

Fruit of the Loam

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Yellow leaves on your plants?



Iron chlorosis on tree and shrub leaves turns a yellowish color while the leaf veins remain a dark green. As the problem becomes more severe the leaf color may change from yellow to white to brown. If iron chlorosis is left uncorrected twigs and eventually branches may die leading to the death of the tree or shrub.

Symptoms of iron chlorosis may appear over the entire tree or shrub, on one side only or be limited to individual branches. Our Kansas soils have adequate amounts of iron. However, as the soil pH rises above 7.0 iron changes to an insoluble form that many plants struggle to pick up.

Scott City has many trees in town that are yellow. They all need a treatment to correct this iron deficiency. Our shrubs and other flowering perennials also can develop this and they all need help to overcome iron chlorosis.

Foliar applications can be applied, although this method works fast, it does not last long. Mix 2.5 ounces of iron sulphate in a three gallon sprayer and spray solution on the leaves. For small perennials and shrubs mix the iron in a bucket and dump on the foliage.

The soil treatment for iron chlorosis is longer lasting but requires real work to punch holes in the ground 15-18 inches deep all around the tree or shrub about two feet apart. Mix sulphur and iron sulphate at a 1:1 ratio. Small trees less than four inches in diameter mix 1 pound of sulphur to 1 pound of iron sulphate for each inch of diameter of the tree trunk. For trees larger than four inch diameter double the ratio to 2 pounds of sulphur and 2 pounds iron sulphate per inch diameter of trunk.

Trunk injection treatment is the easy method to correct iron chlorosis. You actually take a drill and bit and make small holes in the trunk of the tree and inject iron direct. Folks always wonder about the damage to the tree but the wounds are small and the callous tissue will close the wounds within one year. We grow our own and that's the difference.

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Open Sunday
1:00-5:00 p.m. in May