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ABSTRACTS

DAVIS, RICHARD K. 1984. Roots: studies question some common beliefs. Am. Nurseryman 160(9): 78-81.

Research is finding that many commonly held beliefs about roots—and field practices based on those beliefs—may have to be reconsidered. For example, root systems are generally shallower and wider spreading than often thought, and they may expand asymmetrically, with the greatest root distribution lying to the north. For most trees, the area of densest root growth is 5 to 15 inches below ground. There is only limited growth above that depth, and root development drops off rapidly below 15 inches. Because most subsoils are unsuitable for root growth, large taproots rarely develop. Trees, however, do have "sink" roots that develop periodically off large structural roots. The orientation of most roots is horizontal, not vertical. Because of the wide lateral spread of a tree's root system, up to 98 percent of its roots is left behind when the tree is dug for transplanting.

HOSEY, TIMOTHY and BOB PERCIVAL. 1984. Hiring the 'right' employee begins with the interview. Am. Nurseryman 160(12): 77-80.

It is difficult to judge people by their resumes. It is equally difficult to judge people by calling the references on their resumes. In fact, about the only way to judge whether a prospective employee is right for the company is by sitting down with him, face-to-face, for an interview. Planning an interview allows the employer to keep control of the interview, to gather all the important information needed for an intelligent decision about the applicant, and to compile the information in as short a time as possible. The chemistry between the interviewer and applicant is important. The interviewer should ask himself whether he likes the person and whether any differences in thinking will be detrimental to the business. He should also consider whether the applicant would bring any new and needed strengths to the company. Written notes should be prepared before the interview. These help the interview flow smoothly and quickly, reduce the chances of forgetting important questions, keep the applicant from thinking the interviewer is incompetent, and allow the interviewer to administer the same questions to each candidate.