

ANSI standards that promote healthy trees under public review

The Tree Care Industry Association has placed a call for public review of a draft for a new American national tree care standard addressing the management of the roots and rootzones of trees and woody shrubs. The public review period runs from August 19 to October 3, 2011. The review documents are posted on <http://www.treecareindustry.org/standards/CurrentProjects.htm>. The document contains instructions for submitting comments.

Keeping trees healthy is a main concern of the [Tree Care Industry Association \(TCIA\)](#), an ANSI member and ANSI-accredited standards developer. TCIA is an industry trade association whose members are comprised of tree care companies. TCIA also serves as the secretariat for the ANSI A300 series of *Standards for Tree Care Management Operations* (ANSI A300 Parts 1 through 9). A300 standards are written by the [ANSI-accredited A300 committee](#).

This is the first, and intended final draft, for a new American national standard to be titled **A300 Part 8-(20xx) Root and Rootzone Management** standard. Items addressed include:

- Root pruning cuts**
- Root pruning – girdling roots**
- Managing root pruned trees**
- Rootzone moisture management**
- Rootzone soil modification**
- Site and soil evaluation**
- Managing soil organic matter content**
- Incorporation of soil amendments**
- Compaction – prevention and mitigation**
- Mechanical soil loosening**
- Application of mulch**
- Rootzone volume management**
- Managing rootzone mineral levels**
- Root establishment after planting**

ANSI A300 documents provide standard definitions and tree care management standards for all aspects of tree health management, including pruning, utility pruning, soil management and fertilization, tree support structures, lightning protection for trees, tree management and preservation during construction and land use, tree planting and transplanting, and integrated vegetation management for utility rights-of-way.

Developers, landscape architects, landscape contractors, arborists, homeowners, and communities rely on successful planting and transplanting of trees and shrubs to meet many objectives, including increased property value, community enhancement, ordinance compliance, contractual obligations, and for support of green initiatives and building codes. A new American national standard for root and rootzone management will help all these stakeholders meet their objectives.

Trees help fight global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide and keeping our air oxygenated. Trees decorate our thoroughfares and provide cool shade in the dog days of summer. Trees are an investment. Well-cared-for trees can increase property value. Poorly maintained trees could become unsightly and unsafe, creating a significant liability. To protect your assets, we urge all professionals, property managers, and homeowners to ask their tree care company, in writing, to follow ANSI A300 standards to help keep their trees healthy, safe, and free of pests and diseases.

For additional information or to find a tree care company in your area, contact:

Tree Care Industry Association
www.tcia.org
800.733.2622
603.314.5380