



# AMTOPP News

AMTOPP Moving Forward in 2021



Fall - 2021



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## Bayer Announces Withdrawal Of Glyphosate From Lawn And Garden Market

In a press release issued Thursday, July 29, Bayer updated their five-point plan to bring closure to litigation surrounding the herbicide glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup. The company is seeking a Supreme Court decision that would review the Hardiman decision in California that found that the herbicide was responsible for causing lymphoma in a man who used Roundup as part of his job as a groundskeeper and Bayer failed to adequately warn consumers that the product was a carcinogen.

Additionally, the company announced the reformulation of Roundup branded herbicides on retail shelves, removing glyphosate as an active ingredient by 2023. New Roundup formulations will require EPA and state approval before being offered for sale. Bayer stated that this move was being made to address future litigation risk and was not related to concerns surrounding the product's safety. There will be no change to the availability of the



company's glyphosate formulations for the professional or agricultural markets.

"This is from a regulatory and logistical point of view (of what's possible)," Condon said during a conference call with investors.

*See Bayer page 4*

## Water is the Gold of the Future

**By: Dudley Marburger**  
**Vice President AMTOPP 2021**

Water is essential to life on this planet. Everything else becomes irrelevant without water. Here in the United States we have a massive collection system to harvest this liquid we all need. Giant reservoirs to gather both the snow melt and rain runoff that appears magically from the sky. Huge dams to create power and store our water supply. The many creeks, streams and rivers that feed this system is amazing. As the water moves through this intricate system we pull off some to irrigate our farms and supply the small towns along the banks. Then we collect it in huge reservoirs for distribution to the large cities at the end of the system. The water travels along canals and pipes into purification plants to make it potable. From there it is fed into the plumbing that keeps the cities alive. Passing under structures on its way to feed the thirst. Eventually the long and arduous journey ends in the home plumbing system. Here we drink, wash and cook with water. After all this long and complicated process where does water end up. Back in the ground. Through the toilet, through the sink, through the hose we put it back into the ground where we first started this huge process. Sustaining life through its course the process begins all over again.

The state of Montana and the Flathead Valley sits on arguably

the largest supply of fresh water in the world. There are very powerful and patient entities in this world that want our water. I have heard some say, "Why not. We have more than we can use." That would be today, but what about a hundred years from now. Or five hundred years. This process of taking over the control of our water has been in the works for years and is slowly but steadily moving in that direction. If they are willing to build a canal from Colorado to Arizona and Southern California. They will build a canal from the Flathead to San Francisco. Do the math. When the price of gas goes up a dollar to say four dollars a gallon. The world as we know it comes to an end. There are eight pints to a gallon. A pint of water goes for \$1.50 more or less. How much for that gallon of water at the grocery store before our world comes to an end.

The intent of this discourse is to get us as an organization to realize many things effect our business. The price of gasoline and soon the price of water or regulations defining the use of water.

Now we can move on to the cell towers popping up in all our national forests because they are so essential for the visitors to have access to their phones. We have endless lawsuits because management wants to make our forest fire safe. But not one entity balks even a little bit when we install tall towers slicing the view lines of our majestic forests and parks.

*Quarterly Board Meeting to be held, Friday November 5, 2021, at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - 1500 Fairmont Rd, Anaconda. If you are interested in attending please notify the AMTOPP office. [amtopp@amtopp.org](mailto:amtopp@amtopp.org) or (406) 204-0100.*

# President's Message

## Good By Summer and Hello Fall and Winter



With summer coming to an end, I could use a break from the grind about now, and I guess many of you feel the same. However, now is the time to buckle down to finish up all our projects for the year!

This part of my season is always a challenge for me to keep my eye on the prize and finish all the work and projects I started earlier this year. Not only is my focus on the projects left for the year, now is the time to start thinking ahead for the winter season and begin scheduling out work to keep our crews busy throughout the winter months. Speaking of winter, this also means that it is time to start thinking about the AMTOPP Conference!

Just like 2020, this year has been a real rollercoaster. If you are like me, it seemed like 2020 brought new opportunities and projects, and 2021 has been very similar (not to mention playing

catch up from a crazy year before!). As some of you are no doubt aware, Northern Rockies Tree School was canceled this fall, which will make our conference all the more critical for our industry. As of now, we are still planning on holding our conference, and with your support and membership, this year promises to be the best AMTOPP Conference we have had yet! I encourage you to begin thinking about signing up early this year to give us a rough idea of who will be in attendance and make sure we have enough resources for everyone!

The board is currently working on solidifying this year's conference schedule, and we will also soon have raffle tickets available for purchase. Like at the last conference, this year's prizes will be gift certificates from sporting goods retailers throughout the state. Stay tuned for more information!

