

## Village of Merrimac, Tips of the Month—August 2016

### NUISANCE TREES

Did you know our current Village **ordinance prohibits planting any Cottonwood or Box Elder trees?** Most of their seedlings start and spread from wind-blown seeds and are not intentionally planted. Whenever possible, it is advisable for Village residents to remove all young Cottonwood and Box Elder trees on their property while they are small. Due to their rapid growth rate and messy nature they are considered nuisance trees (Cottonwoods drop windblown cotton-seed, sticky buds, and sticks and limbs; Box Elder trees attract and harbor droves of Box Elder bugs that get into homes). Removing these trees after they have grown large (especially Cottonwoods) can become expensive, problematic and sometimes outright dangerous due to their size and reach/spread).

Per Chapter 108, paragraph 3 (trees, shrubs, lawns and plantings) the planting of certain other tree species is also restricted within the Village. Due to their extremely rapid growth and messy nature, **no person may plant the following tree species within any public street right-of-way, parkway, boulevard, or other public place (eg, parks) within the Village of Merrimac. These nuisance trees include: Catalpa, Soft Maple, Chinese Elm, White Poplar, Lombardy Poplar, Basswood, Linden, or Black Willow trees. The restricted list also includes fruit or nut trees and evergreens (eg Walnut trees).**

If you have questions on this subject, or questions regarding our Village Code Chapter 108, Property Maintenance, please contact the Village Administrator for assistance.