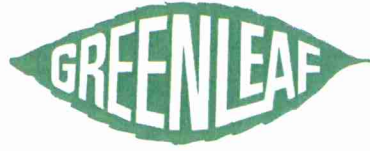


Greenleaf Gazette

WINTER
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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GREENLEAF LANDSCAPING
NEWSLETTER

SERVING SPOKANE SINCE 1980

Calendar of Services

January:

- Winter Tree Pruning
- Snow Removal
- Contract Renewal

February:

- Winter Tree Pruning
- Snow Removal (if needed)
- Systemic Soil Drench
- Bare Ground Weed Spray
- Shrub Bed Weed Pre-Emergent
- Dormant Insect Spray

March:

- Continue spray services (from above)
- Spring Clean-up
- Spring Pruning
- Spring Lawn Fertilizer

*All of the above services are weather dependent

Spring Specials!

New Services Only

***When you sign up by**

Thurs., March 1st 2012*

15% Off the Following Spring Services:

- Tree & Shrub Pruning & Shrub Tying
- Yard Clean-Up
- Lawn Aeration
- Foundation Spray
- Systemic Soil Drench
- Dormant Insect Spray

The "Root" of the Problem: Tree Care

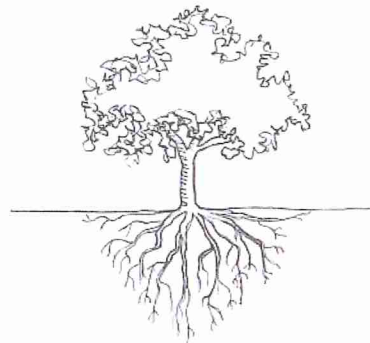
Tree issues frequently arise from problems within the root zone. Root issues can be caused by:

- ♦ **Poor Planting Practices** (i.e. trees planted too deep)
- ♦ **Equipment Damage**
- ♦ **Poor Watering Practices**

By causing stress to the tree, each of these problems contributes to the tree's increased susceptibility to other problems as time goes on.

Trees planted too deeply often lose their "true" roots and depend on the development of "advantageous roots." These advantageous roots are smaller in size, grow in irregular directions and don't provide the same stability that true roots do. Poor planting and growing practices can create the same issues. To solve these problems, the issue must be diagnosed early enough to either replant the tree correctly or remove excess soil from around the root

zone. **Equipment damage** can be as minor as a lawn mower hitting surface roots to heavy equipment operating on and tearing through root systems. Unfortunately, more often than not the indicators might not show up for three years or more and a correct



diagnosis may be difficult by that time. It is important to keep in mind that any time roots need to be removed or dug through it is beneficial to do a "finish cut" on them as well. Adding sand around surface roots to increase the grade can help limit mowing hits and damage to both tree and mowers.

Poor watering practices can either drown your tree

or create surface roots. Drowning frequently occurs in our area (Spokane, WA) due to a layer of soil typically referred to as "hard pan." When the tree is planted, the root system is dropped into a hole dug into this layer. Water then "ponds up" and drowns the roots. Under-watering trees or watering only for the lawn causes the roots to chase water at the surface. As the roots mature and increase in size they become surface roots. Both these issues can be remedied through monitoring of the trees and knowing your soil. **Tree roots** are easily forgotten as they lie out of sight but they do play a major role in keeping your trees healthy. **Greenleaf Landscaping** has many knowledgeable Landscapers and Certified Arborists available to answer your questions and help you with all your tree care needs!

Information contributed by:
Martin Bixby, Certified Arborist

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND ONLINE FEATURES AT: WWW.GREENLEAFWA.COM

What is That? W.A.L.P Awards!

Greenleaf Landscaping is a proud member and award-winner at W.A.L.P. (The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals). Visit our website to learn more about Greenleaf's award-winning landscapes:



- ◆ Two Awards of Distinction in 2011!
- ◆ An Award of Distinction and an Award of Merit in 2010!
- ◆ A Grand Award and an Award of Distinction in 2008!
- ◆ An Award of Distinction and an Award of Merit in 2007!

Employee Spotlight



Anna Twohig
*Office Manager &
Marketing Director*

Job Description: Anna is the drive behind the creation of newsletters such as this one, as well as our entire marketing department! She manages our website, social networks, and all marketing flyers, materials, and programs. She also manages the estimate process and our office personnel.

Education: Anna has a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in English from Gonzaga University.

Time with Greenleaf: Anna has been with Greenleaf Landscaping for 4 years.

Hometown: Anna grew up in Kettle Falls, WA and currently lives in Spokane.

Hobbies: As an avid outdoor enthusiast, Anna loves to play beach volleyball and go skiing at Schweitzer Mountain. When weather keeps her inside, one can find her playing on an indoor volleyball court or partaking in a DIY project like jewelry making or creating goods with up-cycled vinyl records.

Did you know...?

Did you know that mulch can play a vital role in your landscape? The benefits of correct mulching include water conservation, nutrient loading of the soil and even weed control!

The perfect mulch is a natural biomass that will naturally decompose into the soil (instead of using rocks or rubber for instance). Great mulches can be made solely from or a combination of wood chips, bark, grass, leaves, etc.

A layer of mulch laid on the soil decreases the rate of evaporation that can occur from exposed soil. The mulch itself shades and cools the soil to limit the water loss. The mulch also has an increased water retention ability which helps decrease erosion both from water run-off and from winds blowing soils away.

Mulch composed from vegetation can actually add nutrients to the soil when it's first laid down. The fertilization from this is typically very beneficial to plants as it contains everything a plant needs. As the mulch further decomposes, it can draw nitrogen from the soil to help break down the mulch. The loss of the nitrogen from the soil during this process is offset by the water-holding capacities of the biomass now becoming part of the soil structure.

The layer of mulch laid upon a site can also limit the germination of weed seeds in our yards. This frequently decreases the amount of chemicals needed for weed control. The length of control varies and is impacted by location and seed sources.

Feel free to call our friendly staff any time with your questions about mulching and our other landscape services!

*Information contributed by:
Martin Bixby, Certified Arborist*



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