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Walk through a healthy forest and sift your hands through the rich forest soil. Compare it to the lawn soil in your yard and notice the difference. Poor soil conditions are common in urban and rural areas. This is often a leading cause of tree stress, leaf chlorosis (leaf yellowing) and mortality. Poor health and reduced vigour weakens a woody plant's natural defences against harmful insects and fungal diseases.

Tree fertilization requires a process other than what is available for lawns and gardens. Fertilizers are quickly absorbed by grass and shallow plant roots at the soil surface preventing uptake by tree roots located much deeper in the soil. Tree fertilizer stakes are rendered ineffective by soil compaction which limits their dispersal to the visibly small area of green grass that sprouts around them. The salt content of granular fertilizers may damage tree roots if applied to dry, cracked soils. Root feeders attached to garden hoses are limited to household water pressure (30 - 40 psi) and cannot penetrate deeply into the soil to reach tree roots.

Trees have an extensive root system and effective treatment with fertilizer requires specialized equipment and techniques. Shelemy Arborist Services has been active in research and development of fertilization systems for woody plants. Several years of research has yielded NutraTree Professional™, a soil injectible fertilizer. This proprietary formulation is injected at high pressure (over 200 psi) into a tree's root zone area with specialized equipment, counteracting soil compaction and thoroughly saturating the tree's root system. It includes an acidifier to reduce soil pH, essential tree nutrients and sustained release nitrogen (lasting up to two years).

NutraTree Professional™ can be applied throughout the growing season between spring thaw and ground freeze-up in November. Results are often noticeable by 12 growing weeks after application. If applied in the fall, nutrients are available to the roots when trees return from dormancy the following spring.