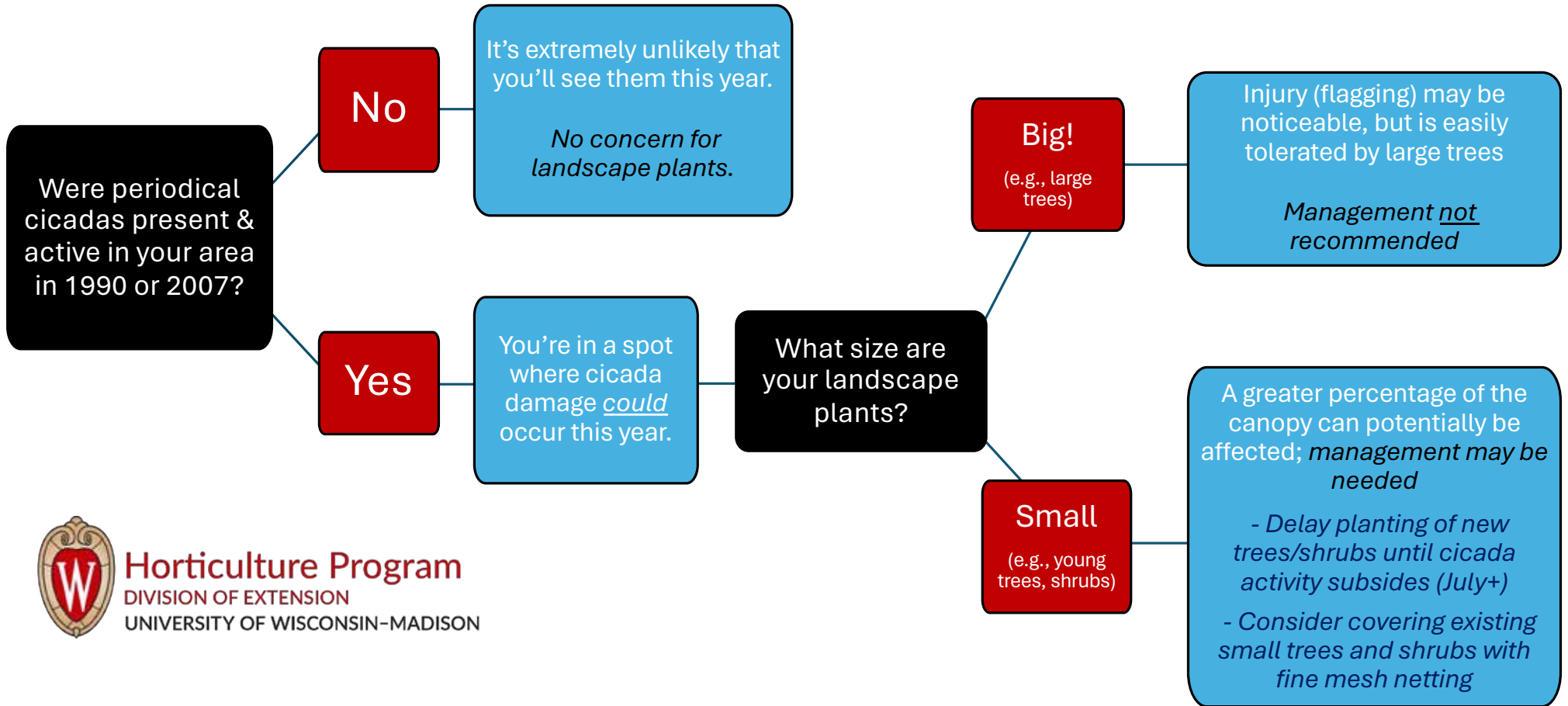


Should I worry about periodical cicada damage to my landscape plants?



Should I worry about periodical cicada damage to my landscape plants?

A flowchart to help with management-related decisions

- If you're concerned about periodical cicada damage to landscape plants, ask yourself or a neighbor if these insects were present in your yard or neighborhood in 2007.
- If they were not present in 2007, *it's highly unlikely that you'll see them this year. In that case, there's no concern for landscape plants and management is not needed at all. Most Wisconsinites will not have periodical cicadas in their yards.*
- If you live in a location that historically had periodical cicadas, it's possible that cicada damage could occur this year as females cut into twigs to lay eggs.
- The next important factor is plant size. If you only have large trees in your yard, management is not needed or feasible. Damage—known as “flagging”—can be conspicuous on large trees, but is well tolerated.
- If you have plants that may be more susceptible to damage (such as small trees), the best approach is to cover trees with fine mesh netting (mesh size of a quarter inch or less). Place the netting over the canopy and secure it to the main trunk of the tree. The netting should be placed before cicadas emerge in large numbers and can be removed in July once cicada activity subsides.
- Research studies have shown that **pesticides are generally ineffective at preventing damage to small landscape plants and pesticide treatments are not recommended.**
- Another scenario to consider relates to the planting of new landscape plants this year. If you live in a spot with periodical cicadas, one easy option is to delay planting until July or later, after periodical cicada activity subsides.