

# CONSULTING TREE TIPS

Autumn 2020

Facts, findings and timely leads for arboriculture, horticulture, and urban forestry



Bartlett Consulting Tree Tips is our way to keep in touch with you, providing information on the challenges we all face while working and managing our urban environments.

Please contact us with questions, or other subjects that you want to hear more about, via any one of our Bartlett Consulting teams.

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## Engineering & Public Works

### Don't Trip Up Root Barrier Installation

Root barriers can be helpful where trees are planted within 2 or 4 feet of hardscape, depending on the species. However, if used incorrectly they can be ineffective, resulting in damage to trees or infrastructure. Panels come in many depths, most commonly from 12 to 48 inches. They should be placed tight against the pavement with the top edge even with pavement grade.



Roots may grow over the top of barriers set too low as well as through openings made for utilities or irrigation. An arborist review of the site details and tree species can help ensure effective and proper application of root barriers.

Correctly install Root Barrier at top of sidewalk grade and along infrastructure edge to direct root growth away from the sidewalk into the planter strip.



Root barriers are sometimes incorrectly installed around the root ball during planting. The roots outgrew this barrier many years ago.

## Landscape Architecture

### Choosing Trees to Last a Lifetime

#### Inspecting Nursery Stock 101

Selecting well-grown trees that meet the ANSI Z60.1 American Standard for Nursery Stock is a vital step and valuable investment toward ensuring future success and performance.



Fat, healthy buds or colorful lush foliage.

Bark is undamaged and there are few visible pruning wounds.

Trunk flare is visible with no girdling roots.

Single dominant central leader.

Lateral branches are half or less the diameter of the main trunk with no bark inclusions.

Lowest branches are at the specified height.

Diameter 6-inches above grade meets or exceeds specified trunk caliper.

Root ball is solid and meets or exceeds size for specified trunk caliper.

## Planning & Development

### Creating Urban Wildlife Snags

Wildlife snag trees can be created when large trees need to be removed in the urban forest by 'creatively' reducing their size. A skilled arborist can take a condemned tree and reduce it to mimic a natural failure. Good candidate trees must be stable and are best retained near other healthy trees, and located a suitable distance from valuable property and areas of frequent use. Wildlife snags are important to provide food and shelter for beneficial wildlife, such as insect eating birds and mammals. Wildlife snag trees are one of the most limited types of natural habitat in the urban forest and we should take opportunities to create and retain more of them.



Owl photo credit: Terrence Peck



Cuts to mimic natural failure.