

PARKING LOT TREES

FROM DON MARSHALL

In the past I have commented on the unfortunateness that the trees in the Stop and Shop parking lot are “Bradford Pear” types and consequently they would never grow to a height where they could provide some real shade. Consequently I was pleased to see that many of the plantings in the reworked Marshalls parking lot are maple and similar types that grow to heights where they will eventually produce pleasant shade. They appeared to be correctly mulched also – not the bad practice of volcano mulching that is so commonly seen elsewhere.

It was disturbing to begin to see that several of the newly planted trees soon showed evidence of die back at the highest point of their main stem and this developed into a sapling with a dead crown and multiple side shoots starting near the base. A few weeks ago, the dying main stems were cut off, leaving only the side shoots. The professional arborists have a word for these - coppice ,I believe – but we non- professionals usually refer to them as ‘suckers’ a term definitely used in the pejorative sense. I believe that if the plant is left to develop from these, it will be inherently weak and highly susceptible to damage from wet snow. wind. and ice storms.

Two of the best examples of this are directly in front of Whole Foods Market.

I was impressed that the original plantings had “Treeegator “ bags around them for watering. But in a few cases where I checked these appeared to be empty so I surmise that the planting failure may have been due to inadequate watering.

In my humble opinion, the failed trees should be removed promptly -not just cut back – and replaced with saplings of the next larger caliper size to make up for the lost time. I would also recommend that the replanting be overseen by a professional arborist and that a rigorous watering schedule be set up and adhered to.

Respectfully,

Don Marshall