BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS
SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

The Long Term Effects of Extreme Flooding What To Do

RENEW THE SOIL AND THE ROOTS

The rains have stopped and on the surface everything looks dry. But, even after flooding subsides, soil can stay waterlogged for a long period of time. Roots cannot exchange gases within the soil. The lack of oxygen in the soil causes root systems to stop functioning and growing. This leads to dieback of the root system and can impact the health and stability of trees for a long time.

The long term effects include:

- Leaves begin to yellow, wilt and decay. Branch dieback occurs.
- Damage to the roots and dieback to the root system further allows pests and diseases into the tree such as phytophthora root rot.
- Large scale root damage affects structural stability and makes trees liable to blowing over, especially in high winds.

Helping trees recover from flooding damage:

- Application of nitrogen fertilisation.
- Perform a soil analysis.
- Specialised phosphite fertilisation treatments.
- Improve drainage and relieve compacted soil using air spade technology.
- Apply mulch once the flooding has subsided.

Wet soil fosters a host of potential problems such as phytophthora root rot disease. The use of Bartlett's granular or liquid fertiliser and the combined use of several techniques to revitalise soils and root systems is our recommendation to promote the return of healthy microbial bacteria, suppress soil borne diseases and stimulate root growth.