

<p>Mark Gertner YTS Companies ISA Certified Arborist MN 4664A Tree Risk Assessment Qualified</p>		<p>Property</p> 
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Basic Tree Assessment Report

This is a report on the trees and their conditions at [REDACTED] MN as of [REDACTED]/22. Attached on the last page of this report is a Tree Inventory Map of where each tree is located on the property and corresponding numbers to reference with my notes.

Tree #1: 13" White Spruce

Tree #2: 11" White Spruce

-Both of these trees are found in the front yard left side in the rock bed. Spruce trees are known to have a number of pest and pathogen issues, and both of these trees unfortunately have 3 separate pest and disease infections on them. I found evidence of Needlecast (Rhizosphaera or Lirula Needle Blight, both classified as Needlecast), Spruce Spider Mites, and Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgids. Of the three, Needlecast is the most deadly and is the main cause of the significant dead limbs and reduced canopy on both trees. There are 2 other stumps nearby that look to be from other removed Spruce trees at one time, and they may have had similar health issues. Needlecast causes the needles on the tree to initially turn purple, then brown and spread from the lower canopy to the upper canopy over time, eventually causing the death of the tree. Fungicide foliar sprays are somewhat effective when the disease is caught early but must be repeated for several years to rebuild the canopy. While all three pest and disease problems have treatment options, the extent of the damage on these trees is not reversible and these trees will need to be removed in the next few years.

Tree #3: 29" Honeylocust

-This tree appears to be in good condition and health. The tree was likely planted in this garden bed next to the house many years ago, possibly when the home was built or soon thereafter. It isn't possible to tell if the root system is impacting the foundation or not, typically roots will only cause foundation damage if the foundation has cracks that allow for water and nutrients to accumulate, which can lead to root development and expansion in that area. I am not able to see the extent of the root system below ground, but if the foundation appears solid the concern for root damage should be low. Similarly the roots may be causing some of the cracking in the driveway, but the only way to confirm would be to remove the asphalt. There is no way to prevent roots from spreading or growing in these areas.



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The tree does have one cable installed in the canopy as a supplemental support system. Cables are installed in trees with multiple main leaders arising from a common point on the trunk to help reduce stress on the common union. Cables will not prevent complete trunk or main leader failure from a storm, but it can reduce the chance of failure and extend the life of the tree in the landscape. The installation was done per industry standards and in the correct location of approximately 2/3rds up the canopy. The hardware appears to be intact from my ground inspection, the cable is not frayed, the eyebolts look securely installed and it doesn't look to have a lot of rust. I recommend having the hardware inspected at least every other year by a reputable company and updated as needed.

The tree also appears to have been pruned routinely and does have clearance over the home, not scraping the chimney, siding, or shingles. Due to its planting location, it will be impossible to eliminate all limbs over the roof, but you can expect to gain 4-6' of vertical clearance with proper pruning every 3-5 years. The limbs over the roof appear to be defect free and have strong branch unions to the trunk and larger main leaders. Shading from these limbs should help reduce heating and cooling costs of the home.

Honeylocust trees are notorious for having a lot of small dead branches, which typically become more of a nuisance than a hazard. I did not find any other defects in the tree, sounding the trunk with a mallet to check for decay or hollow center produced no significant results or hollows, no cracks were seen. There is one old seam on the trunk that likely developed from the tree developing multiple leaders, but it has sealed and is not showing any signs of oozing, mushrooms, or splits/cracks. The root flare at the base of the tree is well formed and does not have any sign of decay or injury.

Tree #4: 11" Crabapple

-This tree is an older Crabapple, but the canopy appears to be in good condition. The tree likely has been pruned before, as there are a lot of new watersprouts throughout the canopy that likely developed after pruning within the last few years. I did not notice any splits, cracks, mushrooms, or hollow areas during sounding with a mallet either. Given the location of the tree, it may need to be routinely pruned over the driveway for vehicle clearance but currently the canopy has been well pruned to achieve this.

