

Ameliorate soil for tree health

Overview

This standard is about ameliorating soil under trees to maintain tree health. This may involve single trees or groups of trees and may take place in urban or rural conditions. Soil amelioration is particularly important on sites that suffer from compaction, erosion and for amenity value trees.

The term “amelioration” means maintaining and improving the quality of the soil for the health of the tree.

When working with machinery or chemicals you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. maintain the security of machinery and equipment on site
6. assess the soil conditions to determine and recommend suitable amelioration techniques to improve the health of the tree
7. provide information on the likely outcome of the amelioration techniques
8. carry out the agreed soil amelioration
9. recommend suitable aftercare to prevent the soil condition re-occurring in the future
10. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively
5. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and vehicles on site
6. how to identify the signs and symptoms in the tree and/or the soil that suggests the need for soil amelioration
7. the methods of soil amelioration and when each would be appropriate to improve the health of the tree
8. the physiological problems of the tree and what the proposed treatment will achieve
9. the importance of providing accurate advice
10. the implications of seasonal and ground conditions for your work
11. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

Soil amelioration methods:

- mulching
- feeding
- top dressing
- pneumatic decompaction
- mycorrhizal injection



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