



THE SONG OF THE SUMMER

GET TO KNOW YOUR CICADAS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



- This May and June, the 13-year brood and the 17-year brood of cicadas will emerge for the first time since 1803. The two broods will only overlap in North Central Illinois.
- These broods will result in billions of harmless bugs who will be part of a phenomenon the entire state will be talking about!
- Male cicadas will start singing after they emerge from the ground. They will gather in trees and sing together to attract females.

The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association represents thousands of landscape professionals across Illinois. We are very excited about this natural phenomenon and want to share some information with landscape clients and homeowners.

HOW WILL CICADAS IMPACT YOUR PLANTS?

- Female cicadas lay eggs in trees and prefer twigs about the size of a pencil. The female makes a small slit in the branch to deposit her eggs. These cause small wounds that will not impact the overall health of most trees.
- Very small trees, like the whips you see planted on Arbor Day, are most at risk from damage caused by egg laying by female cicadas. Plants installed by landscape crews are generally large enough to survive these small cuts. Small trees can be wrapped in tulle or netting to play it safe.
- Larger trees are resilient and don't require any help from you or your landscape crews. Well-maintained trees are watered regularly, mulched properly, and checked routinely for pests and diseases.



HOW WILL CICADAS IMPACT YOUR TURF?



- Adult cicadas live for 4–6 weeks. Upon death, cicadas will be eaten by wildlife or ground-up during mowing.
- Dead cicadas may accumulate under trees and smell unpleasant, but they add nutrients to the soil as they decompose.
- Cicadas do not respond to pesticides and insecticides so be leery of any company attempting to sell this service.

HOW DOES IT ALL END?

- Cicada eggs will hatch 6 to 10 weeks after they are laid.
- The tiny cicada nymphs will drop from tree branches to the ground and begin feeding on grass roots without causing damage.
- Over time, the nymphs will dig 8–12 inches into the soil, and feed on tree roots for the next 13 or 17 years.