Now that I have filled you in on our winter plans let's talk about fall. AMTOPP was able to step up this year and organize the Montana Saluting Branches event in Helena, and if I do say so, it was a great success. Although it seemed

as though Saluting Branches was not going to happen this year in Montana, Tom Molitor with Big Twig Tree Care in Bozeman came through and got things organized, and the event went off without a hitch. A big shout out to all the volunteers who came out this year to volunteer for veteran remembrance, and again a huge thank you to Tom (who also happens to be your AMTOPP secretary/treasurer) for all he did in

arranging this year's event!

Be sure and mark your calendar for the AMTOPP conference, Tuesday, January 25, through Friday, January 28, 2022. The schedule is out on the website and will be sent out to everyone very soon.

Thanks a bunch, everyone, and we will see you at the conference!

Cooper Elwood



Nov 5 - Quarterly Board Meeting - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - 1500 Fairmont Rd, Fairmont - 10 AM

Jan.26, 2022 - Pre Conference Board Meeting - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - 1500 Fairmont Rd, Fairmont - 5PM

January 28, 2022 - Post Conference Board Meeting - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - 1500 Fairmont Rd., Fairmont - 3PM - (this time subject to change (early or later) due to conference wrap up.)

All are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the AMTOPP office or one of the Board members.



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# Safety Corner

## Ladders and Safety

*Ladder accidents are one of the leading causes of serious injury in our trade and they happen in an instant.*

Do you know someone who has fallen off a ladder? Did it happen on one of your jobs? Was it you? Was there an injury? Perhaps it has never happened to you and you have only heard about it while cringing through the gory details.

I believe we all recognize that ladder use is an essential part of the landscape professional's job. However, often times a lack of understanding of ladder construction, or the failure to use the correct ladder for the assigned task, can lead to serious accidents.

For professional use, all extension ladders should be fiberglass and have a Type 1A duty rating. It is of utmost importance that extension ladders be on firm ground, level, and footed when someone is ascending. Attempting to balance the ladder when it is not level by leaning in the opposite direction is a poor practice and can lead to a fall. Never work on an extension ladder alone.

Should a ladder fall into disrepair (worn fiberglass rails, bent rungs, or any other item listed by the manufacturer as an "out of service"), tag the ladder as out of service and discard it. Fiberglass ladders (in spite of what the internet contends) cannot be repaired and be placed back into service in the professional world.

More commonly in the landscape maintenance world, step and tripod ladders are the norm. Using the correct ladder for the assigned task is crucial.

Stepladders are generally more stable than tripod ladders because they have four legs

compared to three.

Making sure the stepladder is on level ground is just as important as it is for an extension ladder.

Typically, work being performed on a ladder brings with it a number of variables: tools, positioning/repositioning, and plant parts being removed/falling.

Tripod ladders (sometimes wood, but more frequently now aluminum) allow improved access, especially in hedges and orchards to perform work.

The aluminum tripod ladder I recommend is the style that has the telescoping third leg for use on uneven surfaces.

Furthermore, purchase this ladder with a hard surface kit including skid-resistant footpads and a restraining cable for the third leg, or make sure suitable means are present to prevent skidding and stabilizing of the third leg.

Make certain to inspect the work site ahead of time and do not use an aluminum ladder within ten feet of any electrical conductor (including a house drop) on any job site.

Ladders made of fiberglass are the way to go for the professional. They are non-conductive and lightweight. They are modern and have the manufacturer's load ratings on the side rail (1A-mentioned above is recommended-300lb load).

How many of you reading this feel that ladders are sketchy at times? If you are saying yes, you are not alone. How do we collectively stay safe on ladders? In my opinion, it comes from reviewing the things that went wrong.

**Here are a few examples to review at an upcoming tailgate meeting:**

A worker places a tripod ladder up against a tall hedge to perform annual shearing. The third leg is in the hedge and the two other legs are on level, solid ground (concrete). The worker starts the hedge shear on the ground and carefully climbs two-thirds up the 16' tripod to begin the work. The third leg cannot foot on a hard pad due to the tight hedge and is not stable. Halfway through the job, a combination of the unknown load on the third leg and the worker's repositioning causes the ladder to tilt and fall.

A worker completes a hedge project with a tripod ladder. Twenty feet away a stub remains on a maple tree (approximately 15' off the ground) from earlier pruning. Instead of going back to the truck and retrieving the stepladder, the worker decides to use the already handy tripod. The ladder is set up and as the worker climbs up to clean up the stub, the third leg sinks into some soft mulch causing the ladder and worker to fall to the ground.

If for whatever reason you or a co-worker do not feel comfortable with your ladder setup, stop and make a new plan. Ladder accidents are one of the leading causes of serious injury in our trade and they happen in an instant. Better to call a timeout than proceed with a sketchy plan while on a ladder!

