



**Tina Cohen, Certified Arborist**

*Northwest Arborvitae*  
8318 26th Ave NW  
Seattle WA 98117

phone 206-789-3283  
fax 206-789-0262  
email tinacohen@worldnet.att.net

You can help protect the Village Right-of-Way trees by being aware of the roots when you plan a garden or other improvements. Most tree roots are in the top three feet of soil, and most of the fine absorbing roots are in the top 18 inches. So when you dig holes or excavate a trench, many roots are cut and this can create a drought stress reaction in the tree. And adding over 2 inches depth of soil or 4 inches of mulch can suffocate roots.

Do's and Don'ts:

1. **Don't** add mounds of soil or increase the overall soil level by 1 inch within the canopy dripline.

**Do** add wood chip mulch (not beauty-bark) 3 to 4 inches in depth, but keep it at least 6 inches from the trunk.

2. **Don't** transplant large shrubs such as rhododendrons to beneath the canopy of mature trees. It's too shady and the tree roots will grab most of the water anyway.

**Do** install small sized plants (1-gallon container or smaller) near the edge of the canopy where they can get some light and water.

3. **Do** add native plants. Sword ferns, huckleberry, salal, and low Oregon grape have roots that grow symbiotically with our native trees.

4. **Don't** allow irrigation water to hit the trunks.

**Do** inspect and adjust automatic systems each year.

5. **Don't** park on soil beneath the trees.

**Do** If this happens regularly, we should discuss adding crushed rock to protect the roots.

6. **Don't** pave beneath the trees.

**Do** The Village regulates the percent of paving allowed on each property.

**Do** Check with the Town Arborist Tina Cohen regarding the impacts to the trees, and Angela Kulp regarding pertinent code before starting the project.

7. **Do** see Angela Kulp regarding permits for utility and other improvements.

**Reminder:** Impervious Lot Coverage is limited to 35% per Zoning Code 349.