



Organic Newsletter

Spring Edition, 2014

Climate Change Considerations!

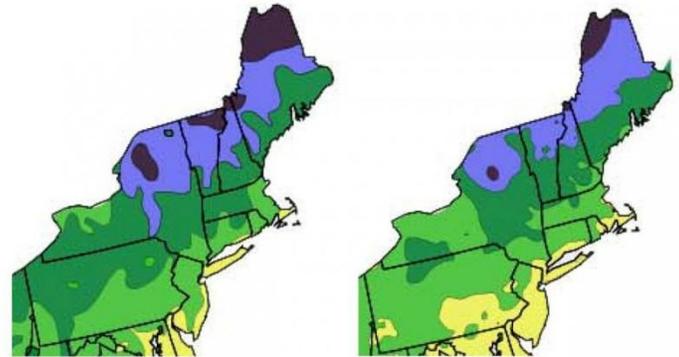
This past winter the Organically Green team attended a conference in upstate New York and one of the sessions was dedicated to climate change. We felt this information while interesting was also very disturbing and wanted to share some of the key points with our clients:

The topic of climate change causes intense debate ranging from what measures to take to rectify its effects; how to slow its progression and some debate if it's even happening.

However, in the information that follows you will see that climate change is happening and we must take a more active role in trying to combat its detrimental effects on our world.

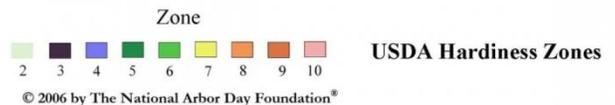
In 2012 we had the warmest year in the United States with 90% of our temperatures being record highs. Subsequently, 2013 was the fourth warmest year in the world and as a result over the years we are seeing increases in both minimum and maximum temperatures.

For instance, Henry David Thoreau- noted philosopher and poet- recorded when the leaves unfurled on trees around Walden Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts for a five year period until 1861. Researchers have continued his observations and they have found on average that the trees in the same area are leafing out 18 days earlier then when Thoreau recorded his original observations.



1990

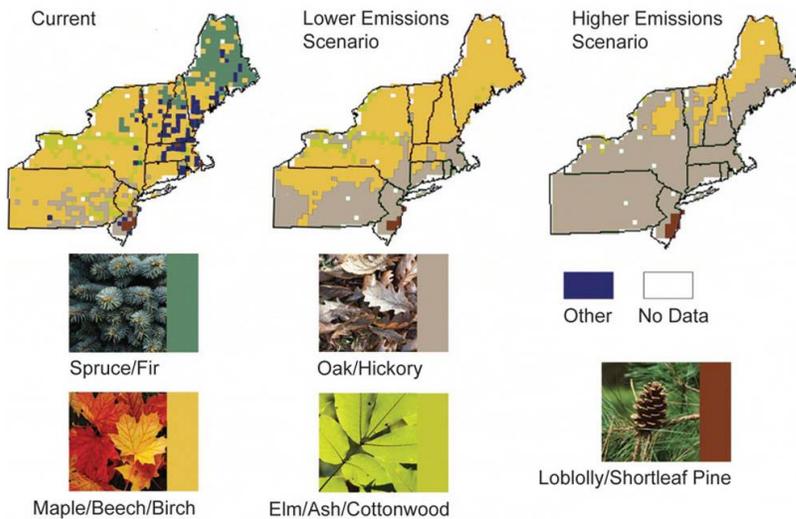
2006



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Source: USDA

Another unfortunate example of the negative effects on our environment due to climate change can be seen in sugar maples. Over the last 40 years the season for gathering sap to make syrup is beginning earlier and becoming shorter, causing a decrease in yields. With the increase in our average temperatures our northeast forests are also in danger. Currently they are dominated by maples but may one day be primarily oak and hickory if climate change continues. Consequently, we are also having warmer autumns; this in turn does not give plants the adequate amount of time needed to acclimate to the cold weather, resulting in more winter/cold damage. Warmer winters with less frigid nights, also affects plants that have a chilling requirement. This cold requirement such as in rhododendrons and tulips is needed



Source: EPA

for the build-up of certain plant hormones that eventually help them break dormancy.

