

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



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EXTENSION

OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Notes: Jim Chatfield is a horticulture specialist with the Ohio State University Extension Center at Wooster. Phloem ("floh-ee") brings food down from the leaves, food made by photosynthesis. Xylem ("zi-lem") brings water and minerals up from the soil. Vascular cambium makes new phloem and xylem. A prognosis ("prahg-NO-sis"), in this case, means a forecast or prediction. A tree's physiological ("fiz-ee-uh-LAHJ-ih-kul") condition has to do with how well the tree is functioning. Is it normal? Is it healthy? And "catastrophic" ("cat-uh-STRAHF-ik") here means leading to death. Read more about trees and lightning in "Trees and Lightning," <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-FAQ-9-W.pdf>.

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Q. Dear Twig: A tree in our yard got hit by lightning. The trunk has a big long scar. Will it live?

A. "The prognosis for this tree is not great, though it really depends upon the amount of damage to the tree's **vascular system."**

So says a tree guy who works where I work, at Ohio State University. His name is Jim Chatfield. He knows a lot about trees and what bugs them. Including bugs. Lightning. Lightning bugs? Eh, not so much.

"Each lightning strike is different, as is the **physiological condition** of the tree before the strike," Jim explains. "But **the damage is often catastrophic** for the tree over time."

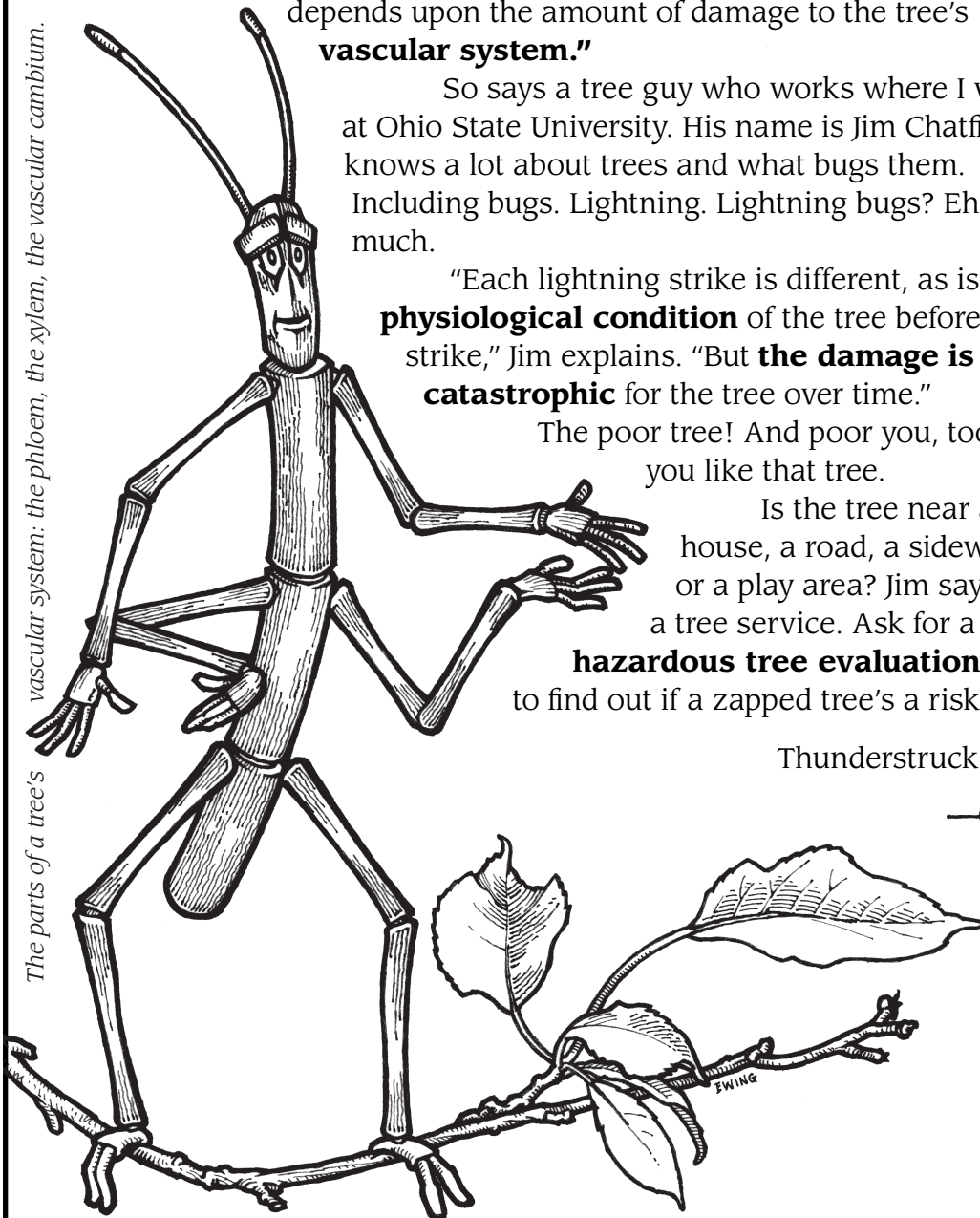
The poor tree! And poor you, too, if you like that tree.

Is the tree near a house, a road, a sidewalk or a play area? Jim says call a tree service. Ask for a **hazardous tree evaluation.** Best to find out if a zapped tree's a risk.

Thunderstruck,

Twig

The parts of a tree's vascular system: the phloem, the xylem, the vascular cambium.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).