



**ACLP II**  
ADVANCED .....  
ARIZONA CERTIFIED  
LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

## Tree Health Care

# What you will learn



- How trees impact the environment
- Tree anatomy & physiology
- Top tree killers
- Soil issues
- Nutrition and irrigation
- Growth regulators
- Pruning
- Health assessment checklist

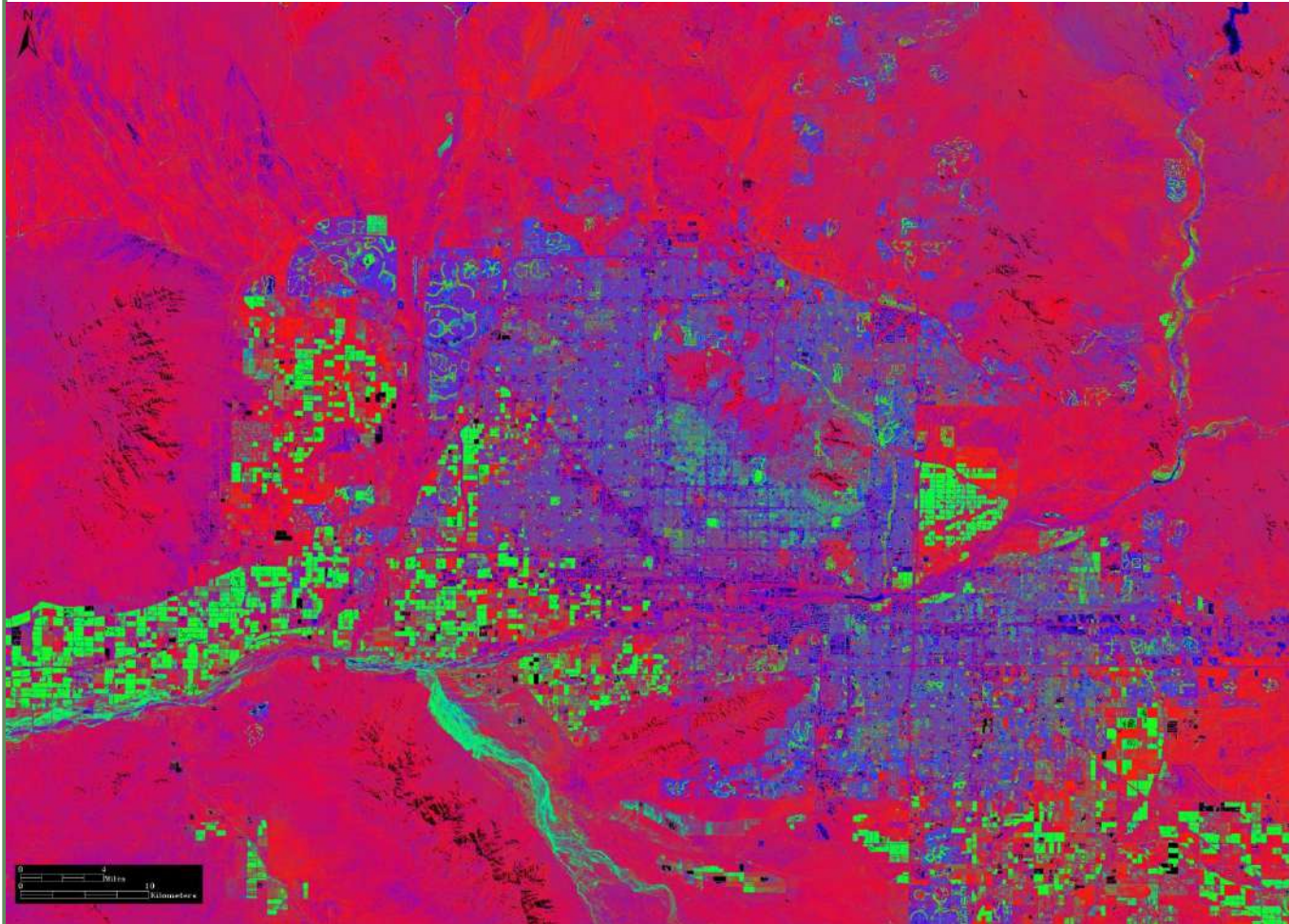


# Benefit of Trees

- Reduce air pollution
- Conserve water and reduce soil erosion
- Save energy
- Modify local climate
- Increase economic stability
- Reduce noise pollution
- Create wildlife and plant diversity
- Increase property values
- Add beauty and improve personal health



# Benefits of Trees



Phoenix metro area showing the Urban Heat Island effect (UHI) as of 2000.

Red- soil/pervious surface

Green- vegetation

Blue- impervious surfaces



# The Urban Forest

Increasing tree canopy cover from the current level of about 10% to 25% could reduce temperatures by 4.3°F.



For a bare neighborhood with no vegetation, adding 25 percent canopy could lead to a **7.9 degree cooling effect.**



# How much does this tree save me?

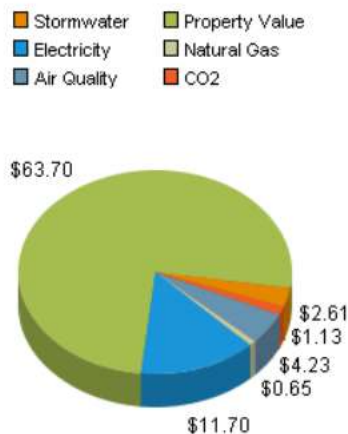




[Home](#)[Calculate another tree](#)

# National Tree Benefit Calculator

*Beta*

[Overall Benefits](#)[Storm Water](#)[Property Value](#)[Energy](#)[Air Quality](#)[CO2](#)[About the Model](#)

**Breakdown of your tree's benefits**

Click on one of the tabs above for more detail

This **8 inch Honey mesquite** provides overall benefits of: **\$84 every year.**

While some functional benefits of trees are well documented, others are difficult to quantify (e.g., human social and communal health). Trees' specific geography, climate, and interactions with humans and infrastructure is highly variable and makes precise calculations that much more difficult. Given these complexities, the results presented here should be considered initial approximations—a general accounting of the benefits produced by urban street-side plantings.

Benefits of trees do not account for the costs associated with trees' long-term care and maintenance.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 13 inches, it will provide **\$127** in annual benefits.



Honey mesquite  
*Prosopis glandulosa*



The National Tree Benefit Calculator was conceived and developed by  
[Casey Trees](#) and [Davey Tree Expert Co.](#)



# The Value of a Tree

Tree (installed) = \$285  
(equal to 24" box)  
Total Value = \$285



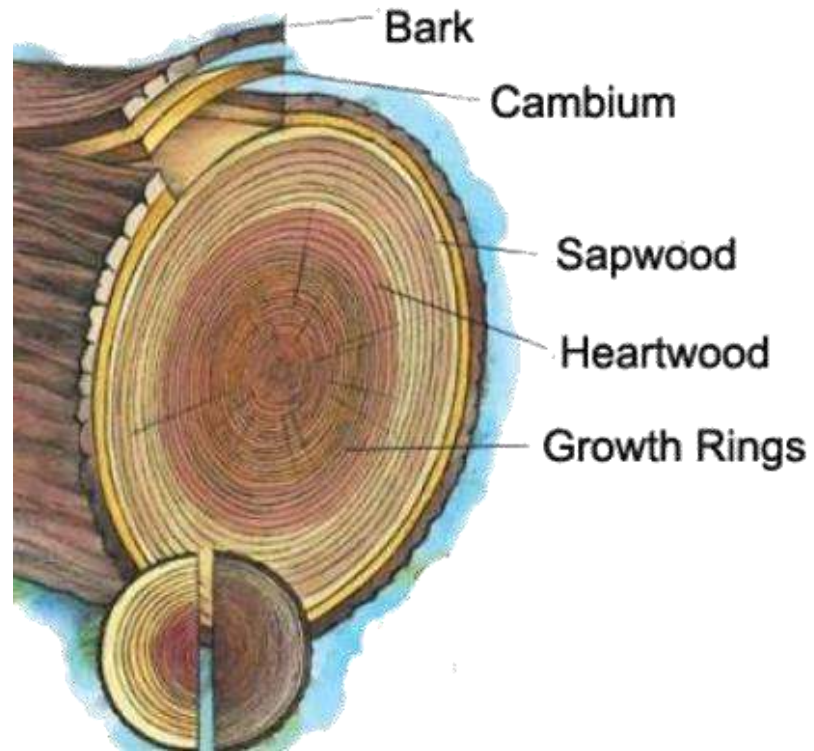
Tree = \$720  
Removal/Stump  
Grind = \$290  
Total Value = \$1,010



Tree = \$3,285.00 (equal to 60" box)  
Delivery = \$1,000  
Install = \$1,600  
Total Value = \$5,885  
Total X 500 trees on your  
property...PRICELESS!!!!







# TREE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

# Photosynthesis



Chlorophyll absorbs green wave lengths from the sun, making plants look green.

Light energy

Carbon dioxide

CO<sub>2</sub> enters through the stomata, an opening in the leaf's epidermis and cuticle.

Water, CO<sub>2</sub> and Sunlight combine in the leaf to make sugar.

Oxygen

Oxygen and water vapor exit the leaf through the stomata. Water loss from leaves is called transpiration.

Water

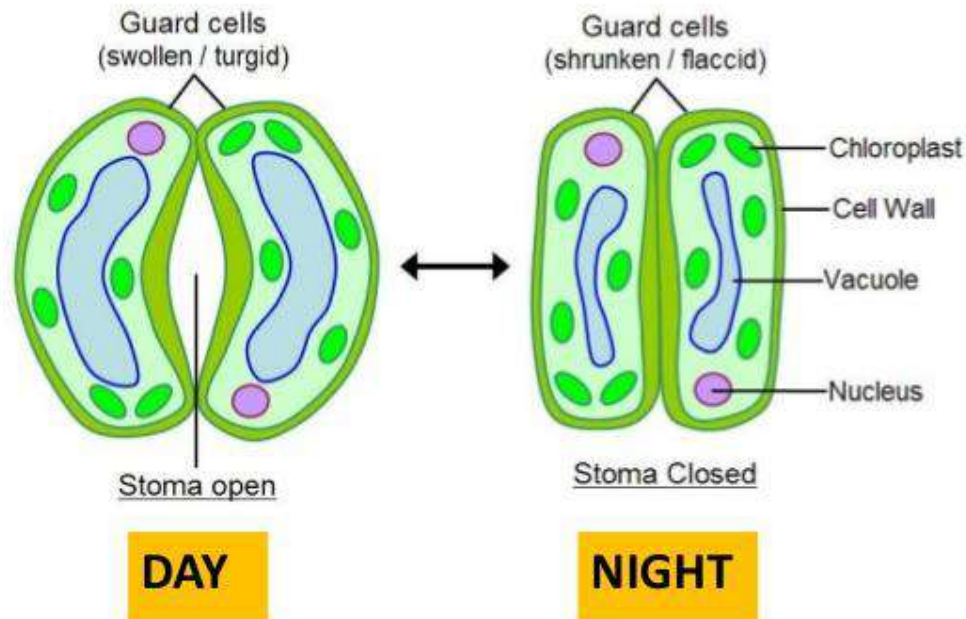
Excess sugar is stored as starch (food) in the roots

Water is absorbed through the roots and carried through the stem to the rest of the plant. A plant's roots replace water lost during transpiration



# Stomata

Tiny openings on the leaf surface, usually the underside, which allows for gas exchange. This is also where **transpiration**, or the loss of water vapor occurs from the plant.



**Fun Fact:** Some desert plants have adapted to capture light energy but keep stomata closed during the day, helping to reduce water loss. **CAM** plant stomata open at night, capturing  $\text{CO}_2$  which can then complete photosynthesis with stored energy from the daytime.

Sometimes **lenticels** are formed from the periderm, which are pores allowing gas exchange on the stems, similar to a stomata's function.





# Conducting Tissues

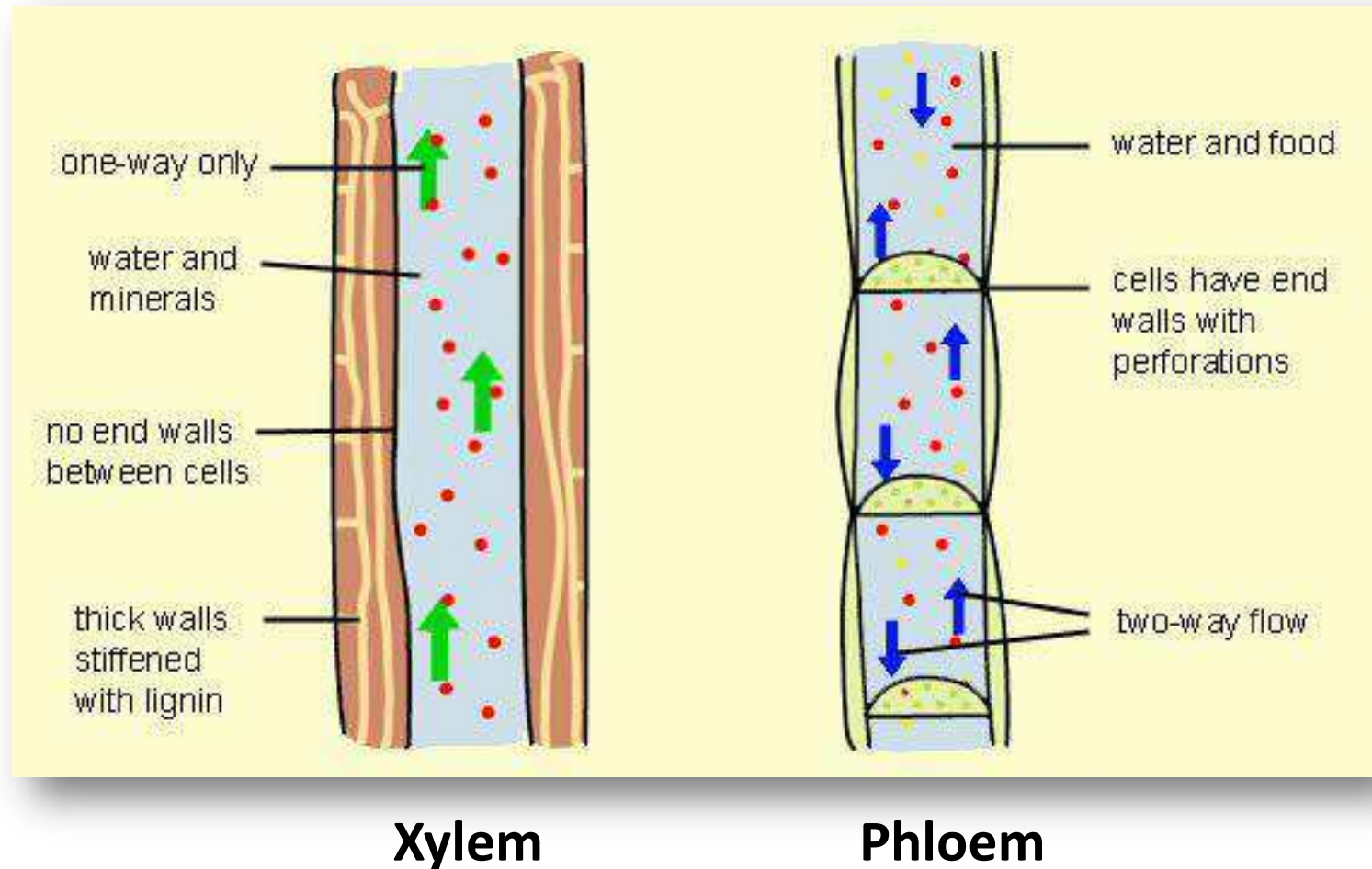
## Xylem

- Transports water & minerals from the roots **up** to the aerial parts of plant
  - ‘Dead’ cells, passive transport, moved based on water potential (**up**)
  - Wood is primarily xylem tissue
  - Inside of vascular bundle

## Phloem

- Transports food and nutrients such as sugars & amino acids from leaves to storage organs & growing parts of plant
  - Active, under plant’s control where sugars are moved (**up or down**)
  - Outside of vascular bundle

# Conducting Tissues





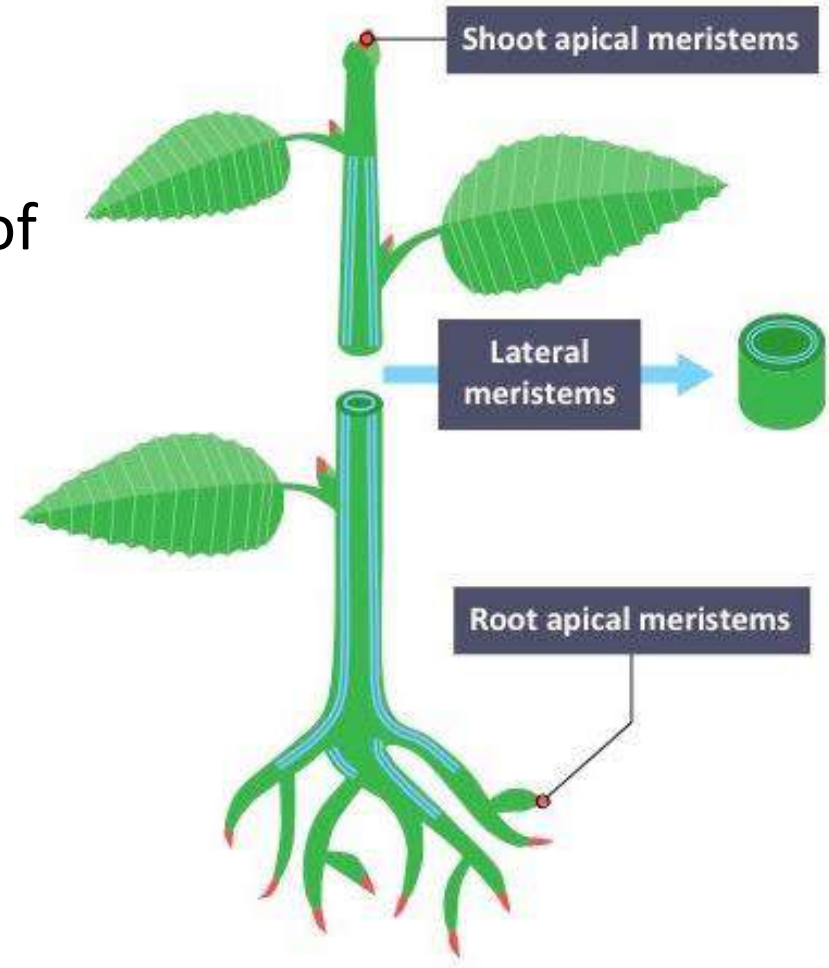
# Meristems

## Primary Growth

- Apical meristems
  - Increases in length at tips of shoots and roots
  - Produces new leaves, flowers/fruit

