

The reason mulberry trees grew so poorly in wells without soil amendment may be an artifact of poor drainage. Three of the four trees having this treatment combination became waterlogged on several occasions, with the wells filling to the top and not draining completely for several days. Until the problem was corrected by reduced watering, stress in these three trees was indicated by yellowing of foliage. Amending the soil with peat and sand apparently increased the rate at which the water soaked away in the well treatments.

Mulberry trees planted in wells with soil amendment grew faster than all others of this species. The greater growth may have resulted from improved aeration in an increased volume of soil. Whether or not trees in this treatment are exploiting increased volumes of soil will be examined when root systems are excavated. The slowed growth associated with soil amendment for mulberry trees planted with root collars at ground

level suggests that aeration is not a limiting factor in the shallower soil layers. The amended soil is apparently less effective than native soil as a growing medium for mulberry trees.

The fact that two species reacted differently to identical experimental conditions suggests caution in generalizing about treatment effects. The only findings common to both species are that both adding soil amendments and planting in wells can slow growth in some circumstances and speed it in others.

*Project Leader, Landscape and Urban Forestry
Research Unit
Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment
Station
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Berkeley, California*

CORRECTION

In the process of preparing for publication the manuscript of Tom Perry on Tree Roots (J. Arboriculture 8(8): 197-211), the diagrams on pages 204 and 205 were switched. Please note the correction in your copy.