

HOW TO KILL A TREE

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Water Conservation and Trees

- Tree canopies and root systems provide a natural filter to our water supply.
- Trees along streams hold stream banks in place to protect against flooding. One tree reduces 4000 gallons of storm water runoff annually.
- Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent erosion by trapping soil that would otherwise become silt. Silt destroys fish eggs and other aquatic wildlife and makes rivers and streams shallower.
- Trees provide shade to cool the landscapes and the soil beneath them, reducing evaporation of irrigation water that has been applied.

A few facts....

- Urban trees only live a fraction of their natural life spans.....
- A tree that would live 80 years in the forest is expected to live an average of 20 years in the suburbs, and only 7 years in an urban setting!
- The most common cause of tree death is abuse and neglect from its number one pest.....*Homo sapiens*

The Top Ten Causes of Tree Death:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10. Automobiles | 5. Lack of Watering |
| 9. Misuse of Herbicides | 4. The Wrong Tree for the Site |
| 8. Bark Damage | 3. Vandalism |
| 7. Soil Compaction | 2. Improper Pruning |
| 6. Poor Planting | 1. Construction Damage |

A Five-Step Program for Assisted Herb-icide

1. Selection

- Plant a big tree in a small space.
- Plant a tall tree under utility lines.
- Choose an overused species, and plant lots of it.
- Use the fastest growing species of tree that you can find.
- Pay no attention to insect and disease susceptibility of your tree selection.

2. Planting

- Leave a tree out where the sun and wind will dry out the roots or rootball prior to planting
- Plant the tree too shallow.
- Plant the tree too deep.
- Plant in soil that is too dry or too wet.

- Forget to water.
- Water too much.
- Leave stakes and guy wires on the tree.
- Leave wire baskets, burlap and ropes on the root ball.
- Handle the tree by the trunk, not the root ball.
- Plant too close to your building.
- Plant a big tree in a small space.
- Plant flowers and grass under and around the tree.

3. Pruning

- Top your tree or make repeated heading cuts.
- Over prune your tree.
- Prune all species and all ages of trees alike.
- Make flush cuts.
- Use wound dressings.
- Ignore storm damage.
- Hire a “fly-by-night” tree company

4. Maintenance

- Hit the tree with a lawnmower and/or string trimmer time and time again.
- Over-fertilize.
- Use salt or other deicers around your trees in winter.
- Let low heavy branches form; they'll break off during a storm.
- Use herbicides around the trees.

5. Construction Activities

- Trench through root zones, cutting as many roots as possible.
- Change the landscape drastically near the tree.
- Build a patio around it.
- Build a walk that goes right by it.
- Inflict a wound during construction.
- Give a sudden exposure to the sun by removing surrounding trees.
- Park your car, store materials and drive trucks or construction equipment underneath the tree (compact the soil).