## Secondary Growth

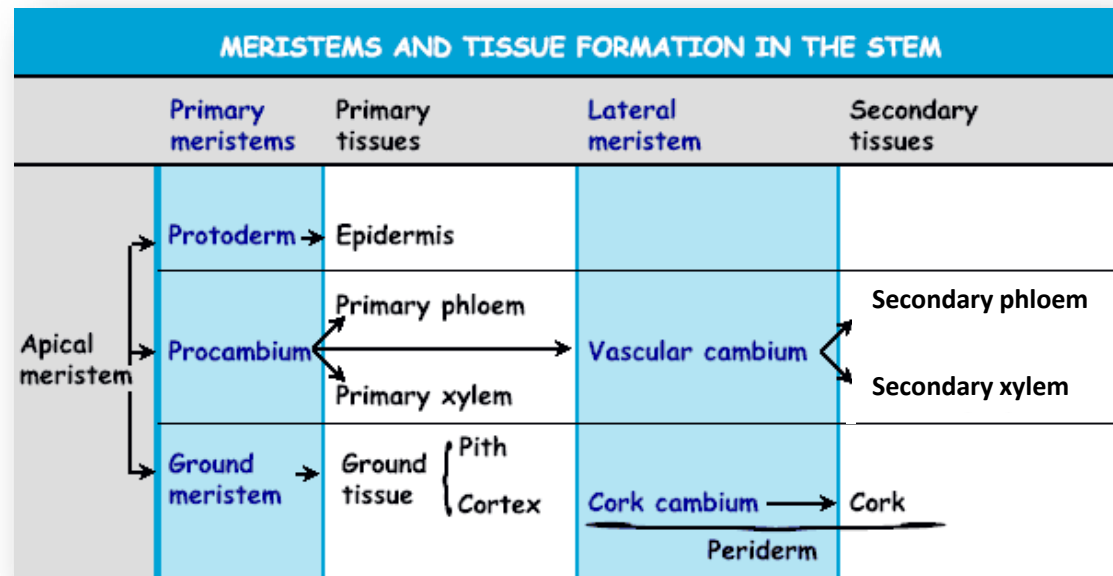
- Lateral meristems
  - Increases in stem and root diameter (girth)
  - Produces bark on trees



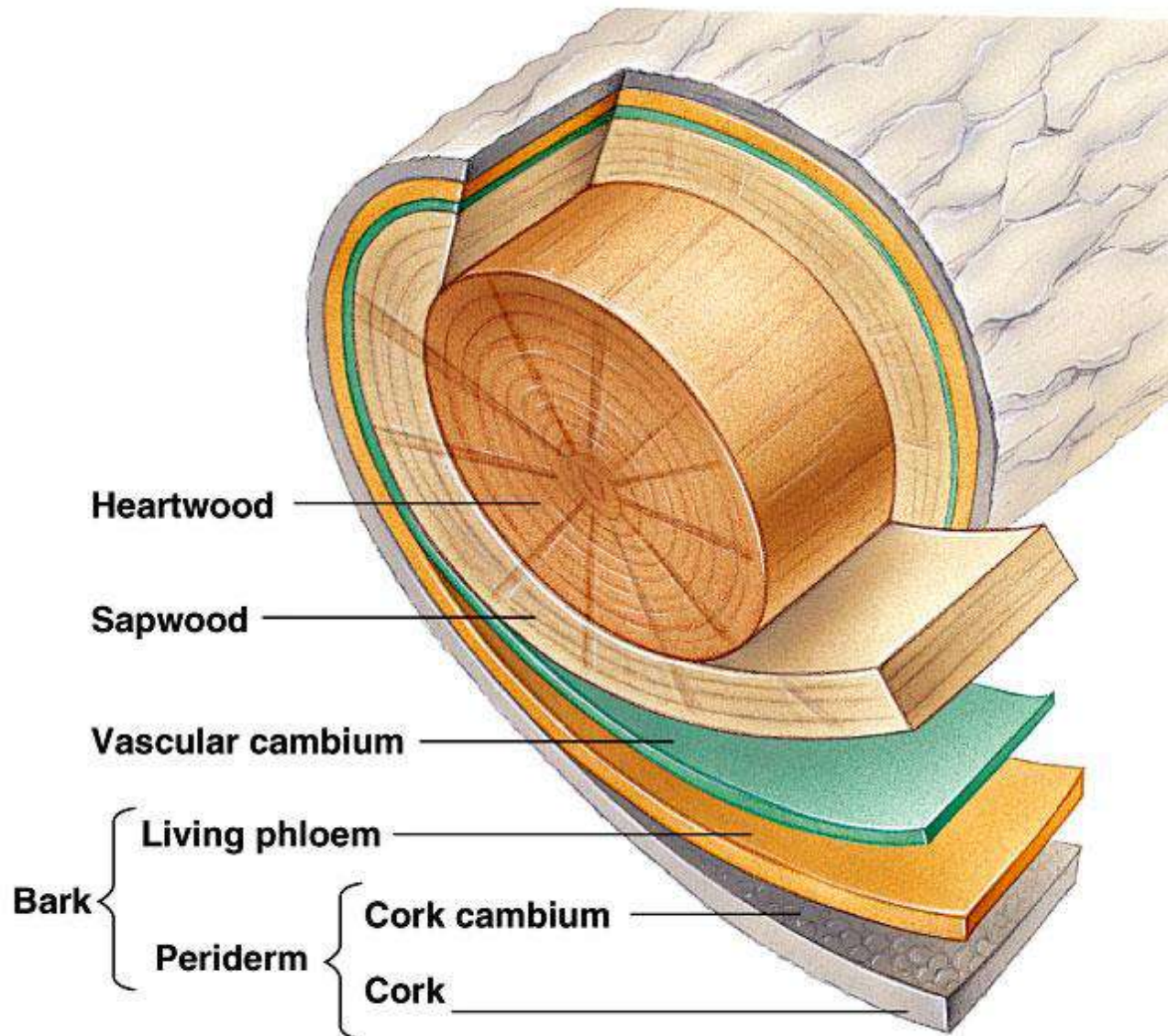
# Meristems

**Lateral meristems** add thickness to woody plants (secondary growth)

- **Vascular cambium** adds layers of vascular tissue called secondary xylem (wood) and phloem
- **Cork cambium**- thick, waxy protective outer layer (periderm)







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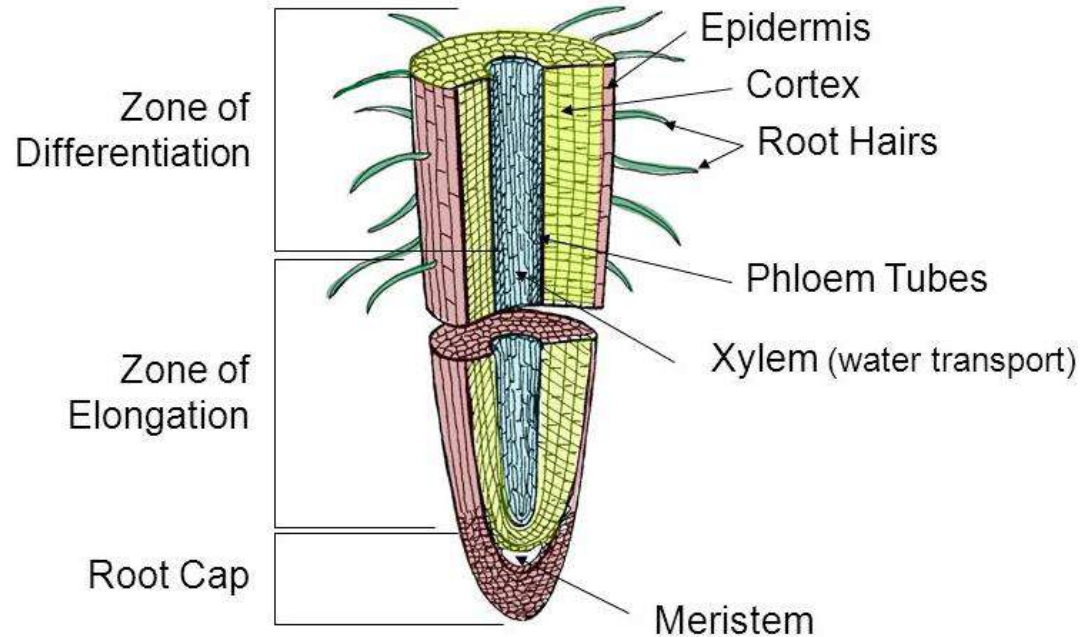
A photograph of a large tree with prominent, thick, buttressed roots spreading out over the forest floor. The roots are light brown and textured, contrasting with the green foliage in the background. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

# Roots

- Anchor the tree
- Transport free water and substances dissolved in it
- Store energy reserves and hold water
- Make substances essential for life of the tree



# Roots



- Root hairs absorb water and minerals from soil
- Phloem brings food from the leaves which is used to make new cells at root tip
- Root cap protects the root tip as it grows through the soil
- Cortex stores food as starch
- Xylem carries water and minerals up to stems
- Root tip grows as cells divide

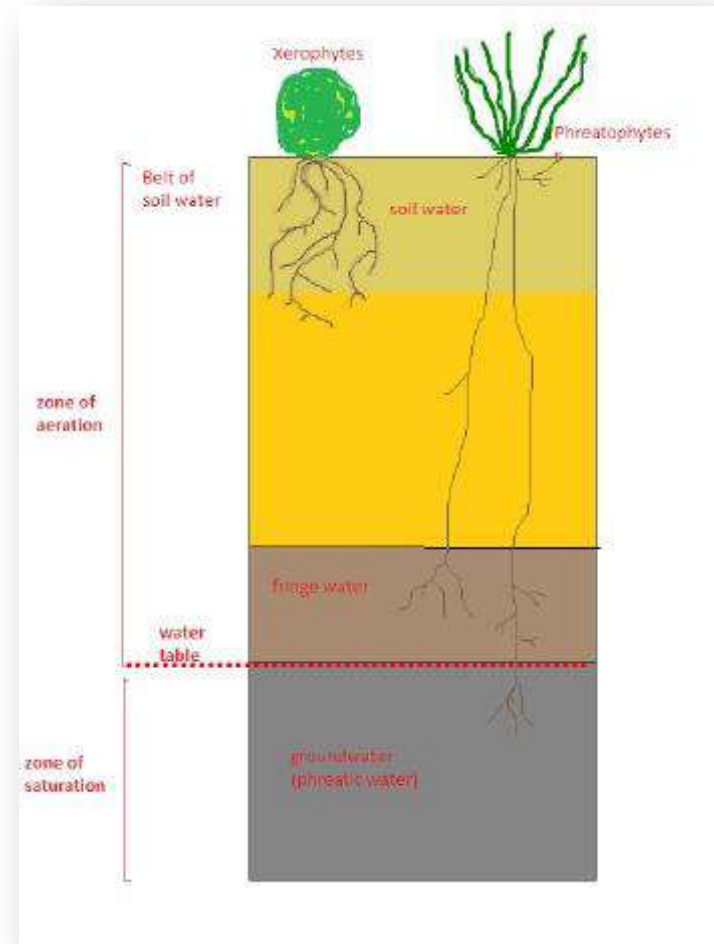
# Plant Adaptation

## Xerophytes

- Plants adapted to arid environments by storing as much of the little water made available and reducing evaporation rates  
Example: cactus

## Phreatophytes

- Plants that have adapted to arid environments by growing extremely long roots, allowing them to acquire moisture at or near the water table  
Example: ocotillo





# Other Plant Adaptations

- Reduction of leaves, often into spines for protection (animals)
- Development of the stems as major photosynthetic structures, like shoestring acacia, which has **phyllodes**
- Water storage in the stem
- Waxy cuticle coating on plant to reduce water loss
- Pubescent foliage or dense hairs to reduce air movement over surface, creating a microlayer
- **Allelopathy**, or root chemicals which help prevent competition from neighboring plants



# How Trees Grow in Urban Spaces





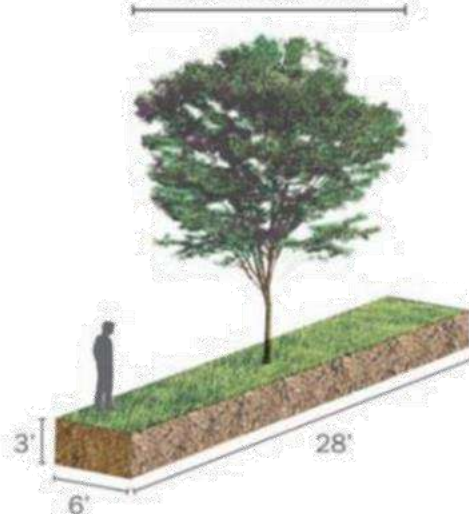
# Space to Grow

estimated crown spread =  
10 feet diameter



**Soil Volume = 120 cubic feet**

estimated crown spread =  
21 feet diameter



**Soil Volume = 500 cubic feet**

estimated crown spread =  
30 feet diameter



**Soil Volume = 1000 cubic feet**





## Planting a **Liability** or Growing an **Asset**



150 cubic feet of soil  
**Estimated lifespan: 7-10 yrs**



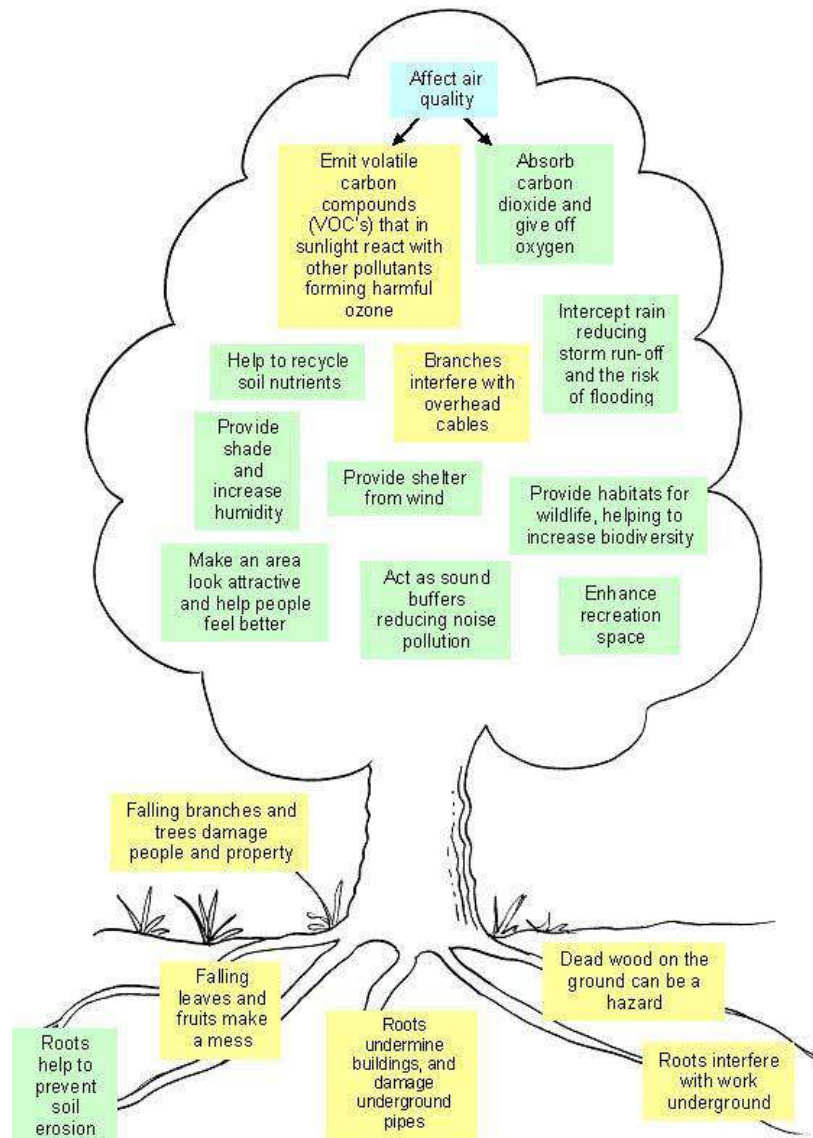
1,000 cubic feet of soil\*  
**Estimated lifespan: 50+ yrs**  
\*This design utilizes Silva Cells

Installation Costs	\$5,000 (replanted 5 times)	Installation Costs	\$14,000
Maintenance Costs	\$1,211.99	Maintenance Costs	\$2,241.75
Total Benefits	\$2,717.66	Total Benefits	\$41,769
<b>Net Lifecycle Costs</b>	<b>\$3,493.33</b>	<b>Net Lifecycle Costs</b>	<b>-\$25,427.25</b>

Provided by the City of Phoenix

# The Urban Tree

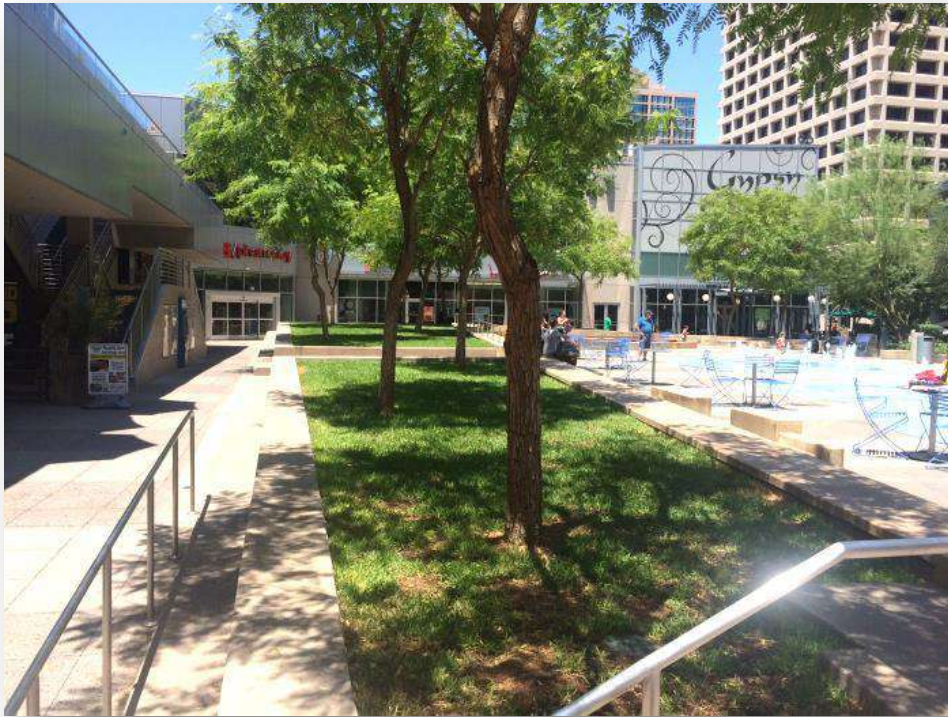
The Good,  
The Bad and  
The Ugly



Overall more  
benefits than  
negatives



# The Urban Tree



Raised planters = extreme temperatures limiting root growth



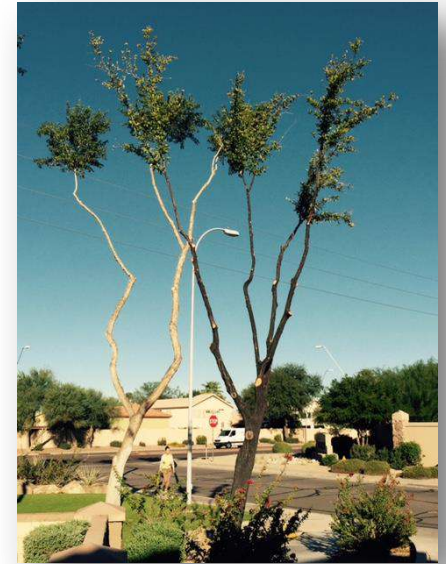
Run-off contaminants & lack of maintenance shortens a street tree's life span



# The Urban Tree



Parking lot islands-  
how many stresses can  
you count?



