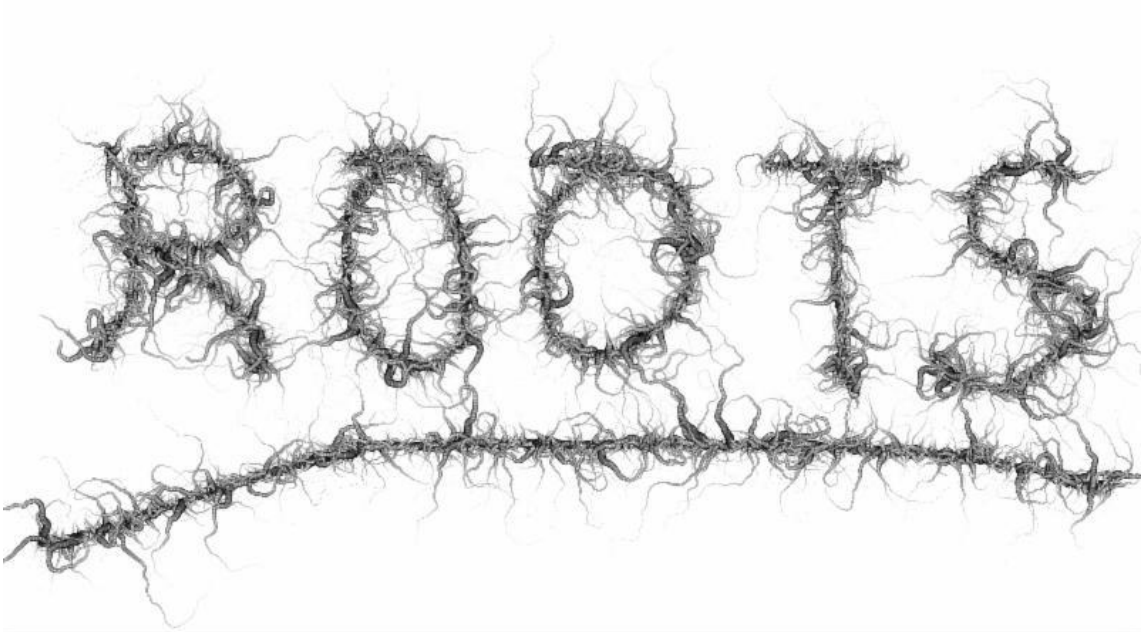
NEWSLETTER #3

The drought is effecting more than just your lawn... But your trees as well...



Support your Trees: a worthy cause

The Bay area drought has been going on for many years now. There are reports that this may be ending, but no guarantees.

With the exception of turf, most plant appears healthy enough to make it another year**..... Well ... not exactly...** Tree's, *(the single most irreplaceable component in a landscape, by both cost and availability)* mask their condition when it comes to moisture needs **until it is too late.** These are essentially large plants, and have a certain amount of moisture in their system; which could be considered a reservoir.

Trees consume tremendous amounts of water all year round by relying on winter rain fall to create naturally moist soil conditions. Since there has been little

rainfall, the moisture level in the soil has diminished. This is most noticeable in the top 18" of soil where the bulk of root mass lay. The dryer soil conditions tend to cause the soil temperature to ***RISE*** and further accelerate the drying of the soil. Obviously, mulch healthy understory shrub canopies, and mature trees keep everything in check year after year.

The consecutive years of drought have changed all of this and the healthy plant material (small & large) has become more woody, begin to have failed cut-back branches, and reduced canopies; exposing the soil faster to evaporative conditions.

Standard landscape irrigation systems and programming, for the most part, are designed to replenish roughly the top 8", with a diminishing effect on deeper soil. Trees that **have irrigation bubblers** at their base will not deliver the needed water to what is referred to as the tree "drip line" because of their location at the base of the tree instead of at the perimeter of the trees canopy. The drip line is where the tree takes up most of its water. The tree canopy operates like a umbrella, shedding the water to the perimeter of the tree or drip line.

Over the past year brittle limbs breaking, trees splitting or toppling, and premature Fall leaf colors are being seen; these are **all** signs the trees are stressed.

Supplemental irrigation and canopy reduction (where practice is accepted) are ways of mechanically managing the plant's needs. Since the quantity of trees on a given property can run into the hundreds, there is no one answer. Each tree type in a landscape should be evaluated to assess what action, if any, is needed. Then an a implementation plan, based on the findings, can be set in motion for the best management practices.

Please let us know if any of your communities see value in this. JPA and our Arbor Tech partner are more than happy to assist in these services.
Below is a link to get further information.

http://calfire.ca.gov/downloads/CaUFC_Trees_and_Drought.pdf

However, in the interim there are trees and landscape that are not scheduled for removal but are beginning to suffer. These larger plants (mostly trees) do not recover from this type of drought stress. Once they start the dieback process they are considered gone; due to their size, there is an inability for a plant that large to move the much needed water through its branches fast enough to keep it alive.

Please let us know... as this may be the case...

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