

Strengthening our Community Tree Canopy Through Education - Module #7 Root Pruning

Root Pruning – The Need

- Correct defects at planting
- Reduces size of rootball for transplant
- Address conflicts with hardscape (sidewalks, paving, walls, etc.)



Defects Discovered at Planting

- Circling roots
- Matted roots deflected downward
- Excess soil on top of the rootball

Root Pruning Tools

- Sharp shovel
- Pruning shears
- Air spade / Air excavator
- Trench cutter



Root Pruning Tidbits

- No more than 25% - 30% of roots
- Severance of major support roots may compromise tree integrity
- As trees age, they can't withstand as much

Root Pruning at Planting – slice & remove outer ½”-1” of rootball (preferable to radial slicing).



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