This article was published in the September/October issue of the magazine, *The Landscape Professional* and written by: Wayne Dubin, VP/Division Manager with Bartlett Tree Experts



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# From Our Affiliates

## Grasshoppers...Another Strong Presence in 2021

**By: Dr. Laurie Kerzicnik**  
**Associate Extension**  
**Specialist II MSU Extension**

2021 brought another heavy year of grasshopper activity. Adults are long-lived, surviving most of the summer until a hard frost. Females also produce around 100-200 eggs, which allows for a quick increase in populations.

Most established perennials and woody ornamentals can withstand some defoliation from grasshoppers. Some vegetables such as peas, tomatoes, and squash are less favored by grasshoppers. The most common grasshoppers around the home include those in the genus *Melanoplus*. They feed readily on bait formulations, which are available for control. The best time to treat them is before wing development and dispersal.

Predicting grasshopper outbreaks can be challenging. It requires knowledge of critical environmental conditions rather



**Banded argiope spider.**  
**Photo by Ann McKean**

than just population counts from the year before. Outbreaks usually occur after a wet spring that allows for some green vegetation and enough moisture for egg hatch. If the vegetation dries out significantly after a wet spring, this creates ideal conditions for an outbreak.

One positive of the grasshopper outbreak this year was a rise in the number of banded Argiope spiders (*Argiope trifasciata*). They like to build large, spiral webs in drier areas with tall vegetation and are known to feed heavily on grasshoppers. 2021 was a year for them to thrive!

## Bayer continued from page 1

More than 90% of the Roundup litigation claims Bayer has faced in recent years have come from the U.S. residential lawn and garden market business segment and is what led to the company deciding to abandon the do it yourself (DIY) formulations, according to Werner Baumann, CEO of Bayer AG.

NALP continues to closely monitor all developments with regards to glyphosate considering the intense public scrutiny. We continue to trust and support EPA's most recent re-evaluation of glyphosate and their further finding that glyphosate is not carcinogenic. Bayer continues to defend EPA's position and continues to support professional uses of glyphosate on the Farm or at your home by trained

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**Article from The Advocate, July 30 issue.**

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## ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**October 19 - 20, 2021**

**8:00 AM to, 4:15 PM**

**To register visit:**  
**<https://isarmc.org>**

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# SNEAK PEEK AT THE AMTOPP CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

Start	End		Room
12 PM	6 PM	First Aid/CPR/Trauma	108
4 PM	6 PM	Early Check In - Registration Area of Conference Facility	

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022**

Start	End	Workshop Information	Room
8 AM	5 PM	EHAP - Dr. John Ball	Sapphire Conf Room
8 AM	5 PM	Landscape Irrigation Design Process - Jeremy Mansell, Rainbird	Bitterroot Conf Room
8:30 AM	12 PM	ISA Testing	103
12 PM	8 PM	Vendor Set Up	Cutthroat & Hallways
5 PM	6:30 PM	Board Meeting	108
6 PM	8 PM	Early check In - Registration Area of Conference Facility	

**Thursday 27, 2022 - Registration Desk Open @ 7AM**

6:30 AM	8 AM	Vendor Set-up in Cutthroat, Grizzly, Meadowlark, and Hallway	
7 AM	8 AM	Continental Breakfast - Foyer	
8 AM	8:50 AM	Opening Session - Cooper Elwood - AMTOPP President with Exhibitor introductions	Cutthroat Room
9:00 AM	9:50AM	Keynote Address - Tom Shotzbarger	Cutthroat Room

## WORKSHOPS

Start	End	Bitterroot		Sapphire	Ponderosa	Room 108
10 AM	10:50AM	Professional Lawn Care Applica- tor Training  Victor Gust <i>Warne Chemical Co</i>		Soil Testing Linda Chalker-Scott Washington State Univ	Fungi in Conifers Toni <i>Rainbow Treecare</i>	Wire Irrigation Controller Troubleshooting Chris Bowell and Jerrod Scott <i>Rainbird Rocky Mountain Southwest</i>
11 AM	11:50 AM			<b>Diagnosing Insects &amp; Disease in Lawns &amp; Trees</b> Dr. John Ball <i>S.D. State Univ</i>	Fungi in Deciduous Korey Lofy <i>Arborjet</i>	
12 PM	1:20 PM	Annual Membership Luncheon, and Business Meeting (12:50-1:20) <i>Cutthroat Room</i>				
		Cutthroat	Bitterroot	Sapphire	Ponderosa	Room 108
1:30 PM	2:20 PM	Round Table with Tom Shotzbarger  <i>Muhlenberg College</i>	<b>Applicator Cat- egory Clarification</b> Theresa Schrum <i>MT Dept of Ag</i>	<b>Pollinators</b> <i>Abbie MSU</i>	Landscape Design Dudley Marburger <i>Dudley's Trees</i>	Pumps
2:30 PM	3:20PM		Rock/Shrub Bed Weed Mgmt. Victor Gust <i>Warne Chemical</i>	Soil Microbes & Mulch (Mycorrhizae) Linda Chalker-Scott Washington State Univ		
3:30 PM	4:20 PM	Trade Show Open and Open Mic for Exhibitors - <i>Cutthroat, Grizzly, and Meadowlark Rooms</i>				
		Bitterroot		Sapphire	Ponderosa	Room 108
4:30 PM	5:20 PM	<b>Vegetation Management</b> Kima Tonda <i>MT Dept of Ag</i>		Leadership in Business Tom Schotzbarger	Basic Aquatics Frank Etzler <i>MT Dept of Ag</i>	Electrical Trouble Shooting
5:30 PM	7PM	Social Mix with Cash Bar Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle - <i>Cutthroat Room</i>				
7 PM	9:30 PM	<b>Dinner and Presentation - <i>Cutthroat Room</i></b>				