However, even though we may have warmer winters overall, we are also faced with more extreme weather, such as the polar vortex we experienced earlier this winter as well as heat waves, torrential downpours and long periods of drought. With such temperature/weather pattern fluctuations plants are at risk. Take for example rainfall, instead of having rain every so often to keep our plants supplied with water, we are looking at having downpours and then long periods without any rainfall, thus causing water stress. Our environment changes faster than plants can adapt and plants will live in the average but die in the extremes.

Another way that climate change can affect the environment includes animals and insects. With warming temperatures we are facing a loss of species diversity, with changes occurring in their eco-systems plants and animals can't adapt quick enough and will eventually become extinct. One way that is being tested to mitigate this problem is assisted migration. For instance, in England two species of butterflies were re-located to another area much farther north than

their native range. The area was designated by climate change models as a good habitat and in 2009, after eight years both species are thriving.

Climate change can also disrupt plant and insect timing. Thousands of years of evolution have created a symphony between plants and insects and with warming temperatures plants will be blooming earlier while their pollinators will emerge later causing them to miss the peak flowering. This is also true of beneficial insects such as lady beetles, a disruption in the timing of emergence and they may miss the pests they rely on for food. The warmer weather also causes more problems for us in the way of insect pests. As the climate warms it will give southern insects a chance to expand their range northward; insects that are able to have several rounds of young during one growing season- multi-generational- such as aphids will be able to increase the number of generations they produce per year, increasing the amount and cost of damage to plants.

Another scary fact about the change in our climate is the increase in weather related disasters. According to a Reuter's website article, natural disasters have also increased. In the 1980's we saw about 120 worldwide, where as of 2007 we are experiencing about 500 a year. Aside from the obvious devastating effects on people and their communities, this in turn is also causing economic damage to companies, which leads to higher production costs and higher prices for consumers.

In a January 2014 article on the New York Times website, author Coral Davenport focuses on two major companies, Coca-Cola and Nike, which are feeling the economic consequences of climate change. She asserts that "... after a decade of increasing damage to Coke's balance sheet as global droughts dried up the water needed to produce its soda, the company has

embraced the idea of climate change as an economically disruptive force.”

She also spoke with Jeffrey Seabright ”...Coke’s vice president for environment and water resources, [who lists] the problems that... were also disrupting the company’s supply of sugar cane and sugar beets, as well as citrus for its fruit juices. “When we look at our most essential ingredients, we see those events as threats.”

Davenport goes on to write that “Nike, which has more than 700 factories in 49 countries, many in Southeast Asia, is also speaking out because of extreme weather that is disrupting its supply chain. In 2008, floods temporarily shut down four Nike factories in Thailand, and the company remains concerned about rising droughts in regions that produce cotton, which the company uses in its athletic clothes.

“That puts less cotton on the market, the price goes up, and you have market volatility,” said Hannah Jones, the company’s vice president for sustainability and innovation. Nike has already reported the impact of climate change on water supplies on its financial risk disclosure forms to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Both Nike and Coke are responding internally: Coke uses water-conservation technologies and Nike is using more synthetic material that is less dependent on weather conditions. At Davos and in global capitals, the companies are also lobbying governments to enact environmentally friendly policies.”

So with the damage to our communities, plants, wildlife, and an increase in the cost of consumer goods, we are also faced with an increase in poverty. In Davenport’s article she states that “...the World Bank president, Jim Yong Kim, has put climate change at the center

of the bank’s mission, citing global warming as the chief contributor to rising global poverty rates and falling G.D.P.’s in developing nations. In Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Paris-based club of 34 industrialized nations, has begun to warn of the steep costs of increased carbon pollution.”

With all these factors in mind, it remains to be asked, how long can we continue to disregard all that is happening with climate change in our local environments and throughout the world?

Sources:

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Did You Know?

Rhododendrons derive their name from the Greek, “rodon” meaning rose and “Dendron” meaning tree. There are over 900 species of rhododendrons and one of the best known rhododendrons is azaleas!



Plants for the Spring!

