



Did you know...?

Two or three well placed shade trees can reduce year-round energy consumption in a home by as much as 30 per cent.

Commonly Asked Questions

What is the influence of soil compaction on tree growth?

In order for trees to grow strong and healthy above ground, they must have sufficient root growth to draw enough nutrients and moisture. Compacted soils inhibit root development and growth and create stress for a growing tree.

Soil compaction is major factor in the Ottawa area since we are located within a clay belt, an area of clay-dominated soils.

There is further stress in new residential and commercial developments due to machinery-induced compaction (see our *Treevia* question below) and in areas where human traffic may cause soil compaction.

How does compact soil harm your growing tree? Compacted soil lacks the necessary open space (pores) between soil particles that allow for the movement of water, nutrients dissolved in water, oxygen and root-friendly earthworms, fungi and bacteria.

The solution for compacted soils is really not too complex. To solve

the problem you need to create more open spaces in the soil within the tree's rooting area. In other words, improve the soil's structure. The most frequent solution is vertical mulching.

Vertical mulching involves drilling small vertical channels to a depth of twenty to thirty centimetres throughout the root zone of the tree. Then the holes are back filled with a long-lasting porous material such as sand, peat or vermiculite, or a mixture of the three. This process is known to benefit trees by improving the movement of water, air and nutrients into the soil.

Other methods of improving soil structure include spike and core aeration, rototilling, deep-jetting, subsoiling and trenching. However, each of these methods tend to be more stressful to the tree as they tend to damage roots.

Adding a layer of organic mulch (i.e. composted woodchips) following vertical mulching is an additional benefit. Surface mulching helps improve soil structure by creating the conditions necessary for earthworms and soil-borne fungi and bacteria to thrive.

What is the Asian Long-horned Beetle and is it a threat to trees in the Ottawa area?

The Asian Long-horned Beetle is a threat to the hardwood forests of Ontario. However, it is presently is not a problem in Eastern Ontario, but was found in an industrial park in the Toronto-Vaughan area in September 2003.

Since this finding the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has created a regulated area from which the movement of all trees and wood with bark attached is restricted. All potential host trees (maple, poplar, elm, ash, willow, birch, mountain ash, hackberry and horsechestnut) within 400 metres of the regulated area have been cut down and destroyed. Although the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has submitted an application for the registration of the chemical Imidacloprid (Merit) as a control product, it will not be effective in protecting infested trees. Through such efforts, it is believed that the Asian Long-horned Beetle will be eventually eradicated from North America.

TREEVIA!

True or False: A vehicle tire exerts a pressure on the surface on which it rolls approximately equal to its inflation pressure?

True.



Integrated Forestry Services Inc.

is a full-service forestry firm offering tree care and forest management contracting. We are a fully Canadian-owned and operated company. On staff, we have a Registered Professional Forester, Certified Arborists and forestry technicians. We are the only tree care firm in Ottawa to offer the services of a Registered Professional Forester. We also guarantee that all of our working arborists have college-level training in either Arboriculture or in Forestry, or both.

Integrated Forestry Services Inc.: About Us

Just as with trees in forests, those in our urban forest provide many benefits including producing the oxygen we breathe and reducing carbon dioxide. However, because of their proximity to buildings, roads, sidewalks and the property of others, trees in urban areas need to be maintained to ensure that they don't cause conflicts, or worse, catastrophes. This is where **Integrated Forestry Services Inc.** can help. We provide a complete line of tree services including:

Tree Maintenance Programs

- ✓ Tree and shrub pruning
- ✓ Tree and stump removal
- ✓ Hedge trimming
- ✓ Tree planting
- ✓ Cabling, bracing and propping (including storm damage repairs)
- ✓ Deep-root fertilizing
- ✓ Installation of root barriers
- ✓ Root pruning
- ✓ Disease and insect control
- ✓ Systemic injections

Commercial & Residential Inventory Management

- ✓ Tree evaluation and hazard assessment
- ✓ Tree inventories and maintenance scheduling
- ✓ Tree preservation during construction
- ✓ Soil testing (for macro- and micro-nutrients, pH, texture, etc.)
- ✓ Disease and insect diagnostic services
- ✓ Tree appraisals
- ✓ Property assessments and consultations for individual trees and those in woodland settings

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We are members of:



Buying a new home...

What are the key factors in buying a home? Location, Location. Location. And for many, a home located on a treed lot is a priority.

An alert home buyer will be on the look out for specific things that should be more closely examined in trees. These include:

1) mushrooms or fungal fruiting bodies that arise near or on a tree's trunk or branches;

- 2) dead or dying branches visible in the crown of a tree;
- 3) cavities or holes in the trunk or branches;
- 4) trees with stunted or chlorotic (off-colour) foliage;
- 5) the presence of dead or declining trees on neighbouring properties;
- 6) the presence of cables or other structural supports in a tree;
- 7) loose or missing bark on stems or branches.

So how does a home buyer protect him or herself when buying a property with trees? The person best qualified, and insured, to assess the condition of any tree is a consulting Registered Professional Forester. A forester has the education and expertise to determine which signs and symptoms are cause for concern.

Give us a call to arrange a consultation!