

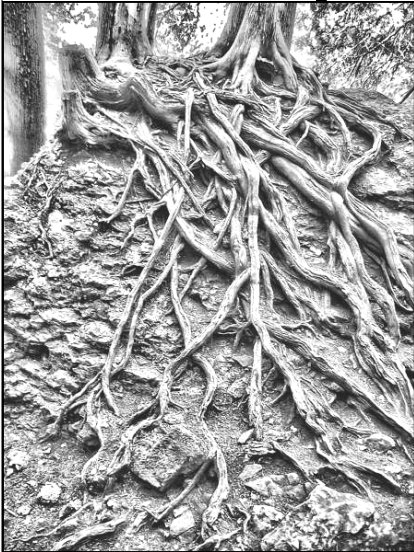


# TREEmendous News

TreeMasters, Inc.

Spring, 2010

## HEY, JEFF!



**TreeMasters' Registered Consulting Arborist, Jeff Ling, recently sat down to talk to us about the risks of surface tree roots.**

### ***Why to trees create surface tree roots?***

There are some trees that are just genetically programmed to create surface roots. The trees that normally create problems are Elms, Silver Maples and Cottonwoods. Otherwise, there are environmental causes, too. Heavy soils mean that roots just can't push down as deeply. Micro-erosion of the soil reveals roots that were previously below ground. Light, frequent waterings by the homeowner can also encourage shallow root growth and surface roots.

### ***What kind of problems can surface roots cause?***

Surface roots can lift or destroy sidewalks and driveways. They are also tripping hazards in the lawn and can even damage your lawnmower.

### ***What problems do you see the most?***

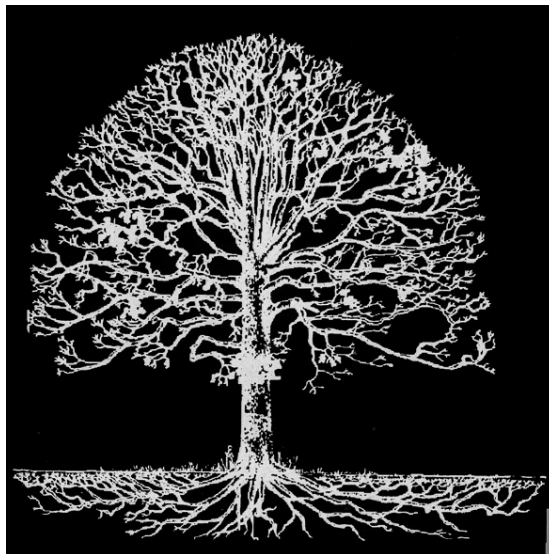
In my experience, the sidewalk and driveway destruction is the most common issue with tree roots. Have you ever been walking through your neighborhood and tripped over a raised sidewalk square? These surface roots create a hazard for walkers and joggers, and can also mean expensive concrete repair. They may also produce liability issues.

### ***What can I do about this issue?***

The first option is to simply cut down the tree and remove all its roots. For most homeowners, this is not an attractive option for their expensive trees, however.

The second option would be to remove all the turf around the problem tree and to cover all the surface area with mulch, but this isn't always an option for a homeowner that wants a lush, green lawn. In order to help our clients, TreeMasters provides services like selective root pruning to allow the existing roots more room in the ground, vertical mulching which creates a more friable soil, or soil replacement therapy, using the air knife.

These options will help protect the safety of your family and the value of your property for years to come.



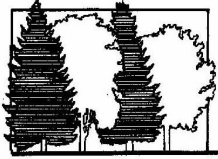
## *The Air Knife*

The Air-knife is a tool that uses compressed air to safely excavate soil from tree roots without causing damage. This technology was first developed by the US military to clear land mines. Since tree roots, rocks and pipelines are non-porous, soil can be excavated quickly - with no impact to these structures.

A root collar excavation with the Air Knife can be used to remove the excess mulch or mounded dirt which causes girdling roots and trunk rot. When the problems are alleviated, clients notice graphic improvement the year after root collar excavation... The trees respond that quickly! We are now able to quickly aerate large areas of soil and incorporate organic matter without damaging roots. Organic matter is the key to helping soils come alive with biological activity. Once this is accomplished, your trees will reward you with less maintenance, improved health and a better appearance!

Check out our website or contact us directly to find out how the Air Knife can help your trees now! **The air knife is a tool that many arborists are unaware of and few have in their arsenal. Please contact us for more information!**

*Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats. ~Woody Allen*



# TreeMasters, Inc.

making a better future for your trees... and the environment

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**CELEBRATING 20  
YEARS OF QUALITY  
ARBORCULTURE!**

## The Benefits of Planting Trees

When thinking about creating value in your landscape, think trees! Trees around your home can increase it's value up to 20%, according to the Management Information Services. In fact, a mature tree can have a value of \$1000-\$10,000 (Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers)!

Other than their natural beauty, trees provide many values to homeowners:

- \* Street trees help shade the concrete and help cool the entire neighborhood.
- \* A windbreak can help lower your heating bills 10-20%.
- \* Shade trees planted to the south and west of your home can cut cooling costs by 15-30%.
- \* A backyard orchard lets you grow your own fruit.
- \* Nut trees can be incorporated into windbreaks or serve as shade trees.
- \* Trees stabilize slopes and anchor the soil; in heavy rains, mudslides or floods can occur on denuded land.
- \* Trees are the only home feature guaranteed to grow in value over time.

Trees are on the job 24 hours a day to improve your life, so this spring, please plant a tree!

## The Emerald Ash Borer

EAB is now evident in most Fort Wayne neighborhoods. It has spread throughout NE Indiana and is now also in central Indiana and the Hoosier National Forest! All true Ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.) are at risk. In areas where EAB has become established, the weaker Ash trees are always the first to be attacked. This is why tree health is so important. A declining tree is the most susceptible; however, in a heavily infested area all ash trees will be killed if left untreated. In the last 6 years in Detroit there have been millions of trees killed. In many areas there are large numbers of standing dead trees that are becoming hazardous due to falling limbs.

The good news is that individual trees can be protected. It is up to you, the landowner, to have your high value trees protected. This annual treatment is applied (usually in the spring or in the fall) to the soil near the base of the tree and is environmentally benign. The tree absorbs the product from the soil and it spreads throughout the canopy of the tree and lasts for the entire season. When the EAB begins to feed on the tree, it ingests the product and is killed.

If you wish to see the effects of the EAB and the benefits of treatments, compare Fort Wayne International Airport Ash trees with those that remain at Brookwood Golf Course. TreeMasters has been providing arbor-care at FWA for several years, including EAB treatments. To date, no infestation has been found there; however just a ¼ mile east, Brookwood Golf Course has lost over 100 ash trees and hundreds more are failing. The losses are very visible now! This is a classic example of the axiom, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". If you want to have your Ash trees protected too, contact us right away!