

Appendix D

Best Management Practices for Oak Woodlands

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Information on building around oaks and oaks in the home garden can be found in the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program's (IHRMP) leaflet, Living Among the Oaks. Additional information on disturbance around oaks and protecting trees from construction impacts can be found in the UC Cooperative Extension's (UCCE) handout, Disturbance Around Oaks (Frost, 2001) and the California Department of Forestry's (CDF) Tree Notes, Protecting Trees from Construction Impacts (Sanborn, 1989). Information on the care of oak trees is also available through the California Oak Foundation (<http://www.californiaoaks.org/ExtAssets/oakcaresec.pdf>). Qualified professionals and interested persons should contact the local El Dorado County UCCE Advisor and the IHRMP and other sources for the most recent research.

The following are general guidelines or best management practices for tree protection during construction activities, taken from some of the above sources:

- The root protection zone (RPZ) is roughly one-third larger than the drip line (or outermost edge of the foliage based on the longest branch).
- Install high visibility fencing around the RPZ of any tree or cluster of trees with overlapping canopy that are identified on an approved grading plan as needing protection. The fencing should be four-feet high and bright orange with steel t-posts spaced 8 feet apart.
- Do not grade, cut, fill or trench within the RPZ.
- Do not store oil, gasoline, chemicals, other construction materials, or equipment within the RPZ.
- Do not store soil within the RPZ.
- Do not allow concrete, plaster, or paint washout within the RPZ.
- Do not irrigate within the RPZ or allow irrigation to filter into the RPZ.
- Plant only drought tolerant species within the RPZ.

The following are general guidelines for protecting oak trees in gardens and yards.

- Avoid summer irrigation.
- Disturb the zone within six feet of the trunk as little as possible. The base of the tree should be kept dry.
- Limit plantings beneath oak trees to drought-tolerant species that do not require summer irrigation.
- Landscape beneath oak trees with non-living plant materials such as wood chips.
- Refer to Living Among the Oaks or contact the El Dorado County Master Gardener Program (through the UCCE office) for more information on oaks in the home garden.

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