Glossary of Terms

**arborist:** 1. An individual engaged in the profession of arboriculture who, through experience, education and related training, possesses the competence to provide for, or supervise the management of, trees and other woody ornamentals. [ANSI A300 (Part 1, 2, 4, 5, 6) 2. An individual engaged in the profession of arboriculture. [ANSI Z133.1-2000 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations]

**bracing:** The installation of lag-thread screw or threaded-steel rods in limbs,leaders, or trunks to provide supplemental support. [ANSI A300 (Part 3)-2000 Support Systems]

**branch:** An outgrowing shoot, stem or twig that grows from the main stem or trunk. [ANSI Z60.1-2004 Nursery Stock]

**buttress roots:** Lateral surface roots that aid in stabilizing the tree.

**cable:** 1) Zinc coated strand per ASTM A-475 for dead-end grip applications. 2) Wire rope or strand for general applications. 3) Synthetic-fiber rope or synthetic-fiber webbing for general applications. [ANSI A300 (Part 3)-2000 Support Systems]

**cabling:** The installation of a steel wire rope, steel strand, or synthetic-fiber system within a tree between limbs or leaders to limit movement and provide supplemental support. [ANSI A300 (Part 3)-2000 Support Systems]

**canopy:** collective branches and foliage of a tree or group of trees' crowns

**cation exchange capacity (CEC):** The ability of soil to absorb nutrients.

**cavity:** An open wound characterized by the presence of decay and resulting in a hollow.

**cleaning:** Selective pruning to remove one or more of the following parts: dead, diseased, and/or broken branches (5.6.1). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**co-dominant branches:** Equal in size and importance, usually associated with either the trunks, stems, or scaffold limbs.

**conk:** fruiting body or nonfruiting body of a fungus. Often associated with decay.

**crown:** 1. The leaves and branches of a tree measured from the lowest branch on the trunk to the top of the tree. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning] [ANSI A300 (Part 6)-2005 Transplanting] 2. The portion of a tree comprising the branches. [ANSI Z60.1-2004 Nursery Stock]

**D.B.H. (diameter at breast height):** Measurement of trunk diameter taken at 4.5 feet (1.4 m) off the ground. [ANSI A300 (Part 6)-2005 Transplanting]

**decay:** The degradation of woody tissue caused by microorganisms. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**geographic information system (GIS):** is any system for capturing, storing, analyzing and managing data and associated attributes which are spatially referenced to earth.

**girdling root:** A root that may impede proper development of other roots, trunk flare, and/or trunk. [ANSI A300 (Part 6)-2005 Transplanting]

**Global Positioning System (GPS):** A constellation of at least 24 Medium Earth Orbit satellites that transmit precise microwave signals, the system enables a GPS receiver to determine its location, speed, direction, and time.

**Global Positioning System receiver (GPSr):** A receiver that receives its input from GPS satellites to determine location, speed, direction, and time.

**heading:** cutting a shoot back to a bud or cutting branches back to buds, stubs, or lateral branches not large enough to assume apical dominance. Cutting an older branch or stem back to meet a structural objective.

**integrated pest management (IPM):** A pest control strategy that uses an array of complementary methods: mechanical devices, physical devices, genetic, biological, legal, cultural management, and chemical management. These methods are done in three stages of prevention, Observation, and finally Intervention. It is an ecological approach that has its main goal is to significantly reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.

**lateral branch:** A shoot or stem growing from a parent branch or stem. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]
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**leader**: A dominant or co-dominant, upright stem. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**lean**: Departure from vertical of the stem, beginning at or near the base of the trunk.

**limb**: A large, prominent branch. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**lion’s tailing**: The removal of an excessive number of inner, lateral branches from parent branches. Lion’s tailing is not an acceptable pruning practice (5.5.7). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**macronutrient**: Nutrient required in relatively large amounts by plants, such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and sulfur (S). [ANSI A300 (Part 2)-2004 Fertilization]

**micronutrient**: Nutrient required in relatively small amounts by plants, such as iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), and boron (B). [ANSI A300 (Part 2)-2004 Fertilization]

**nutrient**: Element or compound required for growth, reproduction or development of a plant. [ANSI A300 (Part 2)-2004 Fertilization]

**organic matter**: Material derived from the growth (and death) of living organisms. The organic components of soil.

**parent branch or stem**: A tree trunk, limb, or prominent branch from which shoots or stems grow. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**pH**: Unit of measurement that describes the alkalinity or acidity of a solution. Measured on a scale of 0 to 14. Greater than 7 is alkaline, less than 7 is acid, and 7 is neutral (pure water).

**pruning**: The selective removal of plant parts to meet specific goals and objectives. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**qualified arborist**: An individual who, by possession of a recognized degree, certification, or professional standing, or through related training and on-the-job experience, is familiar with the equipment and hazards involved in arboricultural operations and who has demonstrated ability in the performance of the special techniques involved. [ANSI Z133.1-2000 Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations]

**raising**: Selective pruning to provide vertical clearance (5.6.3). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**reduction**: Selective pruning to decrease height and/or spread (5.6.4). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**risk assessment**: Process of evaluating what unexpected things could happen, how likely it is, and what the likely outcomes are. In tree management, the systematic process to determine the level of risk posed by a tree, tree part, or group of trees.


**root flare or trunk flare**: The area at the base of the plant’s stem or trunk where the stem or trunk broadens to form roots; the area of transition between the root system and the stem or trunk. [ANSI Z60.1-2004 Nursery Stock] [ANSI A300 (Part 6)-2005 Transplanting]

**root zone**: The volume of soil containing the roots of a plant. [ANSI A300 (Part 5)-2005]

**secondary nutrient**: Nutrient required in moderate amounts by plants, such as calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg). [ANSI A300 (Part 2)-2004 Fertilization]

**seam**: Vertical line that appears where two edges of wound wood or callus ridge meet.

**soil amendment**: Any material added to soil to alter its composition and structure, such as sand, fertilizer, or organic matter. [ANSI A300 (Part 6)-2005 Transplanting]

**soil pH**: A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil.

**structural support system**: Hardware installed in tree, may be; cables, braces, or guys, to provide supplemental support.

**sweep**: Departure from vertical of the stem, beginning above the base of the trunk.
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**thinning**: Selective pruning to reduce density of live branches (5.6.2). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**tree risk assessment**: Closer inspection of visibly damaged, dead, defected diseased, leaning or dying tree to determine management needs.

**topping**: The reduction of a tree’s size using heading cuts that shorten limbs or branches back to a predetermined crown limit. Topping is not an acceptable pruning practice (5.5.7). [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]

**tree inventory**: A comprehensive list of individual trees providing descriptive information on all or a portion of the project area. [ANSI A300 (Part 5)-2005 Management during site planning, site development, and construction]

**tree protection zone**: A space above and belowground within which trees are to be retained and protected. [ANSI A300 (Part 5)-2005 Management during site planning, site development, and construction]

**structural support system**: A support system used to provide supplemental support to leaders, individual limbs, and/or the whole plant. [ANSI A300 (Part 4)-2002 Lightning Protection Systems]

**trunk**: That portion of a stem or stems of a tree before branching occurs. [ANSI Z60.1-2004 Nursery Stock]

**wound**: An opening that is created when the bark of a live branch or stem is penetrated, cut, or removed. [ANSI A300 (Part 1)-2001 Pruning]