Soil contaminants and the lack of water and air due to compaction are common stresses.





Trees can also be destructive to infrastructure....









...which can lead to damage to tree roots by  
improper root removal





# TOP 10 TREE KILLERS



# Top 10 Tree Killers

1. Construction
2. Inappropriate grade
3. Improper pruning
4. Vandalism
5. Wrong tree for the site
6. Poor quality nursery stock
7. Soil issues
8. Inappropriate watering
9. Bark damage
10. Herbicides



# Construction



# Construction

## **Critical Root Zone (CRZ)**

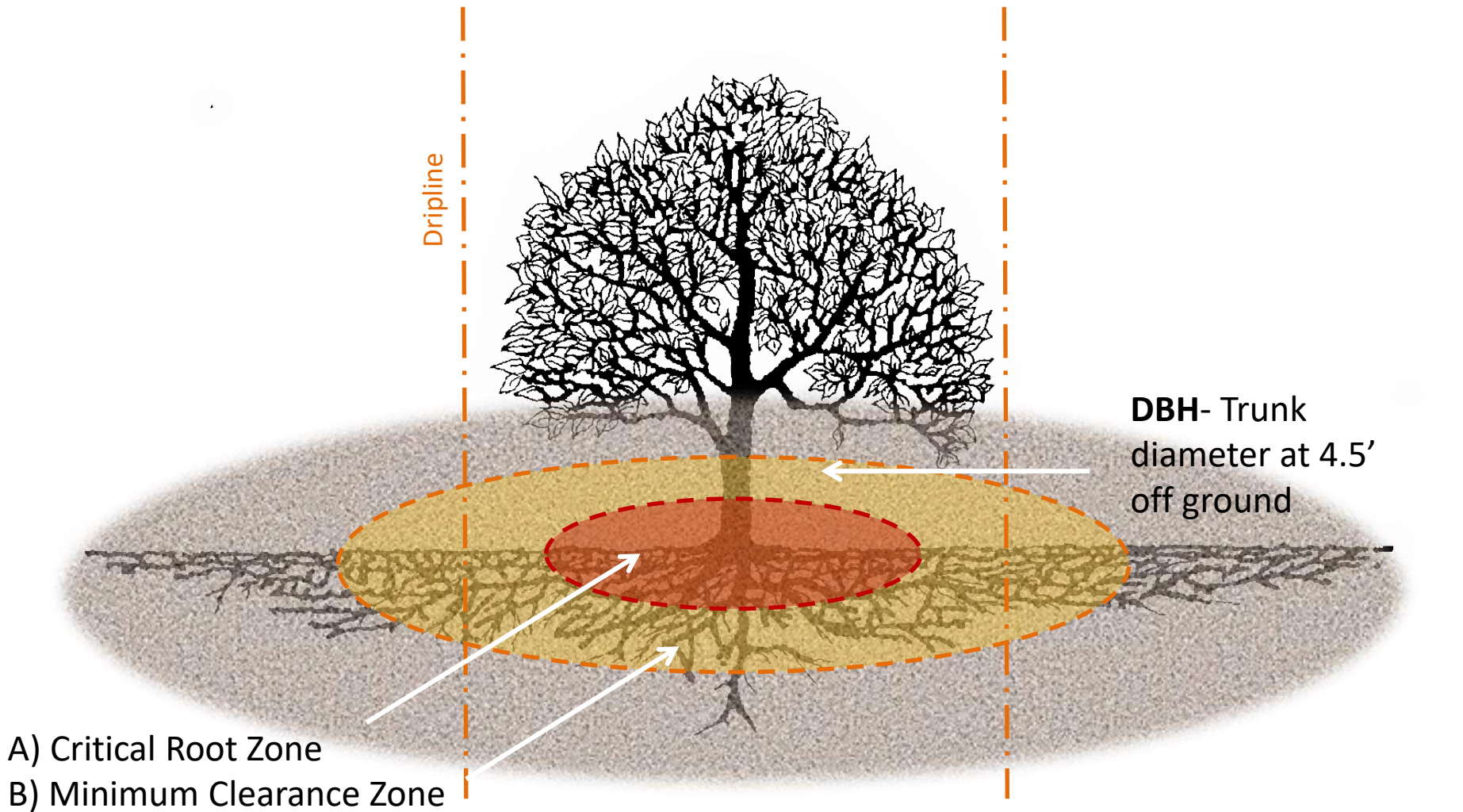
- Severing even one major root can cause the loss of 15-25% of the root system.
- Roots greater than 4" in diameter are likely structural, cutting or damaging these roots may impact structural stability of the tree, creating a liability if it fails.
- The farther away from the trunk the cut, the less likely you are to cut a large root that will have a profound impact on the entire root system.



## Critical Root Zone (CRZ)

1' for every inch of DBH

1.5' for every inch of DBH on sensitive tree varieties



**DBH- Diameter at breast height**



# Construction



- Root damage does not repair quickly
- On average, it takes a tree one year for every inch in trunk diameter to recover from torn roots
- If you must trim roots radically to accommodate landscape construction, consider root pruning well in advance of construction to lessen the impact

# Conserve and Protect Existing Trees



Do not store equipment or place debris near existing trees. A barrier should be established around this oak tree during construction.

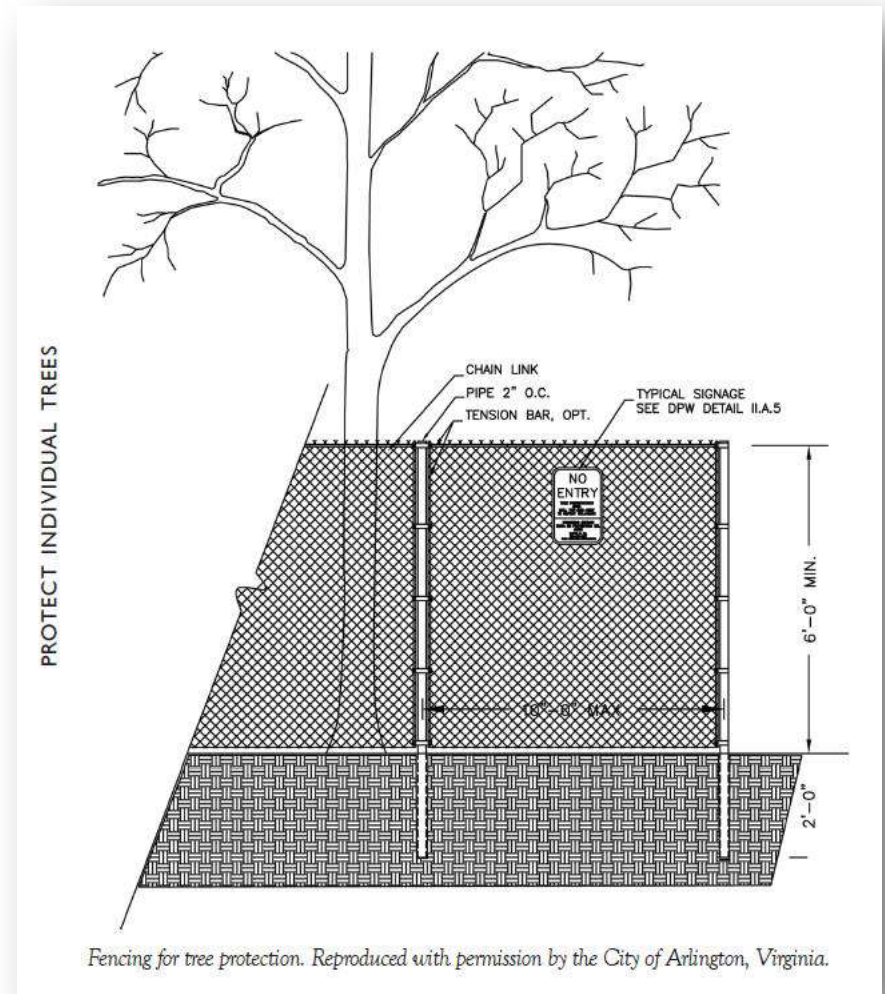
# Protection Plan

- Budget for tree protection and preservation
- Initiate plan one year prior to construction
- Hire a Certified Arborist to develop plan and monitor tree during the project
- Ensure adequate water is being delivered as irrigation system may not be functioning
- Trees that can not be protected or are growing within 10' of existing or future structures should be removed
- Establish penalties for tree damage by any company or workers on the project



# Construction Protection

- Establish a tree protection program prior to construction
- Install barrier fencing around the CRZ, which should be in place until the project is completed
- Signage to help inform other workers why barrier is in place
- Do not cut roots larger than 4" in diameter
- Make all cuts with sharp tools to encourage wound closure



# NOT a protection plan







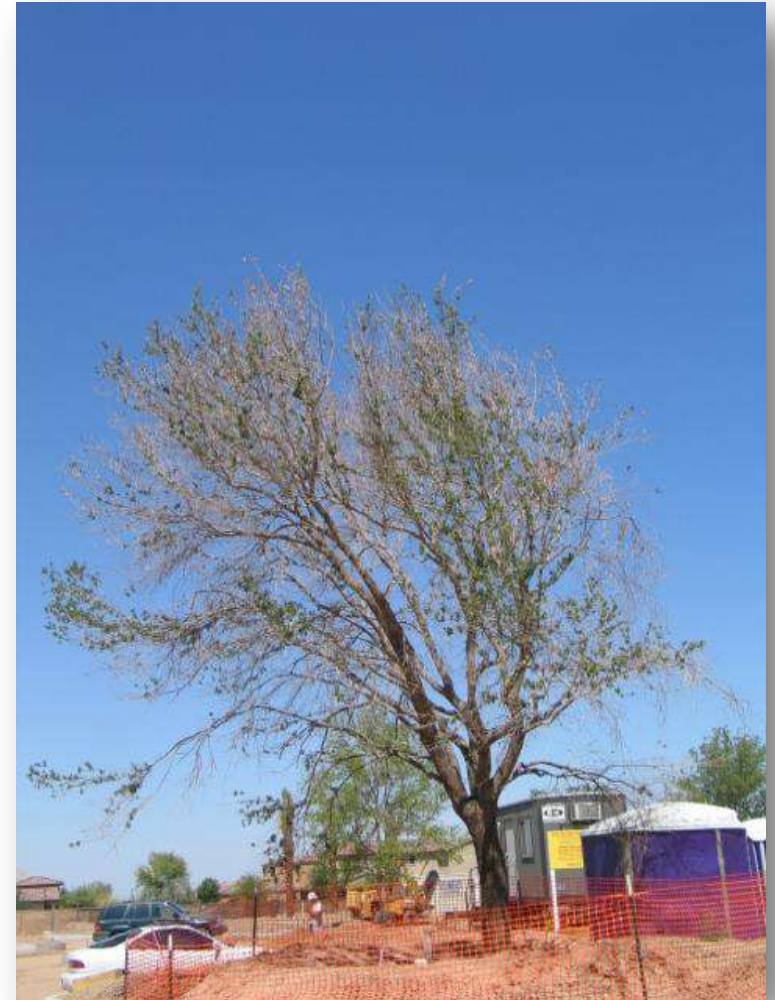
What is wrong here?

# Construction Protection

While trees are within barrier

## **DO NOT:**

- Store equipment or debris
- Park vehicles or equipment
- Pile soil or mulch
- Trench for utilities or irrigation
- Change grade (decrease or increase)
- Damage roots by grading, tearing or filling
- Compact soil with vehicles, equipment or foot traffic
- Attach anything to tree limbs or trunk





# Why do some trees tolerate root damage?



While some species are very sensitive to root disruption, this live oak tolerated this pool excavation surprisingly well.

- Some species are more sensitive to root damage than others
- Age and existing health contribute to tree's tolerance
- Soil conditions and moisture levels
- Weather conditions during disruption also impacts tree's ability to overcome stress



Flagging in the pine's canopy developed in the months following. Significant limbs were lost on this tree.

During re-grading of the adjacent driveway, this pine tree had large roots removed to allow for a lower grade.







Is there a better option for  
trenching in this area?

# Air Trenching

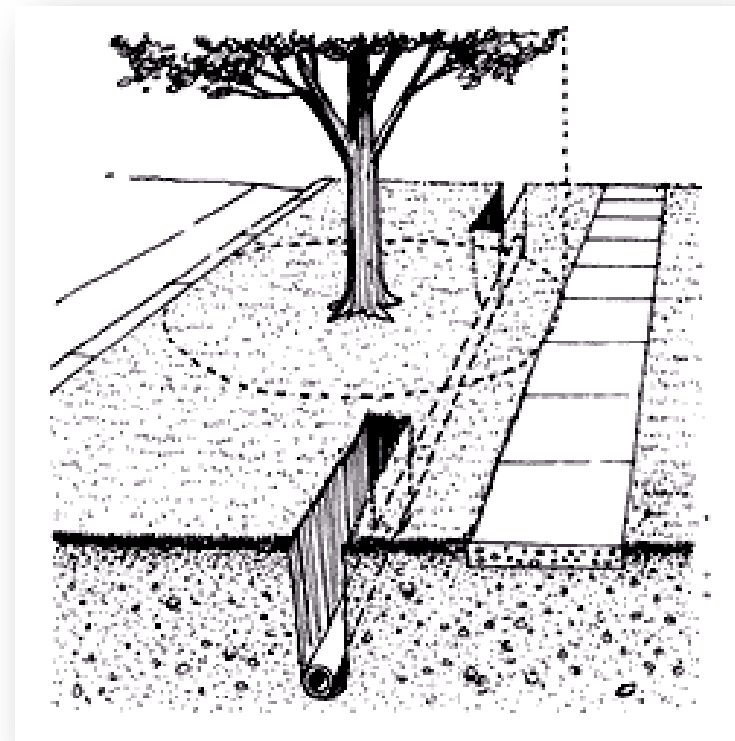
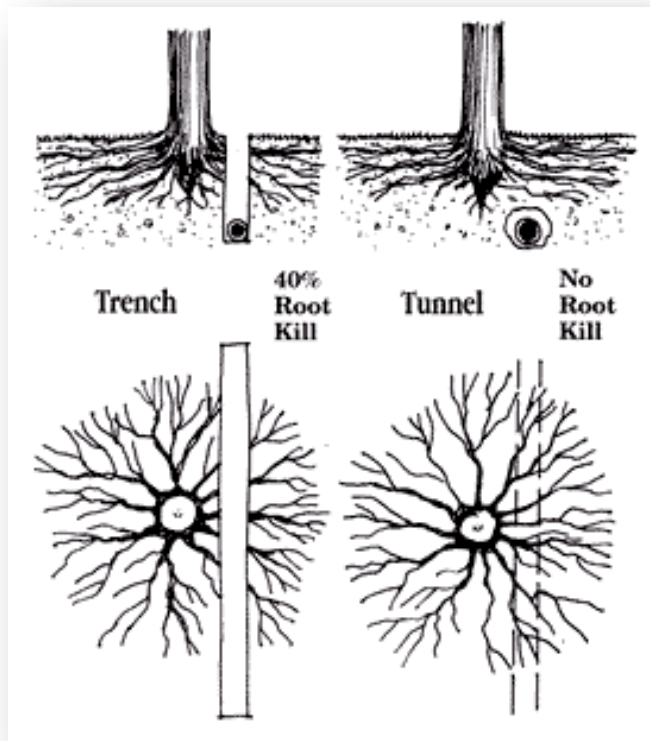
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aspu-FnGYss>







# If you must dig....



## Tunneling is best





This carob is losing the battle from a recent renovation.

**Established** in turf for the past 40 years, the tree sustained **compaction, drought conditions and root damage** during renovation, plus the **removal of turf** surrounding the tree.

Will it make it?

# Group Activity

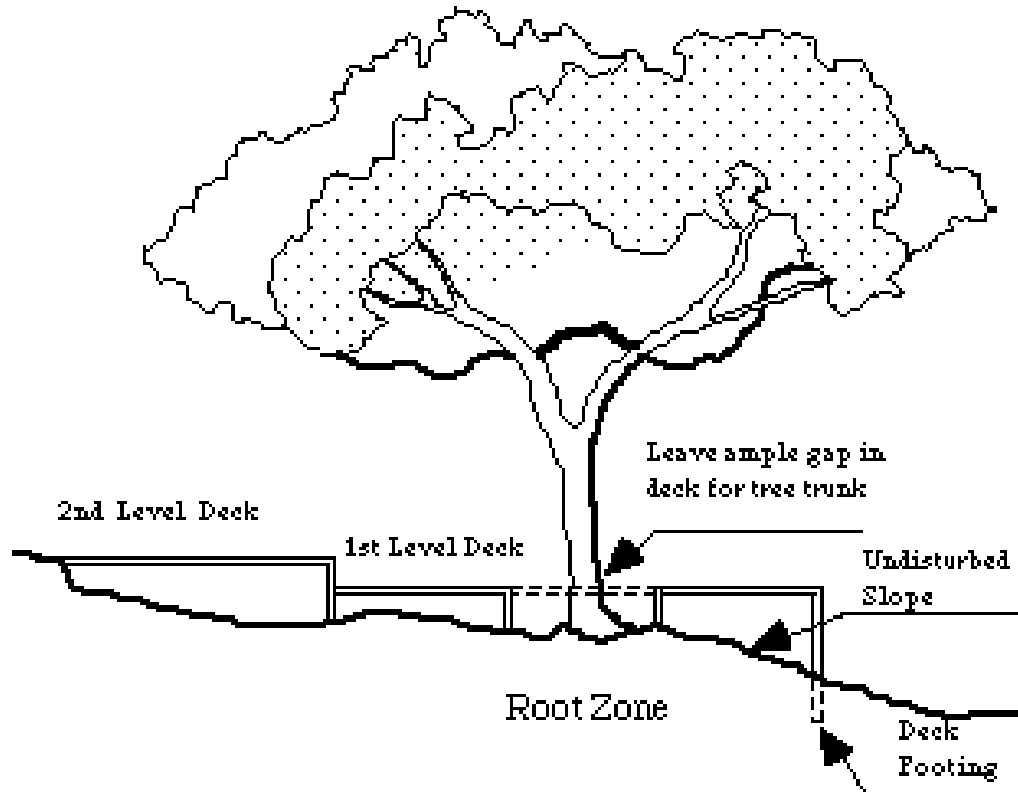


Figure #3 Terraced Deck on Slope with Tree

Chinese evergreen elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*  
24" DBH  
Soil silty loam with some large rocks, pH 8.1

This *Ulmus parvifolia* has been in the ground for at least 25 years. The new property owner would like to build a terraced deck around it. You have been hired to develop a protection plan to preserve the health of the tree. Please work in groups to create an action plan to help protect the tree during construction.



