out over this past summer was how hot and dry it was. Until mid-August we were under drought-like conditions. Many trees were showing signs of scorch or simply shutting down under the extreme dry heat. Vascular diseases such as Oak Wilt, Verticillium, and Dutch Elm Disease thrive in these conditions. Ips Beetles and other boring insects burrow into stressed trees and attack the weakest ones first.

Watering is a vital part of a healthy landscape. Many times we see our clients over-water their plants which can be harmful. However, this year we have seen more situations from under-watering. Landscapes are dynamic. They are always changing. You must monitor

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### -Mission of Integrity-

To be the leading tree service providing expert guidance and superior quality workmanship that demonstrates the highest integrity in exceeding customer expectations.

**(616) 895-9600**

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# A Quick Look Over Summer (cont'd)

the conditions in order to keep a healthy balance. Water is one of the most important facts in this healthy balance. If you are not certain how to tell if you have too much or too little water, go to the following links to educate yourself or go to our website and you will find these links located on the Tree & Shrub Care page.

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal>  
<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/>

If you are still unsure or would like more advice, contact us and we will send an arborist out to determine your property's conditions.

Once you've identified that you have stressed trees, then what's the next step to take? There are three things which are necessary in dealing with a stressed tree.

First, eliminate the stress. In this case (watering), make sure the tree gets the right amount of water until just before the leaves drop in the fall.

Second, make sure the trees have the necessary nutrients needed to recover quickly. Quick action is needed to ensure we get all stressed trees onto our fall rotation for Deep Root Fertilization/Bio Stimulants.

Third, you need to monitor what is happening in your landscape next year and so on. Monitoring and preventative measures are more cost effective in the long run and will keep your landscape beautiful and healthy.



Tree & Shrub Care Specialist and Certified Arborist, Tim Guikema, administering a Deep Root Injection

For more information on Tree & Shrub Care and Deep Root Fertilization, visit our website at:

[WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM](http://WWW.INTEGRITYTREE.COM)

## On a Personal Note...

- It's another girl for Tim and Krista Broene who welcomed their second daughter, Brielle Sue, into the world on August 22. She weighed a healthy 6 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 16 inches long. Brielle has a proud older sister, Emma. Krista and Brielle are doing great!
- Chad and RaeAnn Herrema announced they are expecting their second child on April 15. We look forward to announcing their baby's birth in our Spring 2008 Seasonal Report.
- Our summer employees are returning to college. Chris Dykstra attends Calvin, Brett Kuipers attends Michigan State University, Justin Kraker attends Cedarville, and Tom Wigger attends Grand Valley. We promote education at ITS and are proud of our students.
- Our company will enjoy a fun day of training at the Vermeer Climbing Seminar on September 13. This is an advanced climbing seminar for experienced climbers who aspire to improve and perfect their skills and educate themselves on the latest advancements.
- At Integrity Tree Services, we think of our employees as team members. In early October, our entire company will retreat to a ropes course on Pere Marquette River where we will enjoy an overnight stay and focus on team building.



**INTEGRITY  
TREE  
SERVICES**

**TREE & SHRUB CARE DIVISION**  
*Providing Scientific Diagnosis & Treatment Services™*

### Existing Customer Coupon

To show appreciation to our loyal customers, the Tree & Shrub Care Division of Integrity Tree Services is offering a

**\*FREE\***

on-site property evaluation!  
 Our on-site property evaluation includes:

- a walk-through of your property,
- an evaluation report,
- recommendations for your property,
- time to answer any questions you may have.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Estimate # \_\_\_\_\_

\*For residential customers only. Limit one coupon per household, per residence. This coupon cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounted offer.

**"YOUR CARES are OUR CARES!"™**

# FALL Calendar Chart

Integrity Tree Services provides many additional services not listed in the chart below. If your need is not listed, please contact us.

COMMON SERVICES	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Treat sycamore anthracnose					
Fall fertilization (standard)					
Prune spring flowering shrubs					
Prune summer flowering shrubs					
Root zone aerification in compacted soils					
Zimmerman moth spray					
Treat spruce trees that had galls last year					
Honey locust leaf hopper control					
Best time to prune oak and elm trees					
Transplant trees and shrubs					
Trunk injections, spring insects/fungal control					

\*All dates are approximate and may vary slightly from year-to-year depending on scientific indicators, weather conditions, and treatments. ©2007 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.



Picture 1: Split 70' tall Sassafras



Picture 2: Crane lifting tree



Picture 3: Tree hanging from crane



Picture 4: Crane lowering tree near power lines

## "Integrity Tree Saved My Cottage!"

Late this summer, David M. arrived to his Fennville cottage for vacation only to discover a split 70' tall Sassafras hanging over his cottage. He called ITS and our 24 hr. emergency crew was on the scene. David watched them in a very dangerous situation removing the split tree. Power lines had to be disconnected and a 40 ton crane with 140' of boom was needed to lift the tree out in one piece. The tree was raised over the cottage and surrounding trees. David said that he was "very impressed with the crew" and "they completed the work just as they said they would". Thank you David!

*Pictures shown counter clockwise, starting from top.*