



# **Arbor Associates, Inc.**

## Tree Fertilization Brochure



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## Tree Fertilization Overview

Trees should typically be fertilized once or twice a year, in the spring or fall, with the exact frequency depending on the tree's age and health. Mature trees may only need one application, while younger or struggling trees might benefit from two applications per year.

### *How Trees Absorb Nutrients*

1. **Root Uptake:** Tiny root hairs absorb water and dissolved nutrients (fertilizer) from the soil.
2. **Transport:** These nutrients travel up the tree's vascular system (xylem) to the leaves, supporting photosynthesis and overall growth.
3. **Storage:** In fall, trees store nutrients in their roots for winter and next spring's growth.

### *Common Fertilization Methods for Texas Trees*

- **Deep Root Fertilization (DRF):** (Recommended) High-pressure injection of liquid fertilizer into the root zone (8-12 inches deep), ideal for compacted urban soils, improving aeration and nutrient access.
- **Slow-Release Granules:** Applied around the drip line (where canopy ends) and watered in, releasing nutrients gradually.
- **Mulching:** Applying organic material (wood chips, compost) near the trunk (but not touching the root flare) to break down slowly and enrich the soil.
- **Vertical Mulching:** Drilling vertical holes within the dripline of trees and inserting products like ROOTS Tree Saver (mycorrhizal fungi, bacteria, humic acids) improve water/nutrient absorption and stress tolerance.
- **Systemic Treatments:** Fungicides (e.g., Phospho-jet) and insecticides (e.g., Imicide) delivered through injections to treat pests and diseases from within the tree.
- **Soil Amendments:** Products to improve soil biology and fertility, reducing water needs and fostering healthy root development. Revitalizer Complex
  - Molasses: 2 oz. per gallon of water; Mix rate 100 oz for 50 gallons
  - Super Seaweed: 2 oz per gallon of water; Mix rate 100 oz for 50 gallons
  - Humic/Fuvic Acid complex: Mix rate 100 oz per 50 gallons of water
  - Basic H, Surfactant –PH aid: 33 oz. per gallon of water; Mix rate 16.5 oz. per 80 gallons; Application Rate 5 gallons per 1000 sqft

### *Best Times for Texas Trees*

- Early Spring: To fuel new leaf and branch growth.
- Fall: To strengthen roots and store energy for winter.

### *Key Considerations for Texas*

- Soil Analysis: A soil test helps determine specific deficiencies for tailored fertilization.
- Urban Stress: Fertilization helps trees cope with pollution and compacted soil common in cities.
- Timing: Avoid late summer fertilization to prevent tender new growth from being damaged by winter

## Understanding What Fertilizer Is

The main components of fertilizer are the three primary macronutrients:

- Nitrogen (N) for green, leafy growth
- Phosphorus (P) for strong roots, flowers, and fruits
- Potassium (K) for overall plant health, stress resistance, and disease prevention

Fertilizers are always listed in order as N-P-K on product labels. Fertilizers also contain secondary nutrients (Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur) and micronutrients (Iron, Zinc, Boron, etc.) for complete plant nutrition.



**Figure 1. 27% Nitrogen, 9 % Phosphorus, 9% Potassium**

## Why Fertilize Your Trees

In their natural habitat, trees thrive in nutrient-rich soils filled with decomposing leaves, organic matter, and other natural elements. But in urban and suburban settings, trees are often planted in landscapes where leaves and organic matter are removed creating nutrient-deficient soils, surrounded by turfgrass, compacted earth, or other landscaping features that limit their access to nutrients.

