

(revision date:4/30/2013)

## ***Common Cultural: Construction damage***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Disturbances in the root zone such as cutting roots, covering roots with sidewalks or pavement, adding a layer of topsoil, changing soil grade, or changing water drainage patterns can damage or kill trees. Symptoms may occur soon after the disturbance, but commonly are not evident until years later (even up to 10 years). Douglas-fir and madrone are native trees very sensitive to environmental changes.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Do not mound soil and construction debris over the root zones of trees.
- ~ Do not trench through the root zones of large trees.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

None recommended

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*Images*



*~ Caption: Root damage and dieback resulting from construction  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther*



*~ Caption: Root suffocation/dieback from mounding soil over roots  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther*