We have had lots of questions from citizens concerning their trees not leafing out and we wanted to explain what we think the issue is.

In these charts from October 2019 and April 2020 you can see these extreme temperature events we had. In the middle of winter these temps are not so bad because the trees are fully dormant. In early fall and late spring when the trees are coming out or going into dormancy we get these huge fluctuations in high and low temps and it has an adverse effect on the development of the buds on the tree. Thus, the trees leaf out later than normal because it must sprout new buds that are not damaged by the cold temps.

A lot of trees should make it through this ok but some of the species that aren’t as cold hardy may struggle or even die. Species that aren’t as cold hardy as some of our other trees include Ash, Linden and Maple. Especially when they are young and haven’t developed a good root system or are stressed because of drought or other health reasons.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. We will be making a short video on this in the future for our YouTube channel.