Best Management Practice

Working in and around trees

Issued by Auckland Council April 2011

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

If you have any questions about this procedures sheet contact Auckland Council

1. When should I use this sheet?

This applies to all sites where works are occurring in and around trees, regardless of site size or duration of works.

2. What is the aim?

Trees are more vulnerable than many people imagine. Special care must be taken on all sites where work is to be carried out within the vicinity of trees, to prevent damage or unnecessary removal.

3. Why protect trees?

Trees have an important ecological, environmental and amenity value especially within urban areas. Collectively trees provide the landscape with distinctive environmental quality and charm. They also play a vital role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

4. Site management and environmental controls.

Forward Planning.

- When a project is being scoped, an assessment will be carried out which will identify whether works are within or close to the dripline of a tree or trees.
- A pre-commencement meeting should be held on site to discuss all the tree protection measures proposed and to gain clarification of any consent conditions. This meeting will involve the monitoring arborist and / or the Council arborist.
- Where applicable, various consent conditions and an Arboricultural report will be contained in the Compliance Management Plan.
- If this is the case, you will need to understand the conditions of consent and ensure that these are followed at all times.
- Consent documents are required to be held on-site throughout the duration of works.
- If the works methodology changes or new works are likely to occur in and around trees, immediately contact the Council's Project Manager / Representative for advice. It is likely that Council approval will be required before works can commence.
- Complete the Environmental Task Analysis Form to identify any other potential environmental risks and define how environmental risks can be mitigated or reduced through site practices or environmental controls. This includes the protection of trees.
- Make sure the person responsible (identified in Task Analysis) for ensuring environmental practices and controls has implemented these prior to starting works.

Environmental Practices and Controls - during construction.

- When working near trees a barrier should be placed around the dripline of the tree, this should be constructed in consultation with supervising arborist.
- No works shall be carried out within the protected area unless provided for by a resource consent.
- The pruning of tree branches or tree removal is not permitted unless undertaken by appointed arborist, strictly following the conditions of consent.
- Ensure the exhaust of any machinery is directed away from any trees - to ensure it does not scorch any branches or leaves.
- No machinery, equipment and/or materials are to be kept under the dripline of the trees - they can crush the roots and break branches (machinery may be operated and/or stored on existing hard surfaces).
- All excavation work carried out within the dripline of any protected tree should be undertaken under the supervision and consultation of the appointed arborist.

Monitoring and Maintenance.

- Continually monitor works in and around trees.
- If any tree damage occurs always make sure the damage is reported to the Council's Project Manager / Representative and the appointed arborist as soon as possible.
- Ensure that all conditions of resource consent are being complied with. A report will be provided to Council by the monitoring arborist at completion of works.

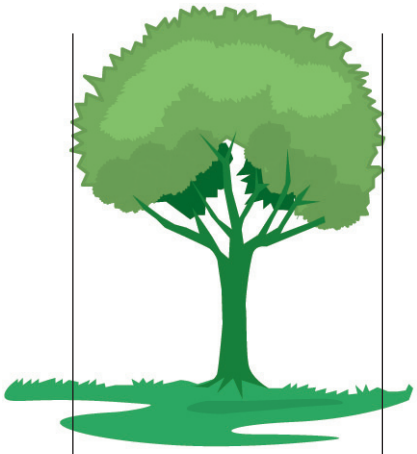
If contamination of a watercourse occurs immediately contact the Council pollution hotline -

Phone 377 3107

5. Tips

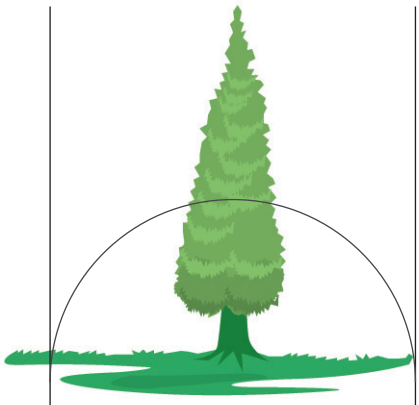
The definition of the 'dripline' of a tree varies slightly.

Spreading Canopy Trees



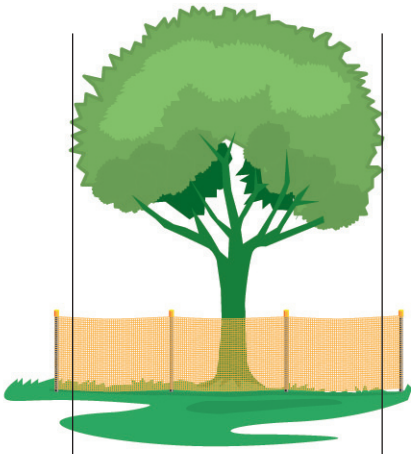
The dripline is defined as the outer extent of the branch spread.

Columnar Canopy Trees



The dripline is calculated as half the height of the tree.

Fence around tree dripline



If in doubt about which to apply, use whichever of the two measurements is greater. With irregular shaped trees (e.g. leaning trees), the dripline is calculated by taking the greatest radial spread of the canopy from the trunk in a full circle around the tree.

Product Recommendations

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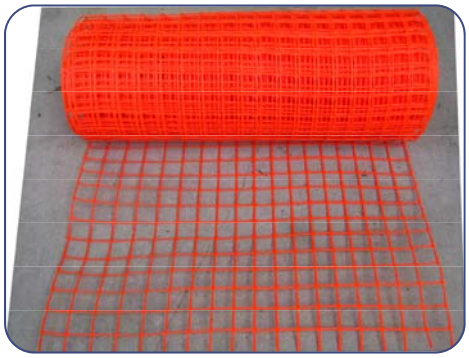

Safety Fencing

- Orange safety fencing is ideal for fencing off areas on construction sites.
- Use with Y-Posts and wire to create temporary fences and tree protection areas.
- Dimensions: 0.91m x 30mPerfect for small dewatering jobs.

CODE: **GBOSF30 —** Orange Safety Fencing

Tree Protection Sign

- Tree protection sign to designate tree protection areas on building sites.
- "Keep Away - Protected Tree & Rootzone, No parking, dumping, or stockpiling in this zone"
- Comes with 4 cable ties for easy attachment to safety fencing.

CODES: **GBTREESIGN —** Dewatering Bag 0.91m x 1.2m

Fibo Posts

- New Fiboposts are GREEN for a reason. Made from 70% recycled PET.
- Every post you use is stopping over 14 plastic bottles going into landfill.
- Recycled plastic is combined with pre-stressed glass fibres to yield superior stiffness and resilience.
- Will not rust or leech harmful chemicals into the ground.
- Fiboposts don't conduct electricity making them ideal for use around power lines or electrical sources.
- Length: 1500mm.

CODES: **GB600XT1500 —** 1.2m Gravel Bag

Y Post Safety Caps

- UV stabilised safety caps fit onto steel and plastic Y-Posts.
- Can be secured with wire or cable tie to prevent theft or caps being knocked off.
- Highly visible and re-usable.

CODE: **GBYPC —** Pack of 20 Caps