

Guidelines on Protection of Trees Affected by Construction

Works

Objective

The guidelines provide technical guidelines on protection of trees affected by construction works in the public places managed by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Scope of applicability

The guidelines are applicable to the public places managed by IAM.

Definitions

For the purposes of the guidelines, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Transplantation: Trees are transplanted from the original planting locations to other planting locations.
2. Maintenance: After completion of transplantation or replacement of trees, the relevant work to ensure the survival of trees, and facilitate wound healing and restore growth of damaged branches and roots of trees.

Contents

1. The construction execution unit should follow the guidelines to

implement corresponding tree protection plan.

2. After confirmation by IAM's technical staff in the area of trees, if it is impossible to carry out on-site preservation of trees affected by the construction work, the construction execution unit / the contractor is required to apply for the "Tree or shrub cutting licence" to IAM, and should hire a horticultural company to carry out transplantation and maintenance work in accordance with the content stated in the licence. If on-site preservation of trees is possible, it is required to protect the trees in accordance with the guidelines.
3. After confirmation by IAM's technical staff in the area of trees, if trees can be preserved on site, the construction execution unit / licence application unit / contractor / horticultural company should carry out the work on protection of trees affected by construction work according to the following guidelines.
 - 3.1 Conduct appropriate pruning of trees before construction work begins so as to minimise damage to tree crowns.
 - 3.2 Wrap the tree trunk with protective materials (e.g. sackcloth, soft mats and wooden strips) up to about 2 metres high (Fig. 1), or build a stable wooden case at least 1.5 metres high around the tree pit to protect the tree trunk and prevent damage to the tree trunk by heavy-duty machinery.

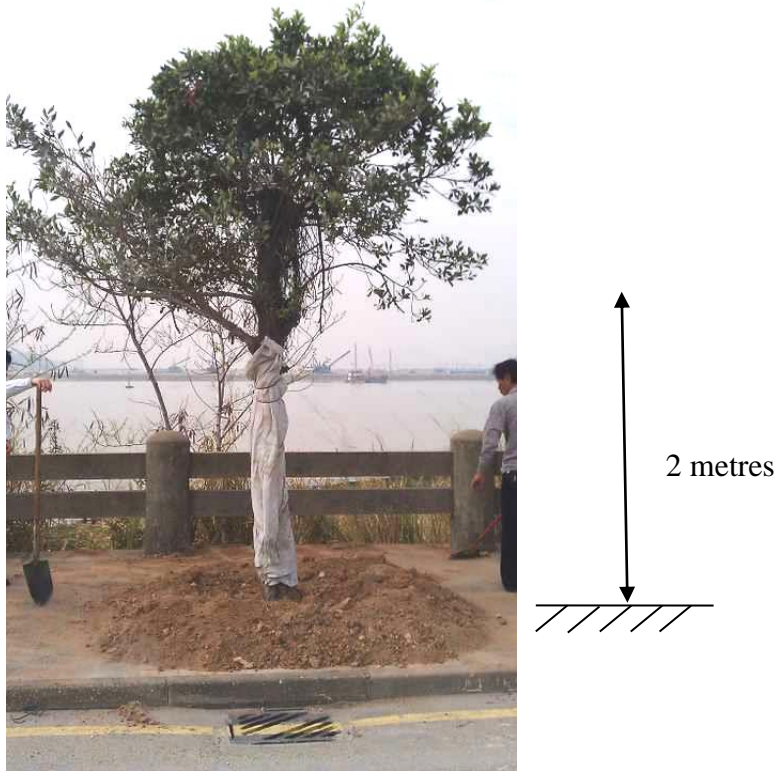


Fig. 1. Wrap the tree trunk with protective materials (e.g. sackcloth, soft mats and wooden strips) up to about 2 metres high

- 3.3 If possible, all excavation works should be carried out at least about 2 metres away from the tree trunk. If the tree trunk is relatively large and the conditions of road surface permit, the distance should be increased accordingly. In regard to the conditions of broken roots, it is necessary to fix the trees with supports to prevent collapse.
- 3.4 If construction hoardings or scaffolding ramps of buildings are required to be built beside a tree managed by IAM and their distance to the tree drip line is less than 2 metres, or they block one-fifth of the area of the tree crown and hence affecting the ventilation and light, or the distance between the excavation of site foundation on pavement and the tree trunk is less than 2

metres, the construction contractor is required to apply for the “Tree or shrub cutting licence” to IAM to transplant the affected trees. If the width of the pavement does not meet the above-mentioned requirements or there are other special conditions, exception may be made after discussion with IAM’s technical staff in the area of trees.

3.5 If the construction work is found to have damaged the trunk or root of a tree, the wounds must be treated by professional horticulturists in accordance with the following procedures:

A. Damaged trunk:

- a. Cut the wounds neatly;
- b. Spray with disinfectant;
- c. Apply wound coating agent if the wound exceeds 10 cm in diameter.

B. Damaged roots:

- a. Cut the wounds neatly;
- b. Spray the wounds with disinfectant to minimise infection;
- c. Disinfect the soil.

3.6 Miscellaneous articles and waste materials must not be accumulated at the tree base or hung up on the tree during the work period, and construction waste (e.g. cement or concrete) must not be dumped or buried in a tree pit. Acts which damage the trees such as hanging articles, lights and electrical wires up on the trees, nailing objects, putting materials on the body of trees as a support, or accumulating soil on tree stump and

exposed roots on the ground, are forbidden.

- 3.7 It is necessary to clear all withered twigs, broken branches, materials used to wrap the tree trunk, construction waste and garbage in the tree pit and its surrounding area after completion of construction work to maintain the tree's well-being.
- 3.8 IAM reserves the right to request compensation regarding weakening or death of trees due to failure to follow the guidelines which are required by IAM. The trees shall be replaced with trees of the same species and specifications, or compensation shall be made in proportion to the different trees' diameter at breast height (DBH) so that the total of DBH of the replanted trees is not smaller than that of the original trees. The party responsible for replacing the trees shall also provide a one-year maintenance to ensure the trees' survival, and shall be liable for replacing dead or poorly grown replanted trees.
- 3.9 In regard to ancient trees, it is forbidden to carry out works on excavation trenches within the tree drip line of ancient trees, or install any facility which may block light and ventilation, and affect the space for the tree's growth (except permitted by IAM in case of involving significant public interests or special circumstances). Furthermore, it is necessary to keep the area of the tree base clear, avoid storing or accumulating articles and minimise any human activities in the growth area of the ancient trees.