# Who was here first?



# Post-Construction Care

- Communicate with property owner/ manager what they may see in future months or years if damage was done to the tree
  - Branch dieback
  - Yellowing, dwarfed foliage if soil was compacted
  - Slowed growth or late leaf-out in spring
  - Other symptoms of stress
- Continue monitoring the tree for the following year, making adjustments to irrigation schedule as needed
- Make any fertilizer or pest control applications required to maintain health



# Top 10 Tree Killers

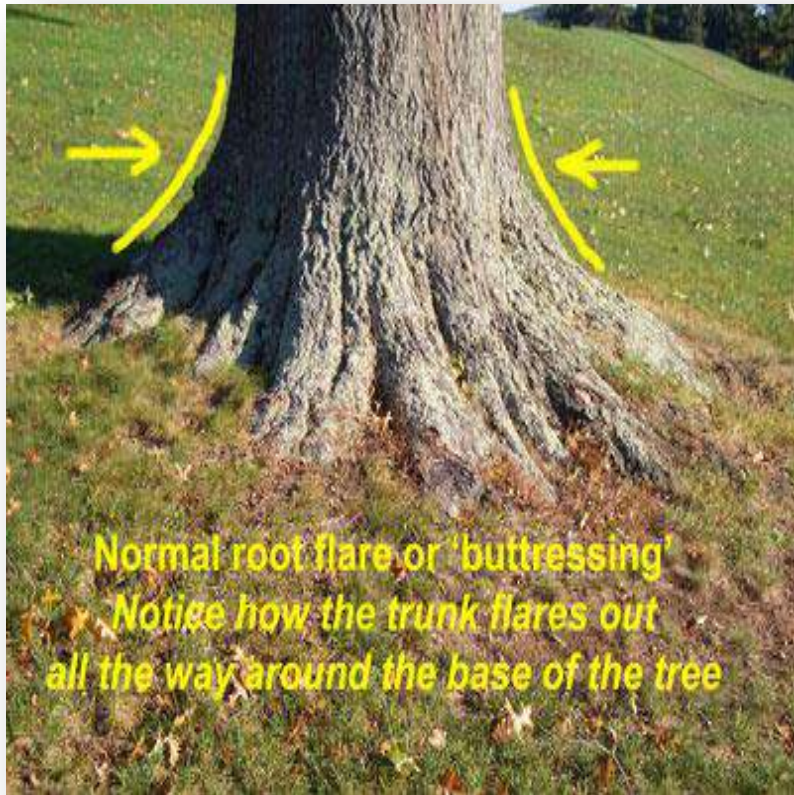
1. Construction
2. Inappropriate grade
3. Improper pruning
4. Vandalism
5. Wrong tree for the site
6. Poor quality nursery stock
7. Soil issues
8. Inappropriate watering
9. Bark damage
10. Herbicides

# Inappropriate Soil Grade





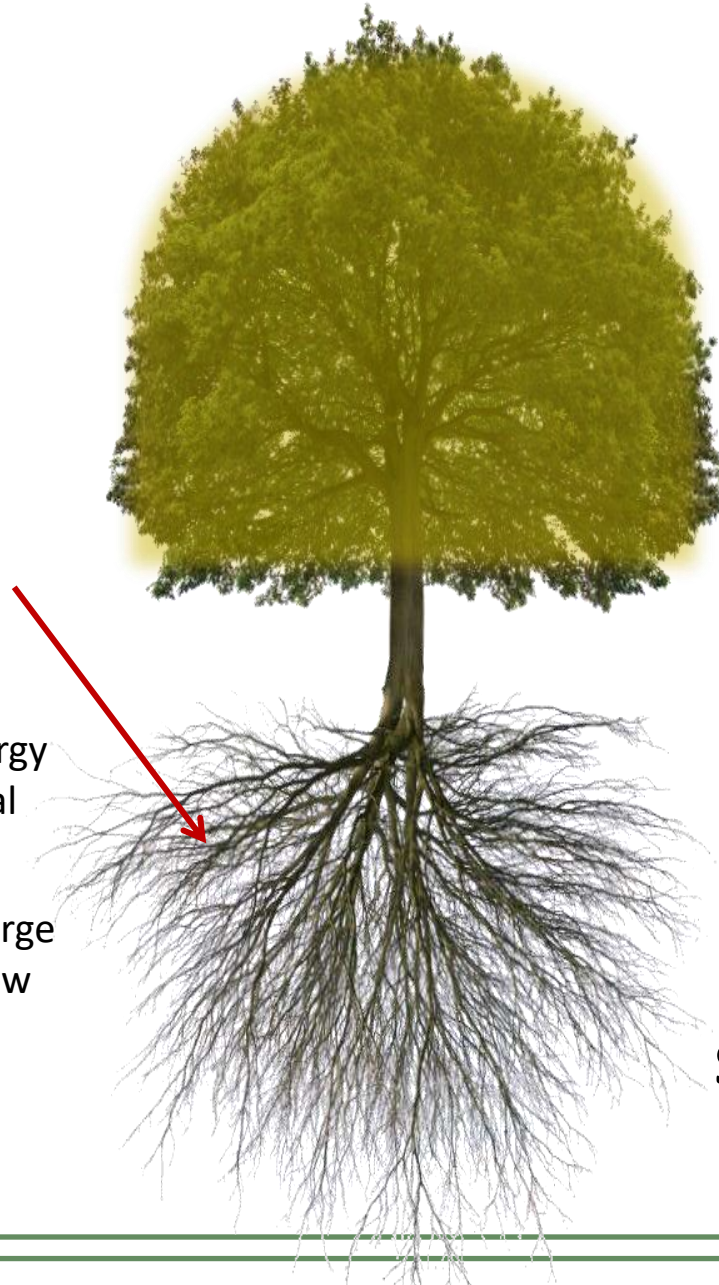
# Root Flare



# What happens when a tree is planted too deeply?

## 1. Roots lack O<sub>2</sub>

- O<sub>2</sub> required for aerobic respiration, releases energy for root growth & mineral uptake
- O<sub>2</sub> changes electrical charge in water & nutrients, allow roots to extract with less energy



- Reduces permeability of roots to water
- Accumulation of toxins
- Water & minerals can't be absorbed
- **Process is accelerated in clay soils**

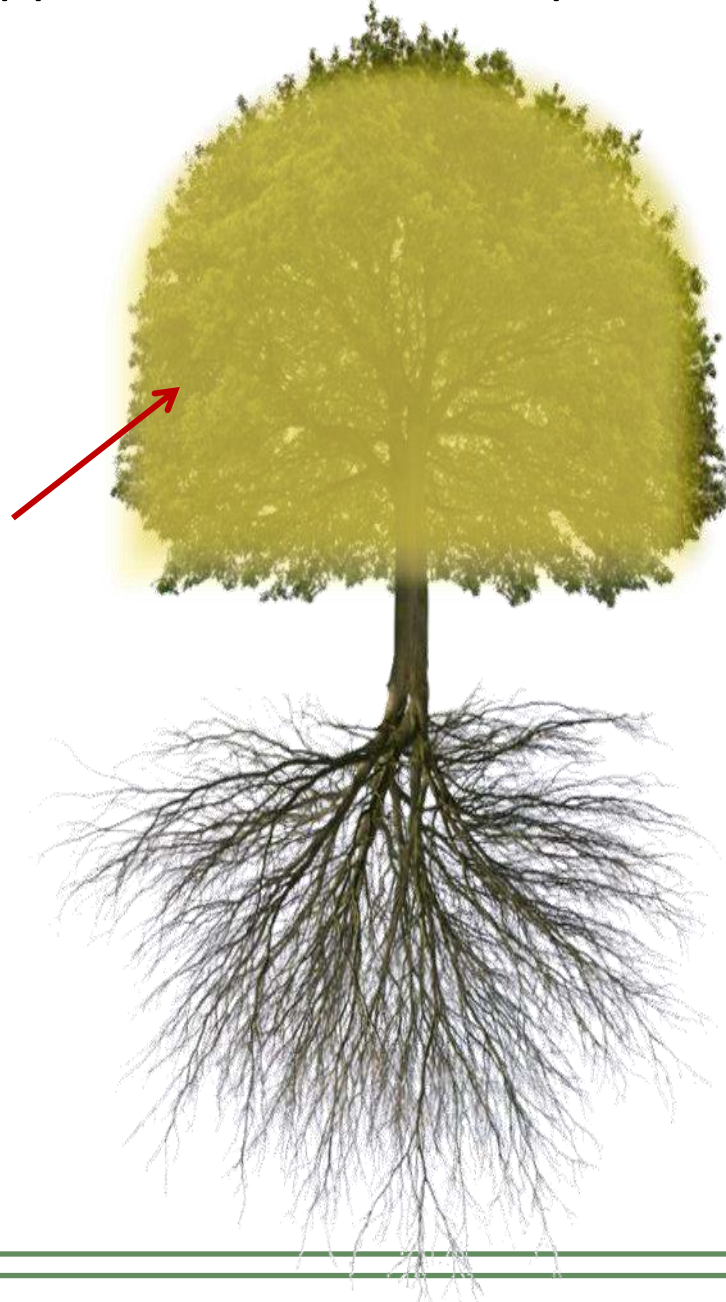
**Symptom #1: Wilting**



# What happens when a tree is planted too deeply?

## 2. Slowed rate of photosynthesis

- Mineral deficiencies will develop
- Plant organs do not function properly

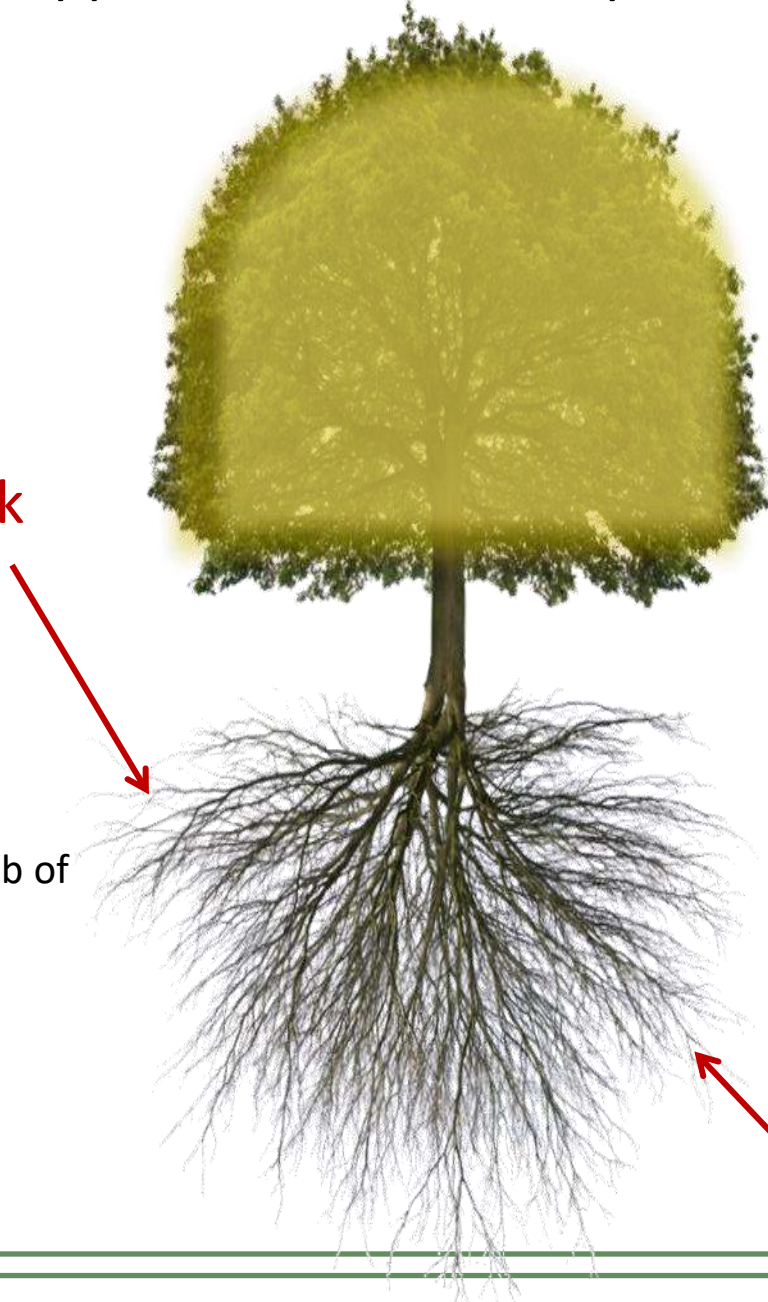


**Symptom #2:  
Slowed growth  
& yellowing**

# What happens when a tree is planted too deeply?

## 3. Root dieback

- Fewer functioning roots to do their job of absorbing and anchoring



**Symptom #3:  
Stunted plant**

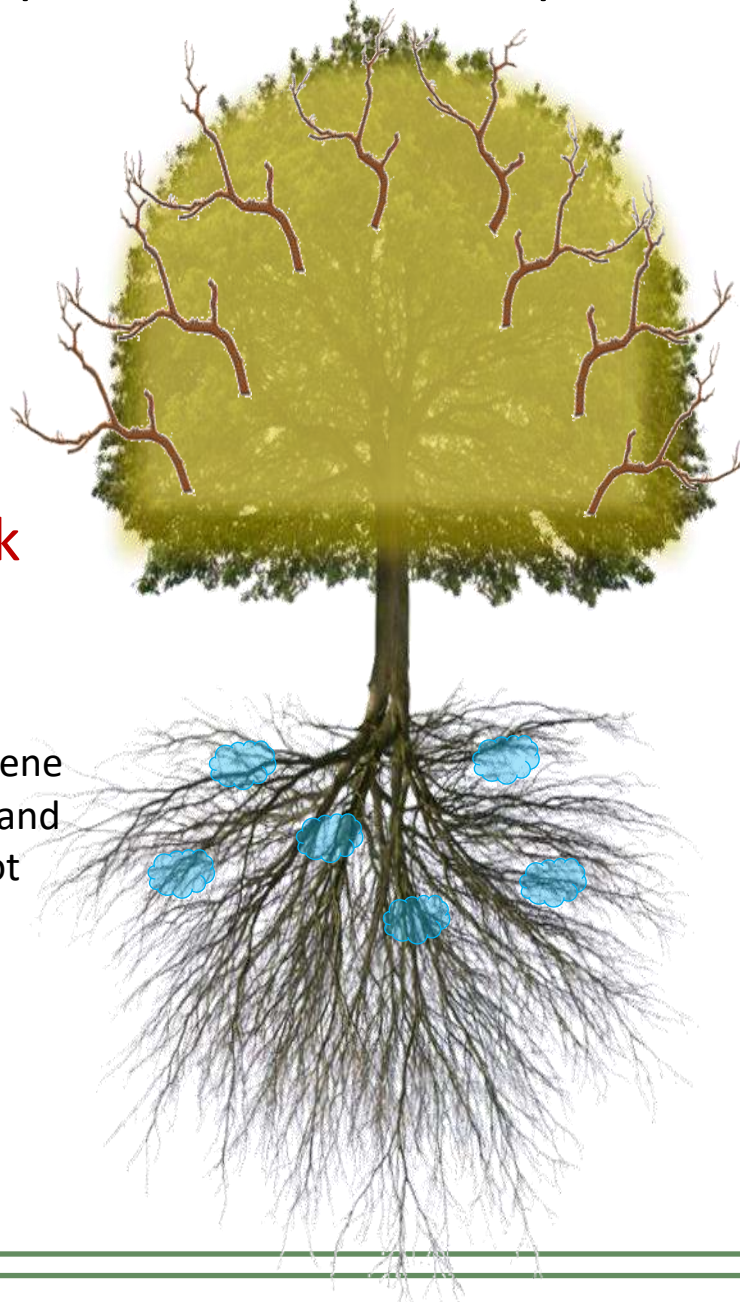


# What happens when a tree is planted too deeply?

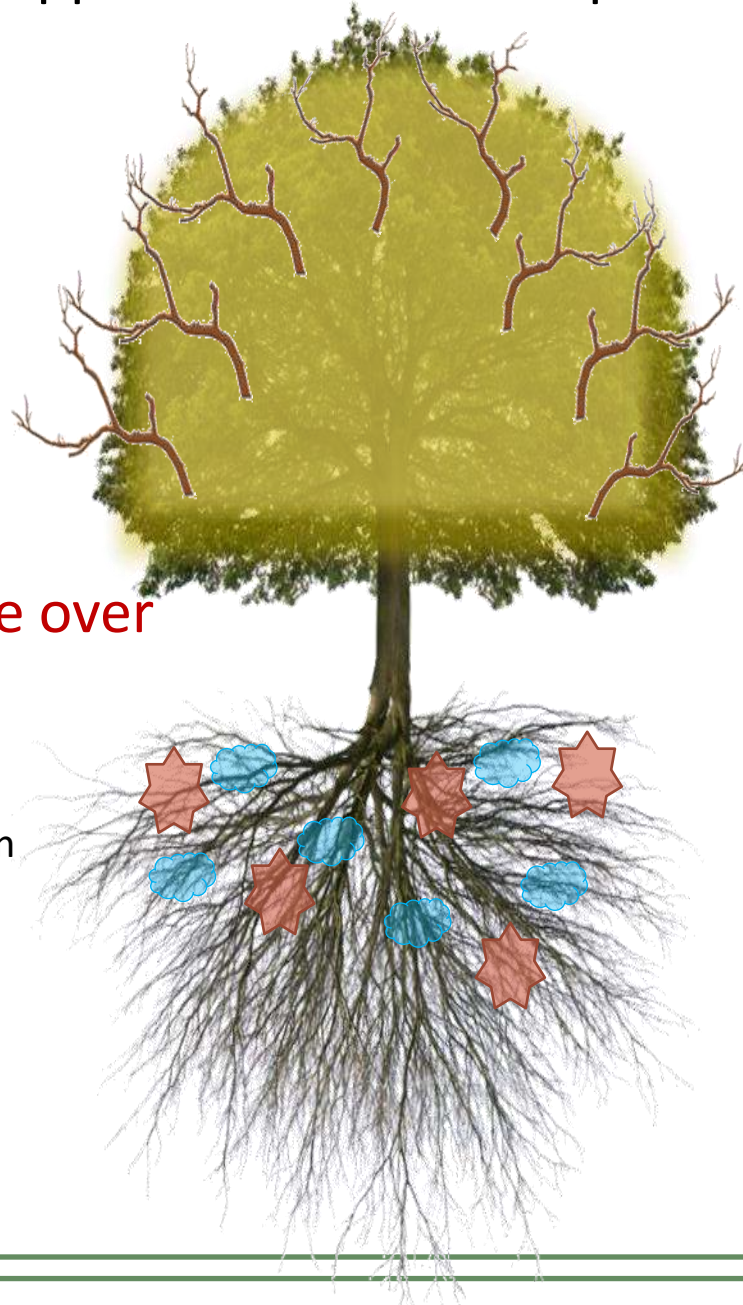
## 4. Branch dieback

- Stress hormone ethylene accumulates in roots and causes collapse of root cells

**Symptom # 4:  
Continued  
decline of tree**



# What happens when a tree is planted too deeply?



## 5. Pathogens take over

- Opportune fungus like *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* begin clogging vascular system

**Symptom #5:  
Wilting and  
eventually death**



# Inappropriate Soil Grade





# Planted Too Deep



Larger trees are often planted prior to final grade, soil gets moved around, often creating a 'too deeply' planted situation. Borer damage and limb dieback are the first symptoms seen.



