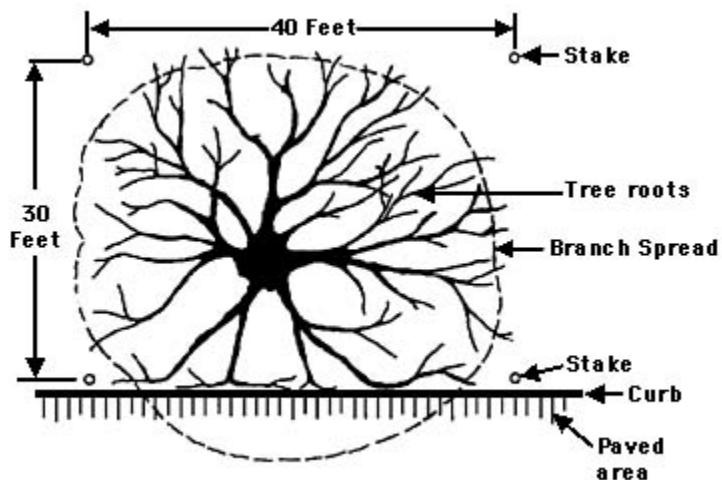


June is a great month to “feed” your trees

Spring is a great time to fertilize your landscape. Because of our lack of rainfall and the different soil types around our city, it can be important to remember to “feed” your trees – especially young trees trying to establish their root base.

Fertilizer products have application rates on the package. Here are a few tips to help you understand the label and application rates. To figure the amount of nitrogen-containing fertilizer needed, one rate determination method is to figure the square footage beneath the tree or shrub. Stake off a square or rectangular area that includes the entire branch spread of the trees/shrub in an area, and use the area to calculate the square footage. If roots are restricted by pavement, curb or a building, subtract the restricted area from the total area computed. Apply 1 pound of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet. Some fertilizers also list application rate calculations by measuring the size of the trunk.



Application

Research shows that surface applications of nitrogen-containing granular fertilizers are as efficient as the old method of punching holes. Fertilizer may be distributed by hand or with a fertilizer spreader. Distribute the fertilizer evenly and avoid skips and overlapping which result in light and dark streaks in grass growing beneath the trees. To obtain even distribution, divide the fertilizer into two equal lots and apply one-half lengthwise over the area and the remainder crosswise over the area. Water the area thoroughly after fertilizing, soaking the soil to a depth of at least 6 inches.

Micronutrients

The micronutrient most commonly deficient in Texas soils is Iron. This deficiency usually is noted in alkaline soil regions. The iron becomes insoluble and the plant cannot extract sufficient amounts from the soil for good growth. Iron deficiency symptoms include pale green to yellow leaves with darker green venation. It is very common on plant species not adapted to alkaline soils including some of the red oaks, maples and hollies.

I hope you find this information helpful and as always, please call the office if you need additional information.

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