







DETERMINING THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE

THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE OF A TREE IS THE ZONE IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF A TREE'S ROOTS LAY. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE ROOTS OF MOST TREES WILL BE FOUND IN THE UPPER 30-38" OF THE SOIL. OF THOSE, THE MAJORITY OF THE ROOTS THAT SUPPLY THE NUTRITIENTS AND WATER TO THE TREE ARE FOUND IN THE UPPERMOST LAYER, JUST BELOW THE SOIL SURFACE. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF A TREE'S ROOTS ARE GENERALLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE VOLUME OF THE TREE'S CANOPY. THEREFORE, IF THE ROOTS ONLY PENETRATE A THIN LAYER OF SOIL, THEN THE ROOTS MUST SPREAD FAR FROM THE TREE, BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE CANOPY.

ROOTS ARE VITAL TO TEH FUNCTIONING OF ANY TREE. THEY PROVIDE STRUCTURAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS THE MAJOR MECHANISM FOR NUTRIENT AND WATER UPTAKE FOR USE BY THE REST OF THE TREE. DESTROYING A SECTION OF A TREE'S ROOTS WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN A PROPORTIONAL LOSS OF THE TREE'S CANOPY.

THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE OF A TREE TO BE SAVED SHALL BE THE MINIMUM AREA PROTECTED WITH TREE PROTECTION FENCING.