# Inappropriate Soil Grade

*What else happens to a tree when it has been planted too deeply?*

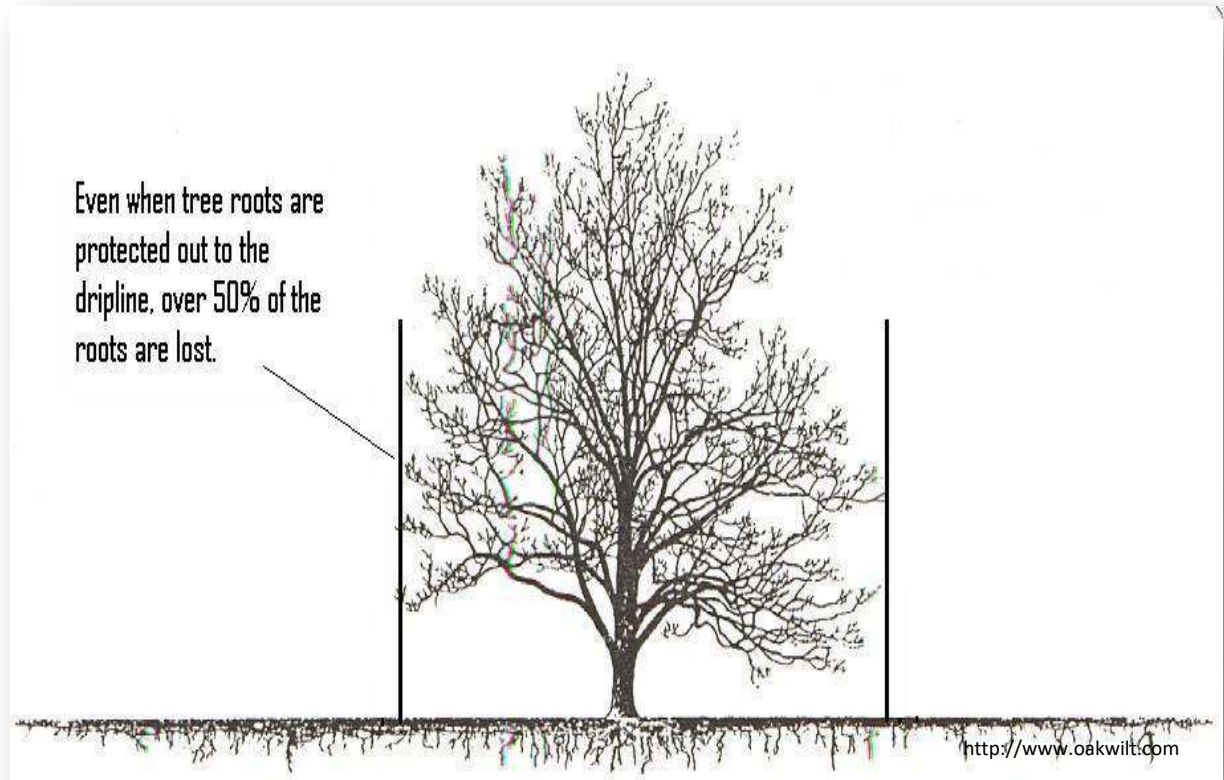
- *Girdling roots (stem, SGR and root-girdling roots, RGR) develop*
  - *Reducing vascular flow*
- *Trunk exposed to excess moisture, leading to decay*



# Inappropriate Soil Grade

## More causes

- Grade increased, decreased during re-landscape
- Street tree planted with grate, overtime, soil and debris gets added to space, covering root mass





# Incorrect Soil Grade

## **Treatment for deeply planted trees**

- If in the ground for a short time, carefully remove and replant at appropriate level
- If the tree is established, perform a root collar excavation to remove excess soil

# Root Crown Excavation





# Is this an option?

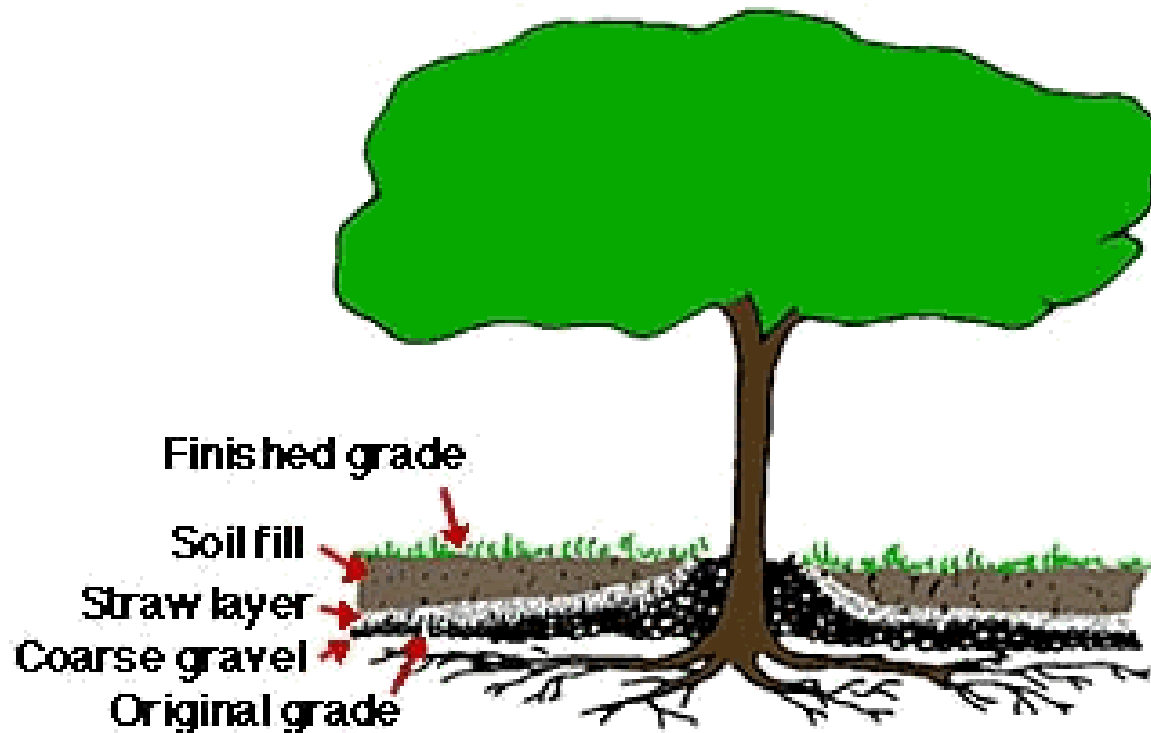


Fig 3. Coarse gravel placed over the original grade will provide aeration for tree roots beneath shallow soil fill...

Discuss pros and cons for this resolution.

Is this a practical solution?

# Inappropriate Soil Grade

## Increasing soil grade can be detrimental....

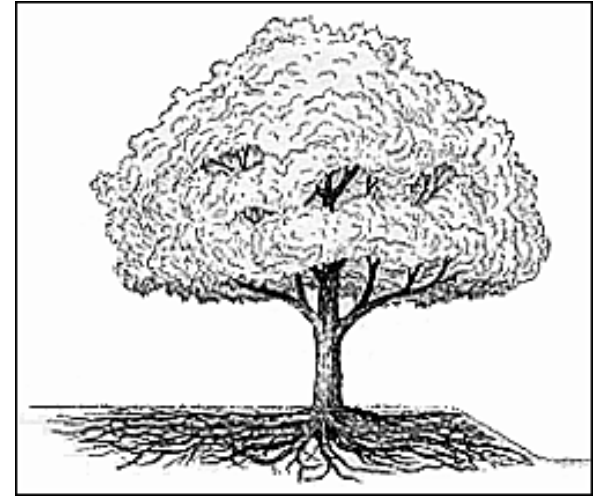
- Reduces oxygen to feeder roots (we know what a lack of O<sub>2</sub> does to plants now, right?)
- Adding varying soil textures in layers can cause a soil **texture interface**
- Causes drainage issues
- Temperature and air exchange differences which leads to root problems



# Inappropriate Soil Grade

## **Decreasing soil grade can also wreak havoc on established trees**

- Loss of vital feeder roots, often located in upper 6" of soil
- Exposure of feeder roots to higher or lower temperatures, leading to root death
- Severed or weakened roots can not function to anchor or transport water and minerals



### **Activity**

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlineresources/CDDemos/gradeChange.swf>



**Activity:**

Excavating trees along Bell Rd

Grab a shovel!





# Top 10 Tree Killers

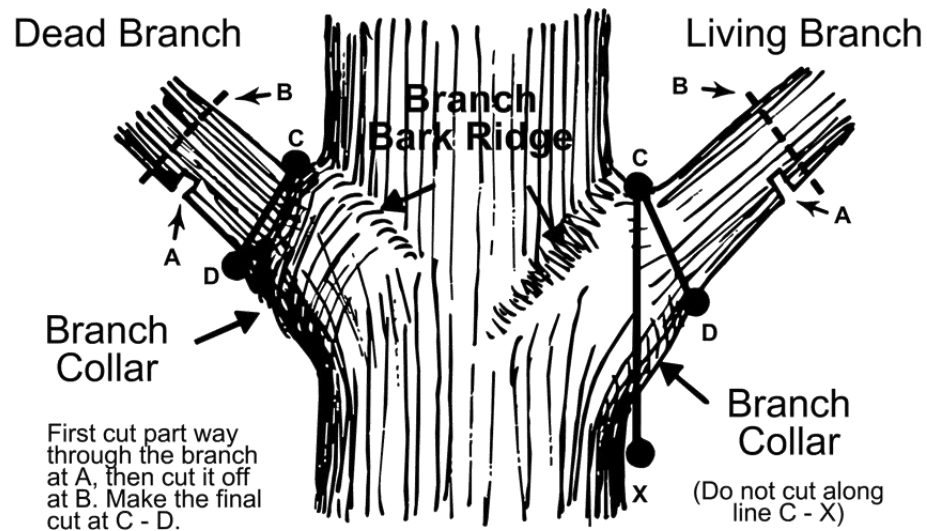
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10. Herbicides

A large, spreading tree with green foliage and yellow seed pods, growing next to a house with a wooden pergola. The tree has a thick, reddish-brown trunk and branches that spread out in all directions. The foliage is dense and green, with many small, yellow, elongated seed pods hanging from the branches. The tree is positioned in front of a house with a dark brown exterior and a white window. To the left of the tree, there is a wooden pergola with a flat roof supported by several wooden posts. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The overall scene is a residential landscape.

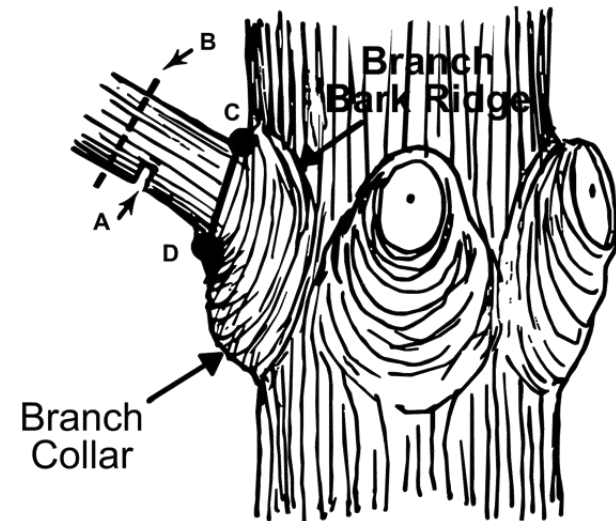
Think Twice, Cut Once



# Proper Pruning Principles



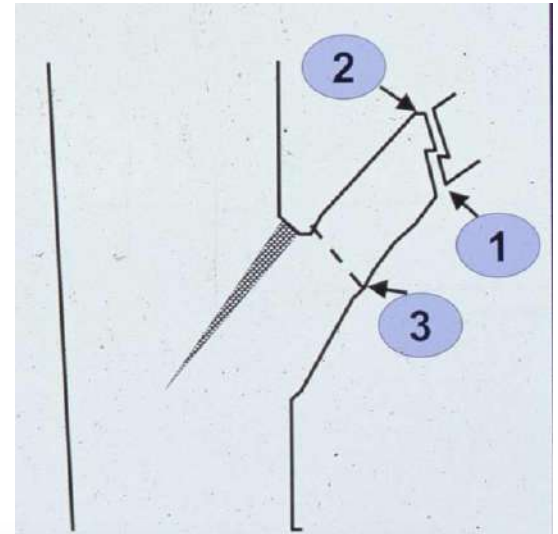
Hardwoods



Conifers

# 3-Point Cut

- Recommended method
- Helps prevent tearing bark and damaging cambium
- Branch falls clear of stub
- Clean cut to remove stub







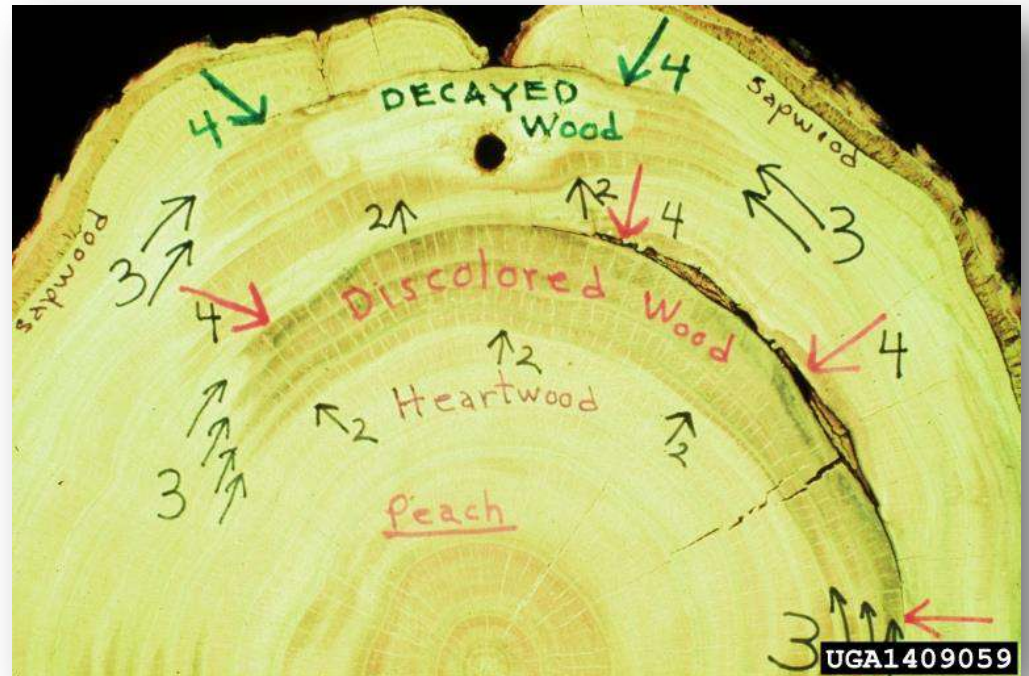
# Tree Wounds

- Trees don't *heal*, they *seal*
- **Compartmentalization of decay in trees, C.O.D.I.T.**
- Tree's reaction to a wound, either from pruning, sunburn or mechanical damage
- C.O.D.I.T. occurs in 4 levels, or 4 walls



# C.O.D.I.T.

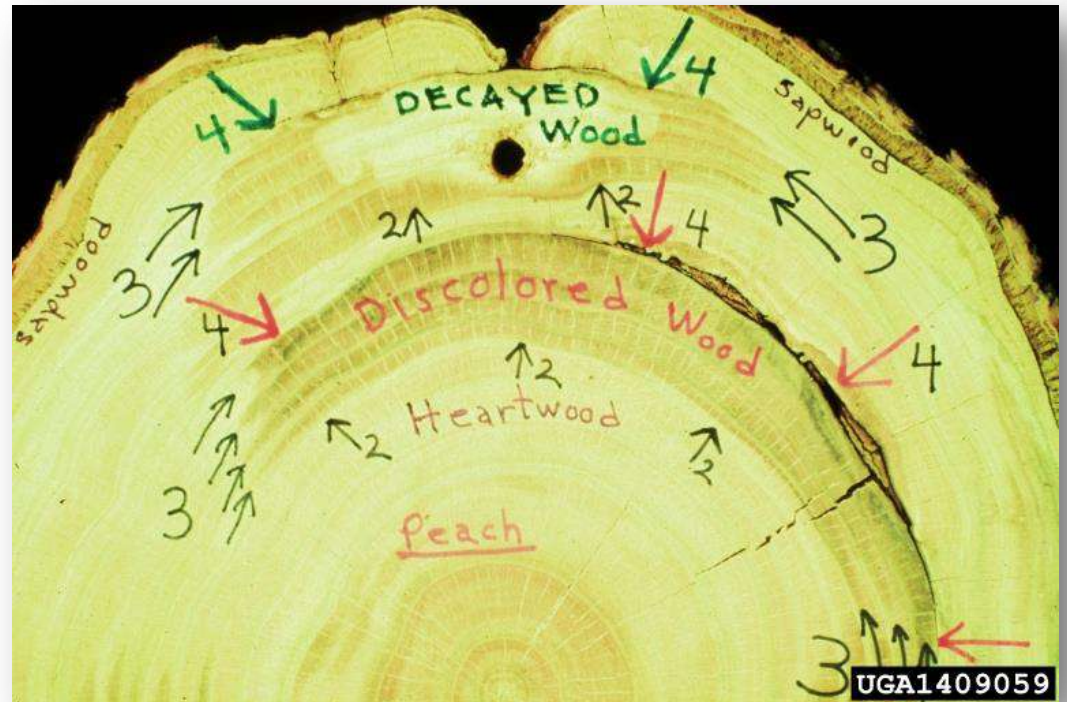
- **Wall 1:** Xylem vessels plug above and below injury with chemicals. This wall is considered weak.
- **Wall 2:** Growth rings; decay has trouble moving across rings, but this darkened region stops decays advancement inward towards pith.



