

and proliferation within our cities should clearly be encouraged and fostered. Although liability aspects in connection with the care and maintenance of street trees are of concern, the risk can be managed and where necessary, eliminated. Importantly though, the public administrator charged with the responsibility of street tree maintenance must have a basic understanding of the source of laws and allocation of the responsibilities in connection with those trees. If so, the resource can be prudently managed in a manner which provides for the enhancement of values to the community without the crea-

tion of an unreasonable risk of harm to adjacent property owners, passersby and users of public thoroughfares.

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*This article should not be substituted for legal advice. Laws may differ in various jurisdictions, and the reader should consult legal counsel in his or her community based upon the facts and circumstances of each case.*

## Abstracts

CRAUL, PHILLIP J. 1986. **Assess urban soil for better tree survival.** Am. Nurseryman 164(7): 67-69, 72-74, 76, 78.

Many who work with urban vegetation agree that most problems of tree survival and growth can be traced to the poor soil and site conditions presented by the urban environment. Anyone who excavates soil, especially by hand, in an urban area soon realizes that the soil material is not like the natural soil of the surrounding countryside. It has been disturbed and modified by human activity associated with urbanization. The practices of cutting and filling, digging utility trenches, stripping topsoil, and rebuilding over foundations, sidewalks and yards of previous structures create a very diverse and unpredictable material. This material has properties unlike those of a soil formed in place through natural processes over a long period. The characteristics of urban soils are as follows: \*Great vertical and spatial (horizontal) variability. \*A modified structure tending toward compaction. \*The presence of a surface crust, which is usually water-repellent, on bare soil. \*A modified soil reaction (pH), usually elevated in humid regions. \*Restricted aeration and drainage. \*Interrupted nutrient cycling and modified organism activity. \*The presence of anthropic (man-made) materials and other contaminants. \*Modified soil temperature regimes.

CROMROY, H.L. 1986. **Florida nurserymen should be wary of eriophyid mites.** Am. Nurseryman 164(7): 92-94.

Nurserymen who grow shade trees and woody ornamentals are concerned with the production of clean, healthy-looking plants. Abnormal growth of plant leaves or inflorescences can reduce plant values and sales. This article is intended to acquaint growers with some of the symptoms that commonly occur with shade trees and woody ornamentals in Florida as a result of eriophyid mites. The information provided can make growers aware of the potential damage caused by these mites. Since eriophyids rarely kill their plant host and remain with a plant as it matures, young nursery stock with such abnormalities is much more of a problem than mature trees with the same afflictions.