*Tree fertilization helps bridge this gap by:*

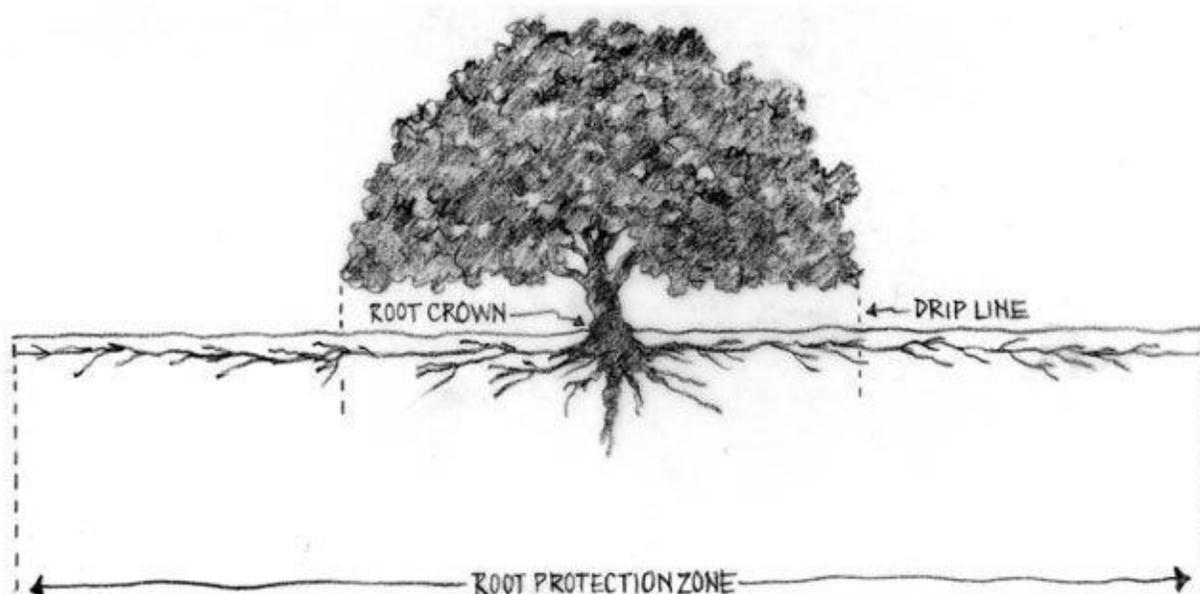
- Enhancing Growth: Fertilizers provide the essential nutrients trees need to grow robust roots, branches, and leaves.
- Encouraging Healthy Life: Proper nutrition helps trees withstand pests, diseases, drought, and other stresses.
- Sustaining Longevity: A well-fed tree is a healthier tree, and healthier trees live longer, adding beauty and value to your property.

## Unique Challenges for Texas Trees

*Texas' climate and soil conditions make tree fertilization particularly important.*

- Harsh Weather: Hot arid climates
- Drought Stress: Limited rainfall during summer months
- Soil Quality: Impacted by construction or high traffic areas
- Soil Availability: Parking lots and hardscapes limit tree roots getting nutrients and water

*Dripline: Illustrated in Figure 2,*



**Figure 2 Root Zones. Underlying Drawing from "Wise Watering Practices"  
(Courtesy K. Zuzek, University of Minnesota Extension)**

Compacted soils restrict root growth, while overly wet, dry soils, and/or parking lots can lead to root stress and nutrient deficiencies.

## Tree Fertilization Process

*Your trees' health and Landscaping are important to us.*

We inject fertilizer within the top 8 to 12 inches staying within the trees' dripline. (see Fig. 2, page 4)

We use a high pressure sprayer attached to a deep root feeder which disperses the fertilizer in a prescribed amount for each tree.

Each tree is different so a different plan is needed to ensure proper growth.



Each injection site has a little bit of overflow which is okay. Eventually, the fertilizer reveals evidence that the turf is growing faster and greener. Evidence that the tree is growing faster and greener will take more time to see.

We offer fertilization plans: (subject to change based on tree care needs)

Time of Application	Fertilizer Used	NPK recommended	Application Type
Spring	PHC for Trees	27 9 9	Deep Root Injection

Fall	PHC for Trees	11 22 22	Deep Root Injection
Annually	True Blue	20 20 20	Deep Root Injection