[USDA Forest Service](#)

# C.O.D.I.T.

- **Wall 3:** Rays, which are rich in starch; decay has harder time moving across this area than wall 1 or 2.
- **Wall 4:** Reaction zone in the cambium along outer-most growth ring. It can take several years for wall 4 to reach other side of trunk.



[USDA Forest Service](#)





Poor quality cuts

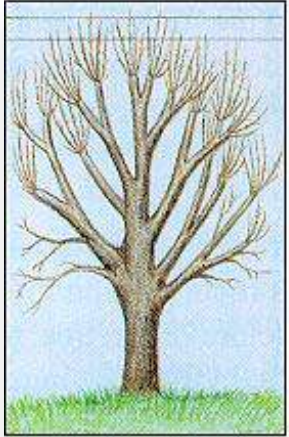
Ask yourself “why am I removing this limb” before making the cut.



Why were these limbs removed?



# Topped Trees



A. Topping



B. Tipping



Topped elm trees after a few months of regrowth. Branches are weakened due to poor attachment to limb.



# Tree Defects



*Included bark*

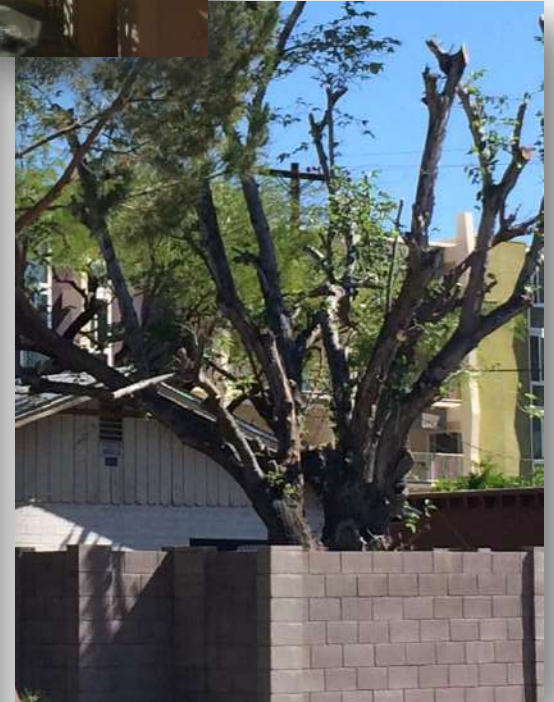


Defects should be removed when the tree is a juvenile





# We've seen it all before





# Timing is Critical



This shoestring acacia was pruned in the heat of the summer, removing more than 30% of the living tissue. The tree stressed, turned brown and died within a week of pruning.



Shoestring acacia overpruned  
in June, causing tree to fail

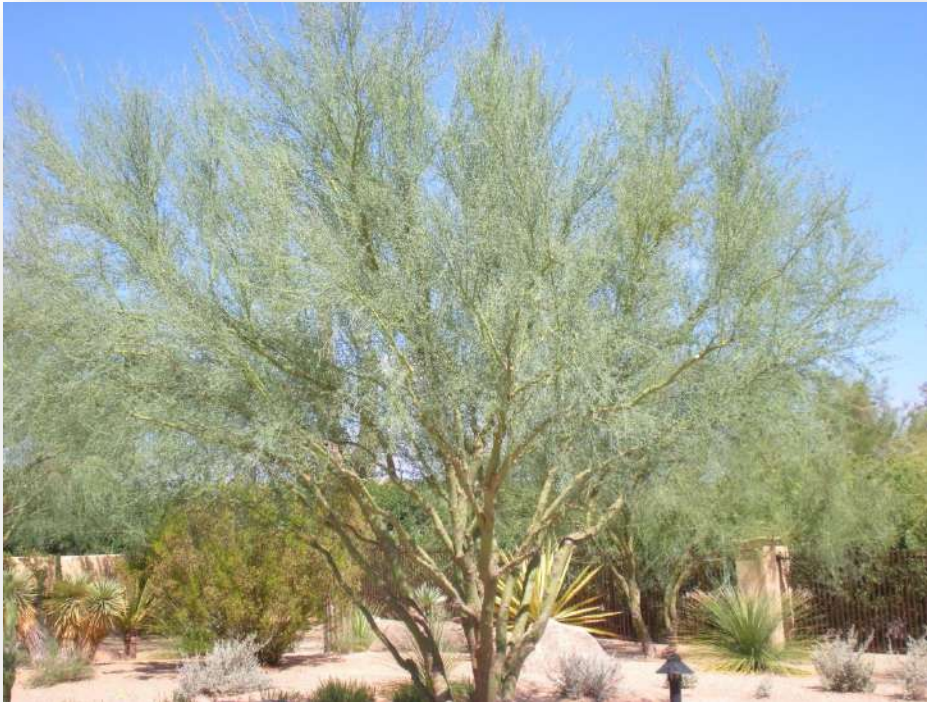


Over-elevated canopy exposed  
trunk, leading to sunburn  
damage

Pruning at the wrong time of the year can also impact the health of a tree.



# Proper Pruning Practices



Maintain canopy as low as possible for site

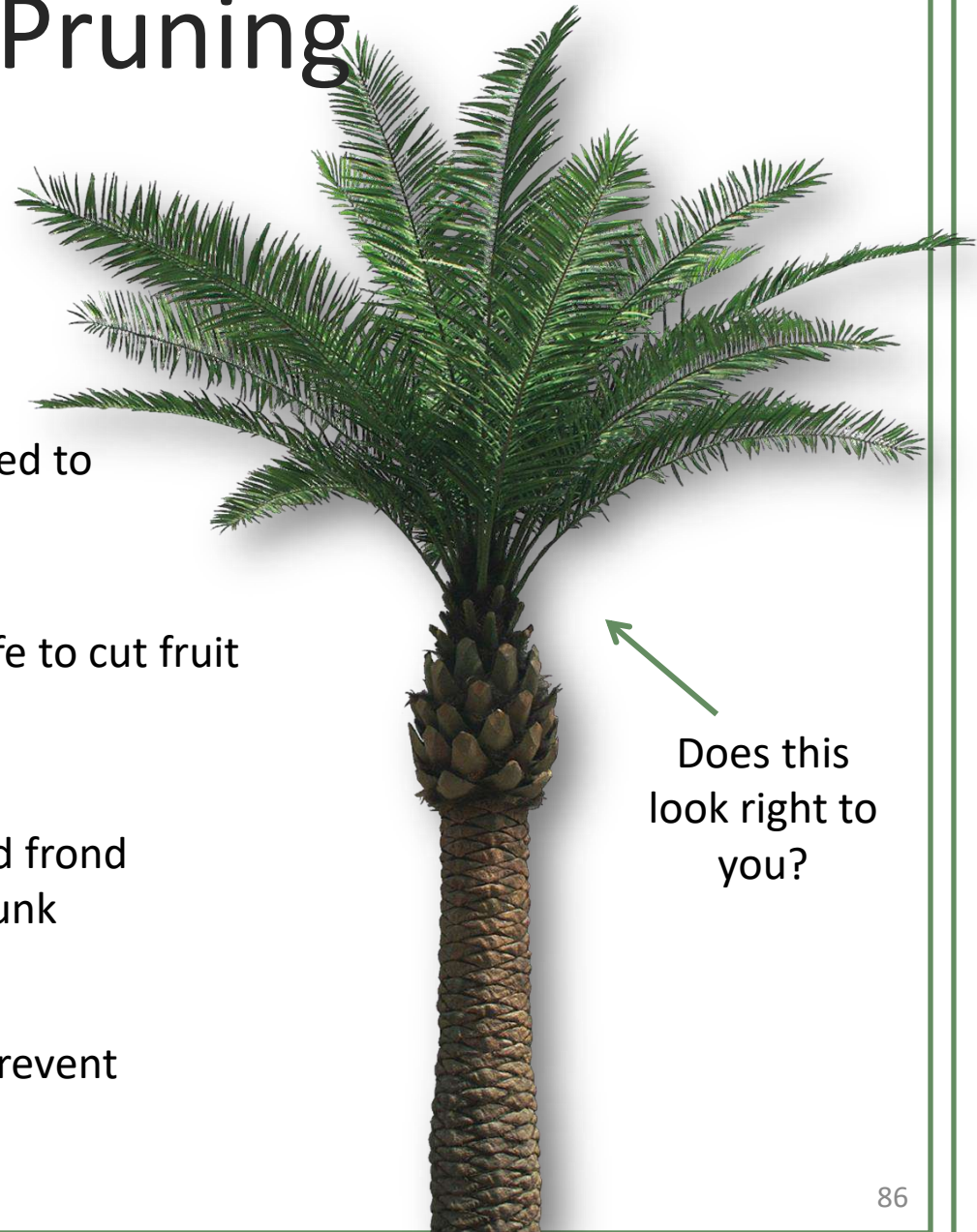
*Remember to ask yourself  
“who is required to maintain  
the tree?”*



Only elevate canopy as high as  
necessary for safety and  
clearance

# Palm Pruning

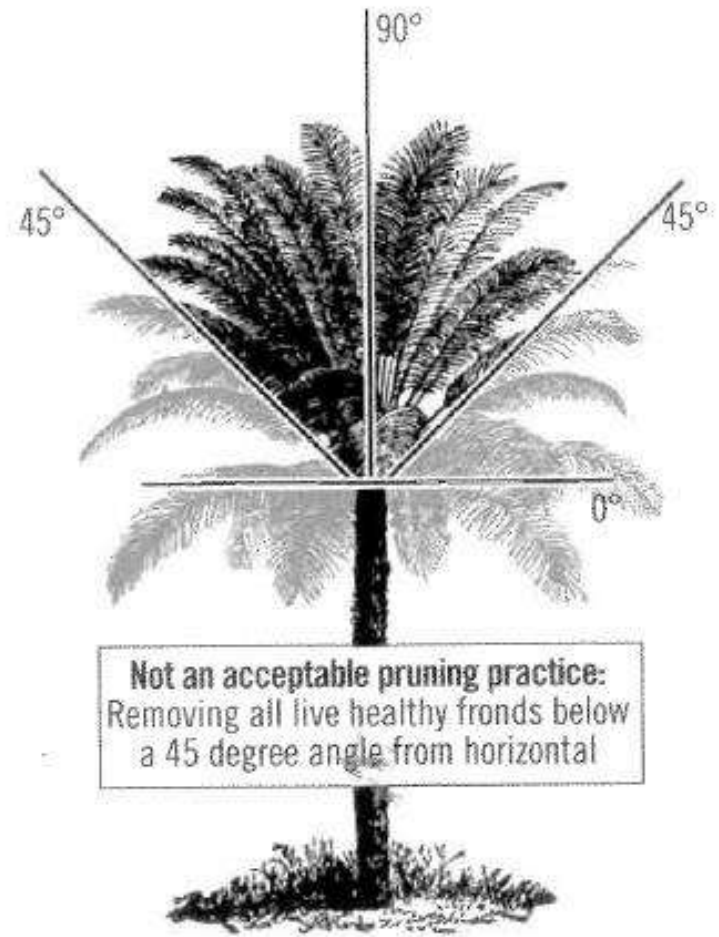
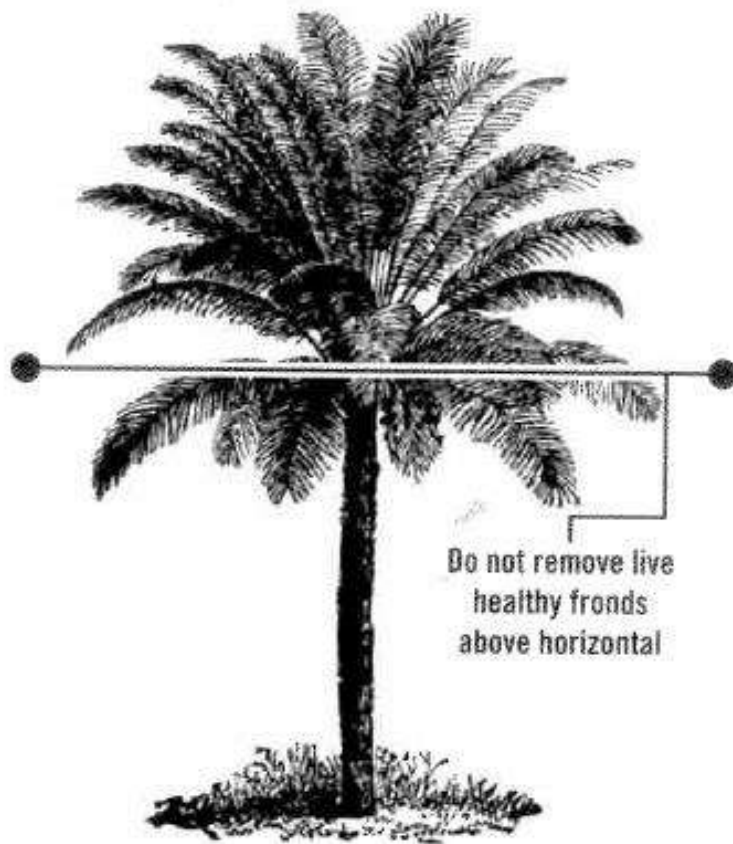
- Remove fruit stalks
- Remove dead fronds to an approximate 90 degree angle
- Use mechanical lifts (if able) as opposed to climbing spikes
- Use saws and/or a sharp linoleum knife to cut fruit stalks and dead/damaged fronds
- Palm peeling consist of removing dead frond bases at the point they contact the trunk
- Pruning tools should be sanitized to prevent spread of disease





# Palm Pruning

ANSI A300 (Part 1) 2008 Standard Practices (Pruning)





Once again,  
Think Twice,  
Cut Once



# Vandalism/ Vehicular Damage



# Top 10 Tree Killers

1. Construction
2. Inappropriate grade
3. Improper pruning
4. Vandalism
5. Wrong tree for the site
6. Poor quality nursery stock
7. Soil issues
8. Inappropriate watering
9. Bark damage
10. Herbicides



# Right Tree, Right Place

- Asset or a liability?
- Does it 'fit' in the space or does the space fit the tree?
- Is there sufficient root space for the tree?
- Does the tree serve a purpose?
- Is the tree species best suited for the microclimate?



# Wrong Tree for the Site



How will the  
wrong site  
potentially  
impact the tree's  
health?

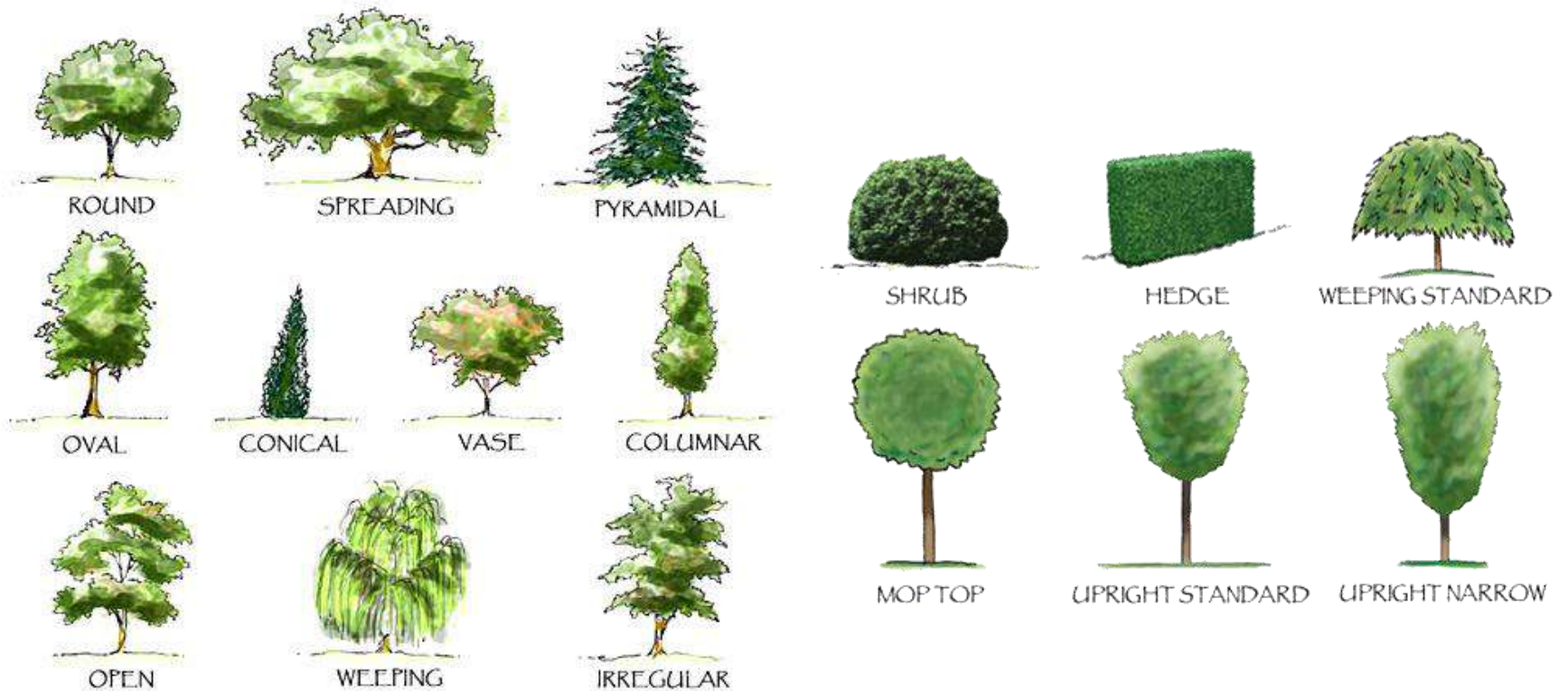








# Tree Forms



## Activity:

Match the tree form to the growing space available for the tree.