March:

Creeping Phlox
(*Phlox subulata*)



- ❖ Low growing spreading perennial (height of 6", width of 18'-24')
- ❖ Blooms from March to May, small profuse flowers in varying colors; white, pink, purple, striped etc.
- ❖ Prefers well drained soil and full to part sun
- ❖ May die out in the middle, can be divided in the fall
- ❖ Perfect for trailing over walls or in rock gardens

April:

Saucer Magnolia
(*Magnolia x soulangiana*)



- ❖ Deciduous small tree (30'), has an rounded to irregular habit
- ❖ Blooms in mid- to late April, large cup-like flowers; very showy
- ❖ Flowers can be white, pink, or purple and sometimes fragrant
- ❖ Prefers full sun and moist, fertile, deep soils with high organic matter are best
- ❖ Fairly adaptable and easy to grow providing conditions are not harsh

May:

Japanese Kerria
(*Kerria japonica*)



- ❖ Deciduous shrub with upright, arching stems; 3' to 6' tall with up to a 10' spread
- ❖ Suckers freely and can colonize areas
- ❖ Showy bright yellow flowers, blooms in late April and may (sporadic bloom after the primary blooming period can occur in sun.)
- ❖ Prefers partial shade to shade; needs a well-drained moist soil of reasonable fertility
- ❖ Avoid over-fertilizing as this promotes too much vegetative growth and reduced flowering
- ❖ Has winter interest as stems remain green but periodic rejuvenation by cuttings plants to the ground is beneficial

Organically Grown



SPRING ASPARAGUS TART

INGREDIENTS:

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 cup mascarpone
1 tablespoon flour plus more for dusting
1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
1 large organic (cage free) egg, lightly beaten
1 lemon zested and grated (1 tbsp)
1 tbsp chopped fresh chives
1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon
1 pound organic asparagus (bottoms trimmed)
1 tbsp olive oil
Freshly ground pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Flour work surface, roll out puff pastry to 9 x 12 rectangle. Transfer to prepared baking sheet.

Combine mascarpone, 1 1/4 teaspoon of the salt; add flour, egg and lemon zest. Fold in the tarragon and chives; Spread over puff pastry leaving 3/4" border. Make small cuts around border 1" apart with a paring knife.

Toss asparagus with olive oil in a bowl. Arrange asparagus in a neat, single layer across the tart so tips meet the edge; Do same in opposite direction.

Season with salt and pepper

Bake until border of tart is deep golden and puffed and top is lightly browned; About 25 minutes, let cool 5-10 minutes before serving

Note: We recommend using certified organic ingredients, when available, in all recipes to maximize flavors and nutrition while minimizing your risk of exposure to pesticides, chemicals and preservatives.

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**No matter how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow.**

Happy Spring!

~The Organically Green Team

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The country ever has a lagging Spring,
Waiting for May to call its violets forth,
And June its roses--showers and sunshine bring,
Slowly, the deepening verdure o'er the earth;
To put their foliage out, the woods are slack,
And one by one the singing-birds come back.

Within the city's bounds the time of flowers
comes earlier. Let a mild and sunny day,
Such as full often, for a few bright hours,
Breathes through the sky of March the airs of
May,
Shine on our roofs and chase the wintry gloom--
And lo! Our borders glow with sudden bloom.

-Excerpt from "Spring in Town" by
William Cullen Bryant

Services for 2014:

We offer the following services to help increase the enjoyment and beauty of your property:

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- ❖ Integrated Pest Management
- ❖ Soil Restoration
- ❖ Plant and Soil Stimulation Program
- ❖ Deep Root Feeding
- ❖ Root Growth Enhancement
- ❖ Mature Tree Restoration
- ❖ Air Spading
- ❖ Radial Trenching
- ❖ Vertical Mulching
- ❖ Anti-Desiccant Spraying
- ❖ General Tree and Shrub Maintenance Removal

Turf:

- ❖ Lawn Renovation
- ❖ Fertilization
- ❖ Overseeding
- ❖ Core Aeration
- ❖ Estate / Property Purification

Organic Pest Control:

- ❖ Flying Insect
- ❖ Deer / Geese
- ❖ Rodent Repellent
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