
ARBORWISE, LTD.

Urban Foresters • Consulting Arborists • Tree Preservation Specialists • Horticultural Forensic Investigators

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Three W's of Tree Preservation

Nearly all man-made sites are limiting to long-term tree growth. Growing trees in high stress sites is a discipline demanding a broad understanding of botany, plant pathology and soil science. Thus, landscape design professionals must plan for the protection from damages of existing trees and the protection of all trees post-construction.

Among the many negative events and situations urban trees face, there are three abiotic affects that are most grievous and even potentially terminal. Manage these events and there is a higher probably of producing large urban trees.

The "Three W's of Tree Preservation" are:

W-1: Wound Prevention

W-2: Weighty Soil Preclusion

W-3: Water Practices

W-1: The first rule of tree preservation is wound protection. Whenever trees experience mechanical damage, they seal off the wound, thus reducing sap flows above the wound and starch storage within damaged tissues. All trees "wall off the wounds", but the extent of the impact and the tree's innate response is species-specific and vitality directed. Even in the best scenario, however, each and every wound produces lower entropy in the tree. There are three sites where wound management must be considered: 1. the canopy, 2. the scaffolding wood and 3. the roots. In each location, there are pathologies, reactions and consequences. Wounds are a conduit for insect and disease entering the tree and causing additional damage.

W-2: Soil characteristics are more directive to tree longevity than any other factor. Root volume is truly what determines the tree's "length of service". Arbor-care offers tools to prolong the life of trees that have been designed into limited sites.

W-3: Water can be life or death for a tree. The need for the right amount of water is paramount. Excesses of water, too little or too much, is a death warrant for all trees.

Urban/suburban sites are highly constrictive locations; trees will only survive long-term with directed and planned arbor-care. ARBORWISE, LTD. has spent 17 years, preserving and nurturing trees in combative sites. Working alongside design and construction professionals as tree protection specialists, we render opinions, give directives and direct preservation practices which will insure both existing and newly planted trees.

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