Good examples of  
Right Tree, Right Place



# Wrong Tree for the Site





# Top 10 Tree Killers

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# Girdling Roots



Can be caused by

- Root bound at planting
- Planted too deeply
- Compacted soils

Stem girdling roots (SGR)  
Root girdling roots (RGR)

- Both can both restrict water and nutrient transport
- Cause leaning and failure



# Girdling Roots

## Symptoms of girdling roots

- No visible root flare at soil surface
- Trunk looks like a telephone pole going into the soil
- Trunk appears pinched at soil surface
- Trunk is flattened on one or more sides
- Sun scald or frost cracks visible on the trunk
- Tree canopy is thin or sparse
- Die-back in upper tree canopy
- Leaves are wilting, scorched, or smaller than normal
- Leaves may be off-colored (yellow)
- Trees exhibit early fall color and leaf drop







First  
symptom  
was limb  
dieback





# Girdling Root Removal





# Girdling Root Removal

- Removal is necessary to prevent tree failure
- Steps
  - Excavate area carefully to expose entire root
  - Cleanly cut root 6-12” from trunk
  - Final cut should be made where root attaches to trunk, as long it is accessible
  - Do not damage adjacent roots to trunk tissue during the removal

# Good Quality Nursery Stock

What to look for in the can:

- Tree taper
  - Stabilizes trunk to hold crown and withstand wind
  - Leaving lower temporary lateral branches on trunk and allowing the trunk to move in the wind promotes caliper and taper
- Vigorous and healthy root system
- Avoid root bound plants
- Root ball should hold firmly together
- Root ball should be moist
- Container should be full of media and not partially full







# ANA Tree Standards

## ***TREE LISTING BY BOTANICAL NAME***

<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b>	<b>BOX SIZE</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b> <i>(in feet)</i>	<b>WIDTH</b>	<b>CALIPER</b> <i>(in inches)</i>
Acacia aneura	15	4.0-5.0	1.0-2.0	0.5-0.75
Acacia aneura	24	5.0-7.0	2.0-3.0	0.75-1.25
Acacia aneura	36	7.0-9.0	4.0-6.0	1.5-2.0
Acacia pendula	15	4.0-5.0	1.5-2.5	0.5-1.0

- Standards established for container grown trees in Arizona
- Helps determine if a tree is too big or too small for container size
- Caliper determination- measured at 6" above soil line

# Quality Tree + Proper Planting & Maintenance= Longer Living Tree







# Top 10 Tree Killers

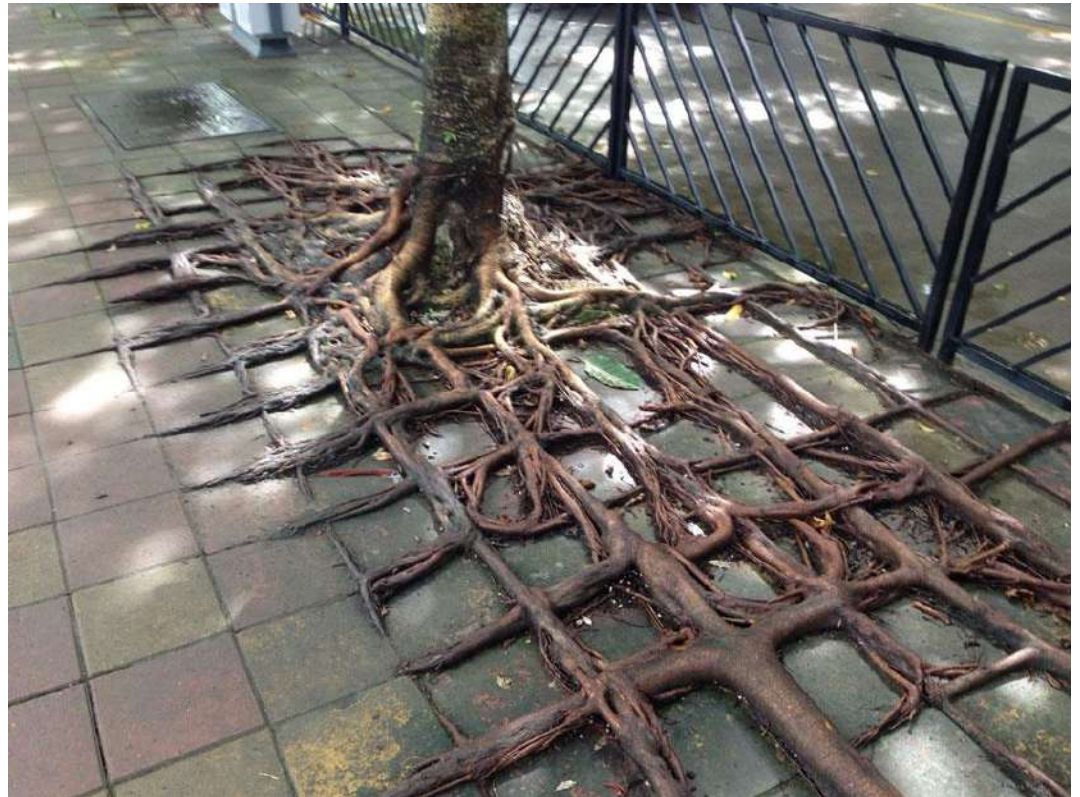
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# Trees in Urban Soils

High quality soil is important for tree health and function, affecting...

- ✓ Structural stability
- ✓ Water uptake
- ✓ Root growth
- ✓ Drainage and aeration
- ✓ Nutrient availability
- ✓ Filtering of toxins



# Urban Soils

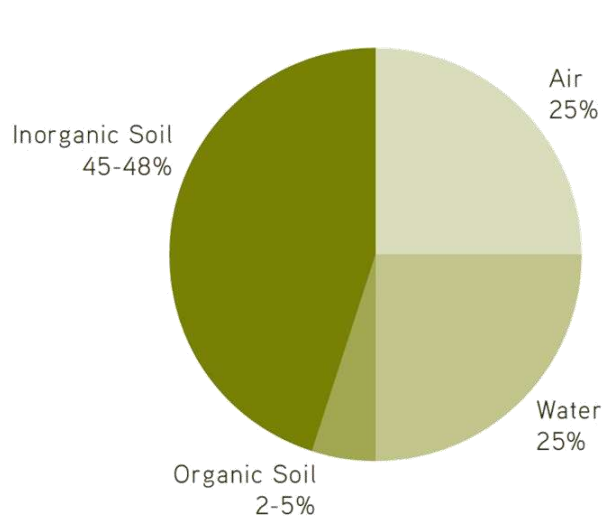
## Soil quality directly impacts tree

✓ Establishment

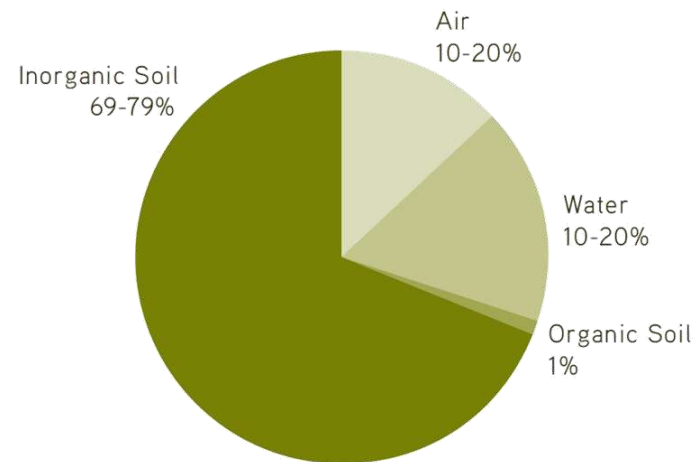
✓ Growth

✓ Health

✓ Longevity



FOREST SOILS



URBAN SOILS

\*Remember desert soil has less than 5% organic matter... why is that?



# Urban Soils

- Urban soils are highly modified and degraded
- Physical, chemical or biological impairments
  - Chemical contaminants
  - Pollutants such as heavy metals and salts
  - Poor quality irrigation water leads to salinization
  - Soil degradation from compaction from heavy equipment during construction
- Leads to limited root growth and tree stress
- Contributes to premature mortality

*What is the average lifespan of an urban tree?*



An urban soil profile showing that a fill was added near the surface of this soil. Credit: Natural Resources Conservation Service

# How do urban soils become this way?

- Poorly timed irrigation systems can cause soil moisture problems
- Removal of organic matter influences soil fertility and moisture
- Excessive herbicide or fertilizers contaminate the soil
- Foot traffic from pedestrians and road vibrations compact the soil
- Backyard chemical spills, such as gasoline and oil, contaminate the soil



# Progression of Soil Compaction in an Urban Environment

*Compaction limits and damages tree health*

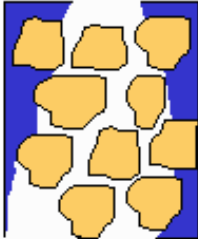
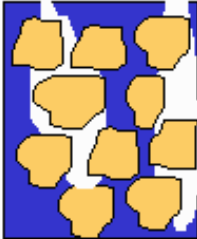




1. **Compression**- loss of soil volume, leads to loss of total pore space and aeration pore space.
2. **Compaction**- destruction of soil aggregates and collapse of aeration pores. Compaction is truly compaction; sand, silt and clay particles are affected. Facilitated by high moisture contents.
3. **Consolidation**- deformation of the soil destroying any pore space and structure. Moisture is squeezed from the soil matrix. Leads to internal bonding, pore space is eliminated.

Compaction process does not have to occur in this order or to the same soil.

# Compaction

Which soil texture is more prone to compaction issues? Why?

Pore space,  
water and gas  
contents &  
electron  
exchange are  
always  
changing

Soil texture:	Sand	Silt	Clay
Size [mm]:	0.05 - 2	0.002 - 0.05	< 0.002
			
<u>Macropores</u>	+++	++	(+)
Medium-sized p.	++	++	++
<u>Micropores</u>	(+)	++	+++
Percolation:			
Leaching:			



# What can be done to help compacted areas?

- Mechanically loosening of soil before planting
- Soil aeration by injecting pressurized air into ground
- Periodic aeration around areas with high foot traffic
- Vertical mulching (numerous auger holes filled with sand)
- Install subsurface drainage with perforated pipes connected to vertical pipes
- Addition of organic materials to provide sufficient aggregation agents, creating a stronger structure
- Introduction of earthworms, or other soil organisms to increase macropores
- Select species with inherent capacity to grow in compacted soils

# What are some other options?

Vertical mulching



Radial trenching



Grass panels







If you can't find  
a solution to  
soil  
compaction.....

Keep digging!

# Poor soil conditions can lead to nutritional issues





# Common deficiencies in our area





# Palm Nutrient Deficiencies





# Top 10 Tree Killers

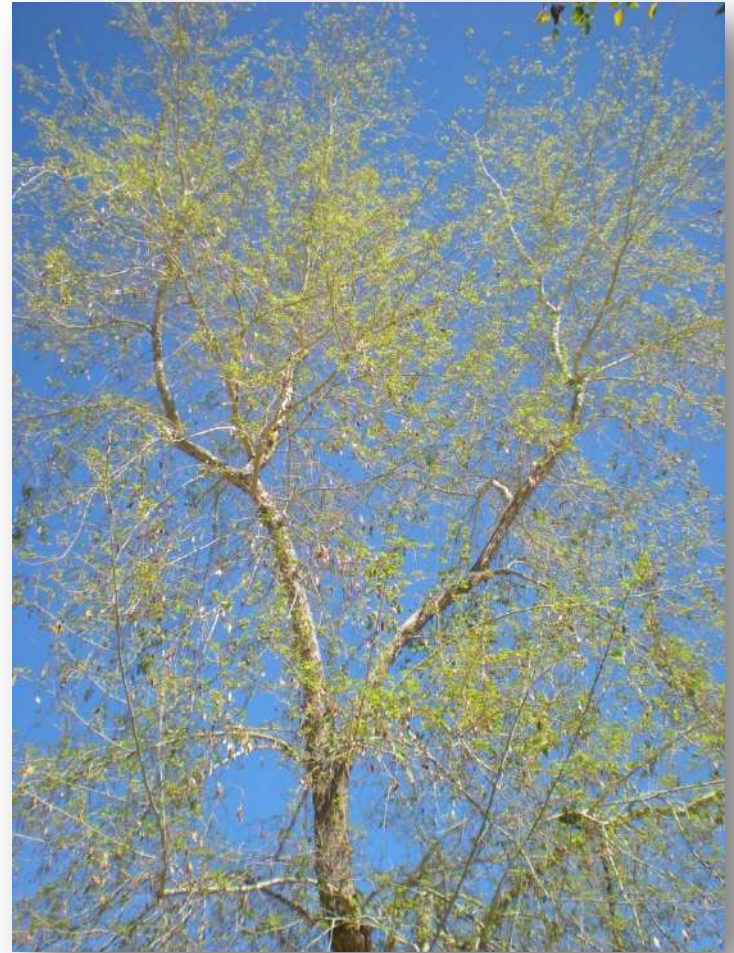
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# How much water?



Underwatering

vs.



Overwatering



# Tree Irrigation

- Monitor soil moisture levels monthly and make appropriate adjustments
- Adjust irrigation volumes during periods of extreme temperature and drought
- Runtimes should be based off of evapotranspiration, (ET/ weather conditions) not past practices
- Perform quarterly leaching cycles to help leach accumulated salts from soil profile
- Smart controllers may achieve the most sustainable irrigation method



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*****
*
* AZMET STATE WEATHER SUMMARY *
*
* APR 19 2017
*
*****
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LOCATION	TX	TN	TM	RHX	RHN	RHM	TD	SR	PPT	ST1	ST2	WS	WD	ET	HU
Agua	86	55	72	57	7	24	29	655	0.00	79	68	4.9	267	0.30	15.5
Bonita	82	52	67	52	10	28	30	681	0.00	76	71	6.5	299	0.31	12.4
Bowie	86	52	72	65	9	24	31	675	0.00	79	74	6.3	276	0.33	14.2
Buckeye	91	61	76	55	8	26	35	659	0.00	84	74	5.4	251	0.32	20.2
Coolidge	89	56	76	64	12	28	38	674	0.00	84	83	5.1	248	0.31	17.3
Desert Ridge	86	59	74	62	10	28	37	667	0.00	69	66	3.4	233	0.29	17.3
Harquahala	88	57	74	59	8	28	35	671	0.00	82	76	5.6	294	0.31	16.9
Maricopa	91	65	79	40	9	22	35	671	0.00	79	73	6.0	256	0.33	22.3
Mesa	90	70	81	33	10	19	33	658	0.00	86	80	3.4	283	0.30	24.3
Mohave	92	53	73	83	12	45	48	654	0.00	80	74	4.0	347	0.27	16.6
Mohave-2	91	54	75	72	12	35	42	622	0.00	##	##	5.4	316	0.29	16.7
Paloma	91	59	73	73	11	41	45	667	0.00	80	75	4.7	224	0.28	19.1
Parker-2	87	58	74	73	17	41	47	646	0.00	83	79	5.6	258	0.28	17.5
Payson	74	44	61	70	15	36	32	676	0.00	65	61	2.9	233	0.25	6.8
Phx. Encanto	89	63	78	75	9	24	36	630	0.00	70	67	3.8	258	0.29	20.3
Phx. Greenway	89	64	77	46	9	24	35	652	0.00	73	69	2.9	207	0.28	20.7
Queen Creek	89	58	75	49	10	26	36	657	0.00	82	75	3.8	268	0.29	18.2
Roll	91	60	76	78	8	35	42	667	0.00	79	74	7.2	276	0.33	19.6
Safford	89	60	75	50	9	21	31	658	0.00	78	72	7.8	315	0.35	19.3
Sahuarita	92	54	73	41	10	24	33	656	0.00	85	78	3.8	283	0.29	16.7
San Simon	87	46	68	81	8	28	29	674	0.00	76	71	4.7	294	0.31	13.5
Tucson	89	53	74	52	11	24	33	682	0.00	68	66	4.9	285	0.32	15.8
WillcoxBench	85	49	68	47	10	24	27	675	0.00	77	73	5.8	280	0.31	12.8
Yuma N. Gila	91	60	76	80	11	40	46	661	0.00	81	76	4.7	300	0.29	19.8
Yuma Valley	89	66	77	61	11	37	46	655	0.00	80	67	6.9	287	0.30	22.0

AZMET

[cals.arizona.edu/azmet/](http://cals.arizona.edu/azmet/)

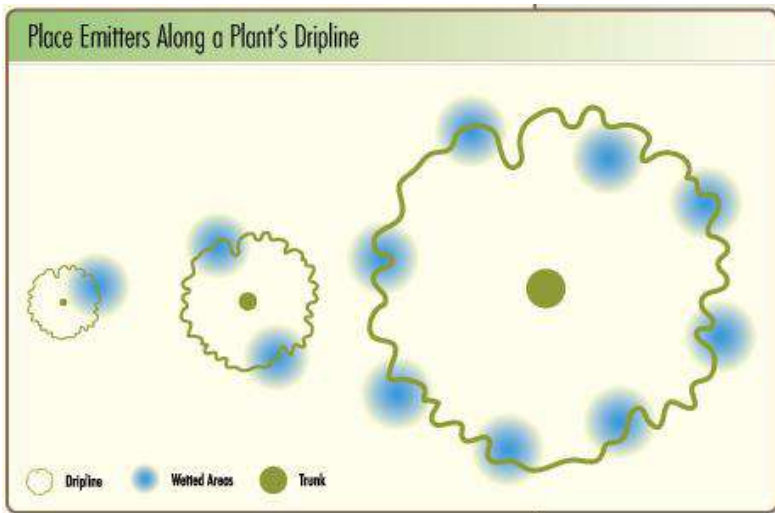
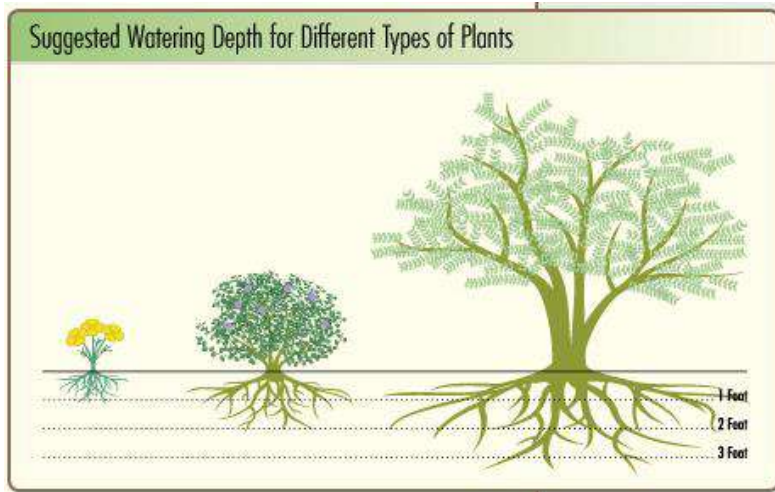
# Tree Irrigation

- Many mature native or desert trees may not need regular irrigation once established
- To help prevent excessive growth, reduce or limit water to rapid growing trees, such as mesquite and palo verde
- Ideally, trees should be watered to the soil depth of 3-4' at each irrigation (or series of irrigation cycles)
- Supplemental water may be delivered during periods of extreme drought





# Tree Irrigation



- Move emitters out towards dripline as tree matures
- Look for alternate water sources tree may be accessing

# Water Delivery



Placement of irrigation lines can influence the rooting and anchoring of trees into the ground.





