



# Branches Tree Care Ltd.

Box 896  
Bon Accord, Ab  
T0A 0K0  
780-721-9161

[branchestreecare@gmail.com](mailto:branchestreecare@gmail.com)

## Issues in the trees at Erin Ridge:

1. **Juniper Hawthorn Rust:** Is an airborne fungus that lives on a Juniper over winter, blooms in May then travels to a Hawthorn tree within 9 miles. It forms an orange jelly type substance in May and it's spores then go airborne then brown balls of various sizes form on the Juniper. There is no cure and once the tree has it, it has it until the fungus kills the tree. The Juniper in the common area has Juniper Hawthorn Rust.
2. **Black Knot:** Is an airborne fungus that is everywhere in Alberta. Only Prunus family trees can get Black knot. Prunus are Cherry trees mostly here in Alberta. Prunus are Mayday's and Schubert Choke Cherry trees. Black knot is a terminal fungus; it will eventually kill the tree. If pruned properly and following specific rules an Arborist can extend the life and vitality of a tree so it's possible to get extra years out of the tree. Black knot starts out on the tips of branches. Once it starts to move inward onto scaffold branches or stems then the tree starts to require to have large sections pruned out which can unbalance tree or make it look odd. It also increases the cost of maintaining the fungus and pruning the tree so it becomes a dollar issue. At some point the tree won't be worth pruning and will be a removal. If caught early, Prunus trees can thrive for 10-15 years easily. Some people opt to remove the tree right away instead of having the trimming cost every year to have the black knot maintained. Some choose to invest and don't mind the cost.
3. **Fire Blight in Crab Apple trees:** Fire Blight has become a major issue here in the last few years. Our winters are too mild to kill the bacteria that over winters in the ground. I have not seen Fire Blight there in any Crab Apple trees but I advise to follow simple rules to avoid it. There is no surviving Fire blight. It is a fast killer. If you have a Crab Apple tree PLEASE DO NOT prune it while it has leaves on it. Only prune after Oct 1 and before April 1. Better safe than sorry.
4. **Ash Gall Mites:** This looks like lumps of small cauliflower brown formations on the tips of the twigs. This is actually tiny mites that borrow into the bark/wood and the tree makes this deformed wood to try and grow around the mites nest. For a while it's ok, but after years the tree declines and makes smaller leaves and eventually dies back to much to recover. Ash Gall mites have been here for 35 million years and there is no cure.
5. **Ash Plant Bug:** You will notice the leaves of your Ash tree not grow to the size they normally do and will have white spots on the top and black dots on the under leaf. The city of St. Albert boulevard trees are unfortunately loaded in this bug. The tree can be sprayed but because St. Albert is infested with this bug it's a sad outcome. Every year the tree will have to be sprayed. If left, the bug affects the leaf formation causing the tree to not be able to photosynthesize enough and dies back more each year.





# Branches Tree Care Ltd.

Box 896  
Bon Accord, Ab  
TOA OKO  
780-721-9161

[branchestreecare@gmail.com](mailto:branchestreecare@gmail.com)

*Tree Choices appropriate for Erin Ridge Homeowners Assoc.*

1. **Ivory Silk Lilac:** *Very pretty. White flowers, very fragrant. Is a tree not a shrub. Max height 15 ft, max width 8 - 10 ft. Very low maintenance and hardy.*
2. **Ohio Buckeye:** *Hardy tree, flowers greenish yellow blooms late spring forms a cherry size seed. Is very slow growing max h:26 ft x 20 ft wide. Very nice tree.*
3. **Amur Choke Cherry:** *is just like the Schuberts or Maydays but does not get black knot. Has green leaves and copper/orange bark. Flowers and makes berries. One of my favorite trees.*
4. **Red Rocket Maple:** *Narrow upright tree, very hardy, is an alternate choice to the Columnar Aspen (which I never recommend). Beautiful Bright red leaves in the fall. Medium grower. 30 ft tall x 10 ft wide.*
5. **Weeping Dwarf Norwegian Spruce:** *10 ft tall x 8 ft wide. Downward growing branches, very interesting tree.*
6. **Weeping White Spruce:** *Columnar growth habit with downward growing branches. 18 ft tall x 3 ft wide.*
7. **Columnar Colorado Blue Spruce:** *Narrow upright growing tree, branches grow upwards. 20 ft tall x 7 ft wide.*
8. **Holmstrup Cedar:** *8 ft tall x 4 ft wide.*
9. **Dakota Pinnacle Birch:** *Very pretty Birch, turns a nice yellow in the fall. 25 ft tall x 7 ft wide.*
10. **Sutherland Caragana:** *Very hardy, blooms yellow flowers. 16 ft tall x 4 ft wide.*
11. **Princess Kay Plum:** *White flowers but produces no fruit. Very pretty tree. Good for small locations. 16 ft tall x 10 ft wide.*

12. **Purple Spire Crab Apple:** Upright growth habit, dark green/dark purple leaves. Pink Blooms, small crab apple that is edible. 15 ft tall x 6 ft wide. Gorgeous tree.

