

FACT SHEET

Mower Damage



Mowers, String Trimmers and Weed Whackers can cause serious damage to a young tree. This Maple tree was on its way to being a valuable asset in front of an elementary school but repeated damage by lawn-mower housing banging against the bottom of the tree trunk completely shredded the trees vascular system. The area just inside the bark is where water and nutrients move up to the leaves and manufactured food moves down from the leaves for storage in the roots. When this “piping system” is interrupted the tree simply starves to death as was the case with this tree. The best way to prevent this damage is to mulch around the tree about 2 to 3 inches deep for 3 to 4 feet away from the trunk or to the tree drip-line. Then there is no need to take a mower close to the trunk.



This picture shows severe damage to a young White Oak by a lawn mower.