*Please note: All classes, speakers, and designated times are subject to change without notice.*



Friday, January 28, 2022					
Start	End				
7 AM	7:55 AM	ISA Roundtable Discussion - ISA-RMC & MUCFA Booth			
7 AM	7:55 AM	Pre-Meeting Morning Social - Continental Breakfast - <i>Cutthroat Room</i>			
		WORKSHOPS			
		Bitterroot	Sapphire	Ponderosa	Room 108
8 AM	8:50 AM	Mites  <i>Rainbow Treecare</i>	IPM Ornamental & Turf  Eva Grimme <i>MSU Extension</i>	Aerial Rescue  8AM - 5PM  Dave Stice <i>WesSpur Tree Equipment/ Ascension Northwest</i>	Irrigation  Association  Testing
9 AM	9:50 AM	Trade Show Open			
10 AM	10:50 AM	Weeds  Victor Gust <i>Warne Chemical Co</i>	Water Shed Stewareship  <i>Tom Shotzbarger</i>		
11 AM	11:50PM	Alleopathic Chemicals Linda Chalker-Scott <i>Washington State Univ</i>	Turf Diseases <i>Abbie MSU</i>		
12 PM	2:00PM	Lunch Vote for new Board members Introduce Executive/Board of Directors Raffle Drawing <i>Cutthroat Room</i>		Lunch 12 - 1 <i>Cutthroat Room</i>	
2 PM	5 PM	Exhibitors Take Down Exhibits			
3:00 PM	5:3PM	Board Meeting - Room 108 All Members Invited and Welcomed			
Please note: All classes, speakers, and designated times are subject to change without notice.					

### PLEASE NOTE

There is limited seating for all the Pre Conference Classes (First Aid; EHAP; and Irrigation).

There will also be limited participation available for the Aerial Rescue Class on Friday, however there is no limited to being a spectator of the class. ISA credits are available for both participation and spectator. Participation is open first to those who were enrolled in the EHAP class on Wednesday.



### AMTOPP Conference Registration

**Cut off for Early  
Registration is  
December 29, 2021.**

**Cut off for the group rate  
at Fairmont is also  
December 29, 2021.**

**Registration is Open Now!  
visit: [www.amtopp.org](http://www.amtopp.org)**

## 2020 OFFICERS - Executive Board

**President** - Cooper Elwood, Mountain Tree Company; 406-529-0185; coopere@gmail.com;

Term Expires: 2/2023

**Vice President** - Dudley Marburger, Dudley's Trees; 406-212-3391; dudleystrees@centurytel.net;

Term Expires: 2/2024

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Tom Molitor, Big Twig Tree Care; (406) 600-9365; tom@bigtwigtreecare.com;

Term Expires: 2/2025

**Past President:** Jason Stringer, Tree Amigos; 406-268-8733; jcstringer12365@msm.com;

Term Expires: 2/2022

## DIRECTORS

Craig Stensby, TruGreen; 406-860-9443; cstensby1971@gmail.com: Term Expires 2/2023

Steve Jonas Jonas Sprinklers and Fertilizer; 406-216-2281; stevejonas84@gmail.com: Term Expires 2/2022

Chris Galanti; Galanti Lawn & Landscape; (406) 212-4850; chris@galantilandscaping.com: Term Expires 2/2023

Lydia Hesel, Hesel Tree Service; (406) 740-0931; clheser@gmail.com: Term Expires 2/2023

Stephen Pulley; City of Missoula; (406) 214-1316; spulley@bresnan.net: Term Expires 2/2023

Danny Lamb, Intermountain STIHL; (303) 880-2186; danny.lamb@stihl.us: Term Expires 2/2024

Matt Means, NorMont Equipment Co; (406) 453-4344; mmeans@nmeqco.com: Term Expires 2/2024

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Trudie Southwick - trudieamtopped@gmail.com or amtopp@amtopp.org - (406) 204-0100

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**AMTOPP**

173 Cottonwood Road,  
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