



**SEASONAL REPORT**

*W*inter is the time for: **making sure your trees are planted properly.** What happens if your tree is planted too deep? This is a common problem in the landscape. So much so that a special tool was designed, called an Airspade, to aid the problem. If there is no visible "root flare" at the base of the tree, this is a major sign that it is planted too deep. Granted, our business is booming in repairing what others have done incorrectly, but we would much rather maintain trees that will flourish rather than saving them from certain death by strangulation or root rot disease. Trees which are planted too deep may look healthy on the surface but, below the ground, the roots are growing upwards to get oxygen. They will inevitably grow around the trunk and strangle the tree. This guarantees the tree will not reach maturity.



Mulch piled too high (no root flare)



Tree buried too deep (no root flare)



Proper planting depth (visible root flare)

**Does it really make a difference whether the root flare is planted 2-4 inches too deep?** Yes! Root and trunk tissues are very different. Root tissue pushes through soil and can heave concrete. Trunk tissue will grow around it. Root tissue can stay moist whereas trunk tissue must be allowed to dry out.

There are two major concerns if the trunk is buried too deep. The first is if moisture is held to the trunk (via soil/mulch), it becomes very susceptible to root rot disease. Second, simply the weight of heavy soil can restrict growth and affect the health of the tree.

*What can you do to protect your landscape?*

We have provided you an in-depth article and diagram explaining "Proper Tree Planting" on our website. It explains what is required for planting a tree by MNLA's (Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association) and ISA's (International Society of Arboriculture) standards. We encourage you to print this article and use it as a guideline the next time you hire a landscape company to work on your property.

This is your best guarantee to spare your landscape investment from potential loss. If you cannot see proper root flare on your trees or if you're not sure of their condition, contact us for a free evaluation.

**(616) 895-9600**

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*Did you know that 90% of roots grow within the top 12 inches of soil?*



**Note:** Anyone can dig a hole and drop a tree in it. It takes a professional to understand how to protect your investment for the life of the tree. The landscape professional should check the soil type/pH and amounts of water, sunlight, and space available before planting. Follow-up care should include proper watering (too much or too little will greatly stress the tree), bio-stimulants (not fertilizers) to increase vigor, and a Monitoring Program to control pests while the tree is recovering from transplant shock.

**Winter Calendar Chart**

Integrity Tree Services provides many additional services not listed in the chart below. If your need is not listed, please contact us.

COMMON SERVICES	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Frozen ground reduces turf damage when removing large trees					
Mycorrhizal injection to increase root absorption					
Water trees (if there's less than 1" of rain every 7-10 days)					
Corrective and rejuvenation pruning of shrubs					
Inspect evergreens for insect and disease damage					
Spray antidesiccant on evergreens to reduce winter damage					
Deer/rodent spray (30 day intervals)					
Inspect trees for cracked and broken branches					
Best time to prune oak and elm trees					
Tie-up/support trees in danger of snow damage					

\*All dates are approximate and may vary slightly from year-to-year depending on scientific indicators, weather conditions, and treatments. ©2006 Integrity Tree Services. All rights reserved.



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### What measures does Integrity Tree Services take to repair damaged trees?

Visit our website for an in-depth "Proper Tree Planting" article.

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1. We use a tool called the "Airspade" to blow soil off the roots so we can inspect and remove the roots that are or will "girdle" the tree. This tool is the only way to remove dirt around the root system without damaging it.
2. We are working hard to educate our clients and landscape companies about the effects of planting trees too deep and piling mulch up around the trunk. We have created a PowerPoint Presentation on this issue which we offer as training advice to landscape companies.
3. We have links on our website to all of the professional organizations we belong to. Simply click on the icon to one of these organizations and it will bring you to their website. Each organization has educational material on various topics.

#### PROBLEM



Example of tree with no root flare

#### AIRSPADE



Airspade tool used to blow soil away

#### EVALUATE



Girdling roots exposed after blowing soil away

#### REPAIR



Girdling roots removed, ready to reestablish proper depth



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### Thanks to our existing customers!

To show our appreciation, the TREE & SHRUB CARE DIVISION of Integrity Tree Services is offering a

**\*FREE\***

on-site property evaluation to all existing Integrity Tree Services customers!

Our on-site property evaluation includes:

- a walk-through of your property,
- an evaluation report,
- recommendations for your property,
- time to answer any questions you may have.

\$50.00 value!

Call us today!