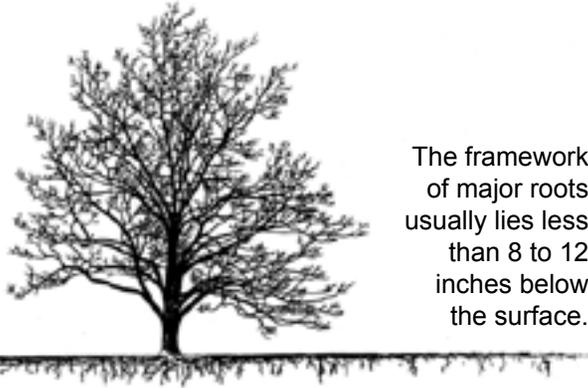




Roots Extend Beyond Branches



The framework of major roots usually lies less than 8 to 12 inches below the surface.

The root zone of a tree extends far beyond its branches.

Roots often grow outward to a diameter one to two times the height of the tree.

A tree planted in your garden, and a tree that springs up in the wild, are in two different worlds. In natural surroundings, a tree grows because of the natural sorting and sifting that is part of ecology. A tree must be well-matched to its micro-climate or it cannot sprout and grow. Trees planted along our streets and in our gardens are not usually so well-matched to their surroundings. A little planning will help you pick the right tree from the start.

Look UP ... Check to see if anything blocks the sunlight during large portions of the day. Make sure there is enough room for the branches of the tree to grow. Check for overhead utility wires, the nearness of walls and buildings and the space neighboring plants will take when they grow.

Look DOWN ... Make sure there is enough room for the roots of the tree to grow. Look for the foundations of buildings, pavement, underground utilities.

Look ALL AROUND! Note factors such as temperature, amount of water and type of soil that exist at your site. Will automobile, truck or foot traffic trample the roots?

California Garden Clubs, Inc.



Grow With Us

Choose the Right Tree

The top five reasons why trees die....

- compaction,
- under-watering,
- over-watering,
- vandalism, and ...
- choosing the wrong tree in the first place.

If you are thinking about planting new trees around your home, think carefully before you choose which tree(s) to plant. Different trees have different characteristics. By matching the right tree to the right site, you can enhance the value of your property, save energy costs, prevent costly maintenance trimming or potential damage to your home AND end up with a tree that has a good chance to survive. Before you set out to choose a tree, look around and ask some important questions about your site:

- What is the **reason the tree** is being planted. Will it be for shade, fruit, or seasonal color?
- How much **space** do you have? Would a small, medium or large-sized tree fit best? Be sure to consider overhead & underground wires & utilities.
- How much **clearance** for sidewalks, patios and sightways for driveways do you need?
- How much **sunlight** will the tree have?
- How much **water** is required?
- Will quick **drainage** be necessary?
- What level of **hardiness** is needed? Will the tree be exposed to extreme hot or cold conditions?
- How much **work** are you willing to do? How much time is needed to water, fertilize, prune & clean up around the tree?
- What are your **soil conditions**: Is it acid or alkaline? Is the soil deep, fertile and well-drained, or shallow, compact, and infertile?
- Think about **size**. What will the mature tree will look like? How much space do you have?
- Does your **city** have tree **requirements** or **restrictions**?
- Do you need **shade** for your house, hot pavement, patios or recreational areas? If so, how much?

