

SICK TREES

WATCH YOUR TREE – You are the best detective for tree problems. Note any changes in how you have watered or treated your tree. Look for crusty salt buildup, wind damage, or fungus.

UNDERGROUND – Most tree problems in our area originate from problems underground. A dried leaf or withered branch will not tell the whole story of what is wrong.

WATERING – Underwatering is a common problem, especially in summer. But overwatering will also kill trees, especially if the tree is planted into a pit in compact soil that doesn't drain.

BAD ROOTS – Some trees are strangled by wound-up roots, a problem that started in the nursery pot. Watch for, and do not buy or plant, a tree with girdling roots.

SOIL SALTS – Salts and minerals can build up in soil over the years, especially around trees that have not been watered deeply. Some trees are more susceptible. Flushing the soil with heavy watering can dispel the salts.

TEXAS ROOT ROT – is a pathogenic fungus which attacks many tree species. Look for dead leaves which remain on the tree during the heat of summer. Remove infected trees.

REPLACEMENT – replace a dead tree with a different species. Whatever killed the first tree could infect the next if replaced with the same kind. If root rot is suspected, consult a list of species which are resistant.