Friday – June 12, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into another edition of Ag Talk. Friday means horticulture and today talking about trees. Specifically, sycamore Ed.

ED: We got a disease out there called anthracnose. It’s hitting the sycamores again this year. And people may as they drive around Findlay and the county say well what is wrong with our sycamore trees. They really look like they are slow to leaf out or they just look thin and don’t have the leaves on them like other trees. It’s going to be what we call sycamore anthracnose. It’s a disease that effects our native American Sycamore trees in the area and the trees typical symptoms appear to have few leaves at the beginning. They are full. The tips of the young twigs have dies back several inches so we got these new shoots that looks like they got some death on it. And then of course when we get new growth later on coming where those twigs have died back we get a lot of branches coming back and we call them witches broom so it’s not real attractive looking. The thing about it is this is not a disease that normally kills the sycamore tree. It definitely attacks and effects the first leaves. But all trees have got what I call the secondary leaves that come out in case of frost or something damage the first leaves. It’s just going to take some time here for those secondary leaves to come out and get going cause the tree is really going to protect them and make sure things are good before it allows those buds to break open. We do know what causes this or it’s like any other plant disease, you got to have the right environment and we had the right environment again this year, Bill. If your average temperature is less than 55 degrees of the first two weeks after the buds begin to open and leaves start coming out that’s when we get serious infection. And we had those cool temperature again at that time. If the temperature was above 60 those first few weeks of when the buds are opening up and the leaves are coming out we don’t get any anthracnose. But for the last several years we’ve had the cooler temperatures and it’s really favored anthracnose to come in. There is really nothing you can do. You can remove the dead and damaged tissue. On a big tree fungicides are expensive and impractical so we generally don’t say to use a fungicide because it seldom kills the tree. But they are going to look like they are sick for a while here until the secondary leaves come out. Anthracnose can also affect other trees in the area besides the sycamore and we have had a lot calls in the extension office this year. The more common tree species that we also see anthracnose come in will be oaks, maples, and the ash. It doesn’t normally kill the first leaves it just gives black blotches on the first leaves so can make them look like they are wilted. So it’s been a good year for anthracnose but don’t worry about it. Most of your trees should be fine

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.