Ensure you have good distribution of water around the tree, including on palms, which have a fibrous root system immediately surrounding the trunk.



Chronically moist conditions on the bark can head to decay and damage to the vascular system.

**Discussion:**  
What is the best way to water trees?

# Changes in water delivery/ availability



*Borers may have killed the tree, but it was the removal of turfgrass that caused the stress. Some trees do not respond well to change in irrigation. Roots had depended on water from the sprinklers, but died with the **change in water availability**.*



# Inappropriate Irrigation Practices



Changes to existing irrigation practices or to the landscape can also impact the tree's health

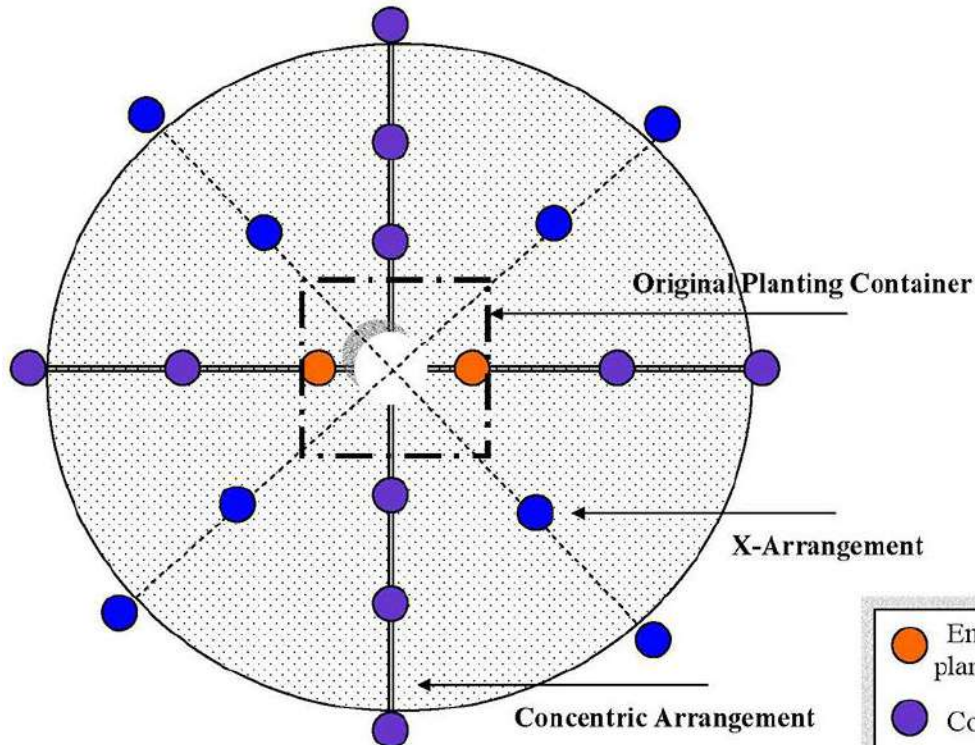
- Conversions from turf to d.g.
- Flood to drip irrigation conversions
- Temporary outages during construction
- New property management altering irrigation to 'standard' program



*This newly planted olive tree began showing tip dieback after 6 months in the ground. It was receiving **too much water**, especially in the heavy clay soil. Soil conditions were chronically wet, leading to tree failure due to overwatering/ lack of drainage.*



# How to Water Trees



**Irrigation Emitter Arrangement Options**

- Emitter watering original rootball (plug emitter 30 to 90 days after planting)
- Concentric watering pattern (3 foot spacing)
- X watering pattern with additional emitters for more water demanding trees i.e.: *Chilopsis linearis* or *Acacia smallii*



Trunk of tree

# Roots and Water

## **Activity:**

- What's in the can? Head outside to look at tree roots
- Flag the placement where emitters should be placed on a mature tree



# Top 10 Tree Killers

1. Construction
2. Inappropriate grade
3. Improper pruning
4. Vandalism
5. Wrong tree for the site
6. Poor quality nursery stock
7. Soil issues
8. Inappropriate watering
9. Bark damage
10. Herbicides

# Bark Damage



Stake not maintained, causing girdling and swelling of trunk due to the inability of the tree to 'sink' starches to the roots.



Line trimmer damage is common in trees planted in turf. Maintaining tree rings is recommended to prevent turf damage.





Woodpecker damage



Sprinkler erosion



Abandoned swing



Any ideas on what this is?

# Bark Damage

## Remedies

- Remove any old staking materials that have become lodged in bark, but do not damage tree in process
- Prune out damaged limbs
- Install protective staking if required
- Maintain vegetation-free area around each tree
- Use protective screens if vandalism occurs
- Avoid using tree spikes when trimming trees (palms)
- Shorten stakes to prevent rubbing on scaffold branches
- For bird control, contact a pest management profession for ID, some birds are protected



# Bark Damage



Damage due to over pruning,  
leading to sunburn



Damage likely from poor pruning cuts,  
leading to tearing of bark and decay  
down the length of trunk.



Where do we go from  
here?



# Tree Protection



Is this necessary?

What really is the solution?

You're doing it now!



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# Herbicide Injury

- Can be translocated through bark
- Systemic herbicide contact on suckers
- Movement into tree through surface roots
- Spray drift or vapor
- Contaminated soil



# Herbicide Injury

## Glyphosate Injury

Entry into plant from spray hitting foliage, bark or root tissue

### Symptoms:

- Strap-like leaves
- Bushy growth
- Irregularly shaped leaves
- May kill tree if enough chemical is sprayed on tissue





# Herbicide Injury

## 2,4-D or Dicamba Injury

2,4-D is prone to volatilization above 90°F

Dicamba can persist in soil for 3+ months, and can leach in soil

### Symptoms:

- Leaf cupping, coiling or bending
- Chlorosis
- Blackened tissues
- Defoliation



# Herbicide Injury

## How to prevent damage

- Know what product is being used and the potential for off-target exposure.
  - i.e. Lontrel is very active on legume family plants, spraying surface or shallow roots on a legume family trees may be impacted.
- Follow all label restrictions closely to watch for wind and temperature warnings.
- Triple rinse tanks or have separate spray rigs for trees and herbicides.
- Know what's in your soil before planting.
- **READ THE LABEL!!!**

For more information on herbicide-specific injuries, please look for the link on our website at <https://www.azlca.com/study-materials-aclp-ii>









**Left:** Lateral root growth in cotton seedlings is suppressed in the top 6" of trifluralin-treated soil. Lateral roots grow normal in untreated soil below.

**Right:** Roots in upper 6" growing normal while treated soil on the bottom suppresses lateral root growth.

*How would this impact the health of your tree?*



# Herbicide Injury

## **Getting to the bottom of it:**

- Ask questions, gather history of property and adjacent properties
- What does the plant normally look like this time of year?
- Any other pests that may have look-alike symptoms?
- Look at weeds and shrubs in surrounding area, are other species impacted?
- Look over the fence, is the ground weed-free?
- Tissue and soil samples may confirm chemical presence, but symptoms may be seen long after residual has gone

# Herbicide Injury

## Remedies

- Leaching contaminated soil with extra irrigation cycles
- Activated charcoal for root-active chemicals  
(soil incorporation or injection)
- Patience
  - Some trees may recover, but it may take as long as a year or more, depending on the severity of the injury, product persistence and environmental conditions
- Replant only if soil has been tested and confirm herbicide residual is no longer present



# Plant Growth Regulators



## Options for fruit control

- Olive
- Ash
- Mesquite
- Sycamore

What other trees are causing trouble?

# Fruit Management

Product	Timing	Comments	Bark Banding
Maintain	Apply as early as 2-3 months before bloom to right before bloom. Tight bud is the best time.	Maintain is a one-time treatment. Best if sprayed under 85 degrees, be very careful when applying around turf and other herbaceous or flowering plants; remember it is an herbicide! Low rates are recommended; high rates can cause severe stress to tree. The use of a surfactant like Nu Film P, Pro Spreader or CMR Silicone Surfactant will aid in sticking to foliage surface.	x
Florel	At the flower bud to full bloom stage: if fruit has set, there is no effect	Florel can be regarded as a one-time treatment. Thorough coverage is essential. No surfactant is needed. Flowers should drop from tree. Temporary yellowing of leaves is possible. Leaf drop may also be experienced, mostly old growth, which will be replaced. Trees should be in good health and not under moisture stress. Florel is very acidic; do NOT leave in sprayer overnight. Try to use within 4 hours of mixing.	
Embark 2S	Tight bud stage to 5% bloom	Total coverage is essential. Two treatments are recommended to cover all buds (about a two-week interval.) If the tree is sprayed properly, flowering will not occur. If a surfactant is used, use at ¼ rate using only non-ionic surfactants. Tarping is important, as Embark will act as a plant growth regulator on turf and shrubs. Treat only healthy trees not under stress.	
Olive Stop	At full bloom prior to fruit set; start first sprays between half and three fourths bloom, second treatment 7-14 days later.	User must observe Personal Protective Equipment labeling. Do not apply when temperatures exceed 85 degrees and avoid spraying during the heat of the day. Cover any ornamentals that come in contact with the spray. Coverage is essential. Use a non-ionic wetting agent @ 1 ¼ to 2 ½ teaspoons per 10 gallons of spray mix. Flower drop should occur. Use only on healthy trees not under stress.	
Atrimmec	Treat anytime from pre-bloom period after rachis has elongated about ½ inch through early bloom. Best results are obtained in early spring during tight bud stage of the pre-bloom period.	Coverage is absolutely essential. Do not mix with other products. No wetting agent is needed. Some yellowing may be observed several weeks after treatment. Tarping is recommended as Atrimmec will retard growth of hedges and shrubs and may cause bloom drop on annual flowers. Check worker protection standards on the label. Use only on healthy trees.	x

For more precise timing of these applications, contact your chemical supplier or the manufacturer representative.



# Bark Banding Application



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LifyEaL5ek>

# PGRs as a Tool for Managing Plant Stress

- *Paclobutrizol* has been used for growth control in annual and perennial flower production for years
- Newer formations used for managing tree growth under utility lines
- Now being used for other benefits besides growth regulation

**Shortstop®**

**Profile\* 2SC**  
Tree Growth Regulator





# *Paclobutrazol* Use on Trees

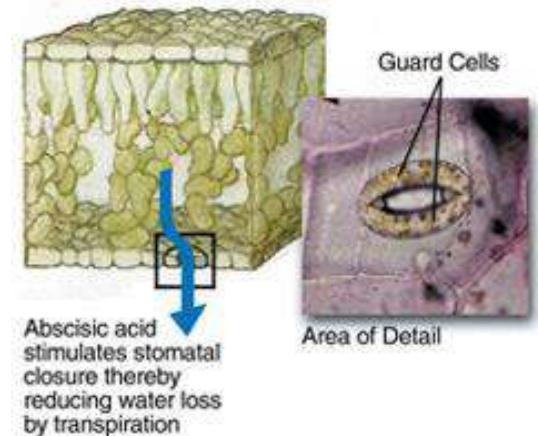
## **Benefits**

- Trees are more tolerant of drought conditions
  - Increased root-to-shoot ratio= greater water uptake capacity
- Increase in leaf thickness and masses of hairs, protecting from disease infections
- Less sensitive to air pollutants
- Usually darker in color, chlorophyll is more concentrated
- Smaller, denser canopies, great option if the tree is too large for the space
- Reduction of water loss through leaves
  - stomata will close

# *Paclobutrazol* Use on Trees

## How it works

- Blocks gibberellins, hormones responsible for cell elongation
  - Same number of cells are produced, but they do not elongate
- Increased production of abscisic acid, hormone responsible for fighting stress, which helps close stomata
- Result is trees treated have a greater tolerance to environmental stresses and resistance to fungal & bacterial diseases



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# *Paclobutrazol* Use on Trees

## How it is applied

- Basal drench
  - Dig a trench around base of tree
  - Pour solution evenly around tree
  - Replace soil at appropriate grade

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6vO8bBliYk>

- Soil injection
- Trunk injection (Shortstop)



# *Paclobutrazol* Rates

**Profile\* 2SC**  
Tree Growth Regulator



Example for trees in our area

MSRP is \$425/ gallon

- Mesquite tree
  - 4 grams (6.76 oz) / inch of DBH (concentrated product)
  - If tree is **18" DBH**, use 121.7 oz of solution (diluted mix)
  - Cost per application is **\$22.45 per tree**
  - Symptoms of regulation may not be seen for up to 18 months
  - Follow-up applications can be made after 3 years





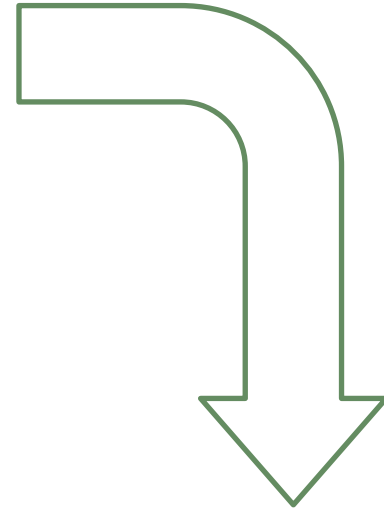
**1989** This tree, at the Morton Arboretum, had been declining over a period of a few years at the time of application.



**1998** Same tree, now the tree canopy is fuller and greener than before.



**2001** Same tree, the deadwood has been removed and the tree experienced much improved health. No additional applications were made since initial application in 1989.



## Treated



1989



1994



2001

## Second Treatment



2011



2014

Updates courtesy of  
Rainbow Treecare

*Is this an option on any of your properties?*

# Health Assessment

Assessments can be made in 3 levels

- **Level I**
  - Limited visual inspection at ground level
  - Site observations
  - Site history
- **Level II**
  - Basic visual: evaluation of tree
  - Obtaining tree measurements, history and site changes
  - Photo documentation
  - Fact gathering if not readily available on site
  - The use of some tools such as binoculars, mallet for sounding and soil probe or excavating tools
- **Level III**
  - Advanced assessment: aerial survey of tree
  - Decay detection, health evaluation, wind load assessment and static load assessment
  - Generally reserved for high-valued or heritage trees


## Tree Risk Assessment

- Should be performed by an ISA Certified Arborist who has been trained in risk assessment



## Group Activity

- Split into 3 groups
- Head outside to tagged trees
- Assess tree's health using provided form



A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas  
**TREE HAZARD EVALUATION FORM** 2nd Edition

Site/Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Map/Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner: public \_\_\_\_\_ private \_\_\_\_\_ unknown \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of last inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

**HAZARD RATING:**  

Failure Potential	+	Size of part	+	Target Rating	=	Hazard Rating
_____ Immediate action needed _____ Needs further inspection _____ Dead tree						

**TREE CHARACTERISTICS**

Tree #: \_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DBH: \_\_\_\_\_ # of trunks: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Spread: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Form: ☐ generally symmetric ☐ minor asymmetry ☐ major asymmetry ☐ stump sprout ☐ stag-headed  
 Crown class: ☐ dominant ☐ co-dominant ☐ intermediate ☐ suppressed  
 Live crown ratio: \_\_\_\_\_ % Age class: ☐ young ☐ semi-mature ☐ mature ☐ over-mature/senescent  
 Pruning history: ☐ crown cleaned ☐ excessively thinned ☐ topped ☐ crown raised ☐ pollarded ☐ crown reduced ☐ flush cuts ☐ cabled/braced  
☐ none ☐ multiple pruning events Approx. dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Value: ☐ specimen ☐ heritage/historic ☐ wildlife ☐ unusual ☐ street tree ☐ screen ☐ shade ☐ indigenous ☐ protected by gov. agency

**TREE HEALTH**

Foliage color: ☐ normal ☐ chlorotic ☐ necrotic Epicormics? Y N  
 Foliage density: ☐ normal ☐ sparse Leaf size: ☐ normal ☐ small  
 Annual shoot growth: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ poor Twig Dieback? Y N  
 Woundwood development: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ poor ☐ none  
 Vigor class: ☐ excellent ☐ average ☐ fair ☐ poor  
 Major pests/diseases: \_\_\_\_\_

**Growth obstructions:**  
☐ stakes ☐ wire/ties ☐ signs ☐ cables  
☐ curb/pavement ☐ guards  
☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE CONDITIONS**

Site Character: ☐ residence ☐ commercial ☐ industrial ☐ park ☐ open space ☐ natural ☐ woodland/forest  
 Landscape type: ☐ parkway ☐ raised bed ☐ container ☐ mound ☐ lawn ☐ shrub border ☐ wind break  
 Irrigation: ☐ none ☐ adequate ☐ inadequate ☐ excessive ☐ trunk wetted  
 Recent site disturbance? Y N ☐ construction ☐ soil disturbance ☐ grade change ☐ line clearing ☐ site clearing  
 % dripline paved: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100% Pavement lifted? Y N  
 % dripline w/ fill soil: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%  
 % dripline grade lowered: 0% 10-25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%  
 Soil problems: ☐ drainage ☐ shallow ☐ compacted ☐ droughty ☐ saline ☐ alkaline ☐ acidic ☐ small volume ☐ disease center ☐ history of fail  
☐ clay ☐ expansive ☐ slope \_\_\_\_\_° aspect: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Obstructions: ☐ lights ☐ signage ☐ line-of-sight ☐ view ☐ overhead lines ☐ underground utilities ☐ traffic ☐ adjacent veg. ☐ \_\_\_\_\_



# Tree #1





# Tree #2





# Tree #3





# Who Should Work on Trees?



# Tree Certifications



- **Certified Arborist**
  - 3+ years of practical experience *OR*
  - Degree in horticulture or agriculture
- **Certified Arborist Utility Specialist**
  - Minimum of 2000 hours experience over 2 years *OR*
  - Served as a consultant to a utility with 4000 hours over 10 years
- **Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist**
  - Current ISA Certified Arborist
  - 3 additional years work experience
- **Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist**
  - Skills and endurance to climb
  - Tested in both classroom and in field
- **Certified Tree Worker Aerial Lift Specialist**
  - Competent aerial lift operator
  - Safety, CPR and first aid knowledge required
- **Board Certified Master Arborist**
  - Highest level certification
  - Extensive scenario-based exam
  - Fewer than 2% of all ISA Certified Arborists hold this certification





# Benefits of Trees

- Air filtration
- Water purification & conservation
- Erosion prevention
- Lower heating/ cooling bills
- Climate control
- Increases property values
- Improve social interactions



# A Special Thanks to...

**Steve Priebe**

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**Claud Cluff**, Grounds Supervisor at the City of Chandler Parks & Recreation

**Bryan Steinhour**, Operations Manager at Integrity Tree Service





I Speak For The  
Trees, For The  
Trees Have No  
Tongues.

• DR. SEUSS FROM THE LORAX •