

Atherton Trees and Tree Fall

For all trees, root balls constricted by drought take three weeks to repropagate after sufficient rain.

Redwood tree – Shallow root systems extend over one hundred feet from the base, intertwining with the roots of other redwoods.

Oak tree – Lateral roots spread as much as 90 feet from the trunk. Lateral roots can typically be found about 18 inches below the ground surface. Oak roots usually extend no more than 3 feet below the soil and no more than 2 feet below the surface in shallow soil.



Pine tree – For most, roots extend down to about 3 feet, but can be deeper in sandy dry soils. The function of the roots is (1) to support the above-ground part of the tree and (2) to extract water and nutrients from the soil.

Maple tree – Some root systems are deep, while others are just below the surface. The silver maple tree root system is one of the most intrusive of all the maple tree root systems. The silver maple tree root system is large and has very strong roots. They will easily grow up and raise cement sidewalks and porches.

Acacia tree – Rugged and durable, a first-class erosion control plant for dry soils. The tree sets down a deep root system that can access water that seeped far under the topsoil. This root system anchors the tree and creates a sturdy, soil stabilization structure.

Willow tree – Roots are aggressive, invasive and shallow, and they can spread up to three times the length of the tree (from the trunk to the canopy). The roots often lie close to the soil surface, causing bumps in the lawn, which interferes with mowing. They can also lift cement patios.

Magnolia tree – Root system grows with large, flexible, rope-like roots. Magnolia tree roots grow horizontally, not vertically, and stay relatively close to the soil surface. Because of this, planting magnolias near houses can lead to magnolia tree root damage.



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Palm tree – Has 'fibrous' root system. The roots of the Palm are not deeply rooted in the soil. They are spread over the soil like a mat and penetrate nearly 36 inches of topsoil. ... These roots do not widen as the tree lengthens, instead, they grow with the same girth regardless of the age or length of the palm tree.

Eucalyptus tree – About 90% of eucalyptus tree roots grow in the top 12-16 inches of soil, which makes perfect sense when you consider where they come from: a challenging environment, where the ability to be the first to access limited rainfall is vital for survival. Eucalyptus are very efficient at taking up water from the soil. The roots can then cause problems with your house foundations and cause blockages to drains around the house.

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