

# Appendix D

## Best Management Practices for Oak Resources

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Information on building around oaks and oaks in the home garden can be found in the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (UC ANR) 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 and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Tree Notes, [Protecting Trees from Construction Impacts](#) (Sanborn 1989). Information on the [Care of California's Native Oaks](#) is also available through the California Oak Foundation<sup>1</sup>. Qualified professionals and interested persons should contact the local El Dorado County UCCE Advisor and the UC ANR 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Now a project of the California Wildlife Foundation  
(<http://www.californiawildlifeoundation.org/projects.html>)

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- 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.

The County also identifies tree protection measures in its [Design and Improvement Standards Manual](#) (revised 1990), which includes the following:

- Do not change the amount of irrigation provided to any oak tree from that which was provided prior to the commencement of construction activity.
- Do not trench, grade, or pave into the dripline area of an oak tree.
- Do not park or operate any motor vehicle within the dripline area of any oak tree.
- Do not place or store any equipment or construction materials within the dripline of any oak tree.
- Do not attach any signs, ropes, cables, or any other items to any oak trees.
- Do not place or allow to flow into or over the dripline area of any oak tree any oil, fuel, concrete mix, or other deleterious material.
- Where construction activity is proposed within 50 feet of an oak tree:
  - A 6-foot tall temporary fence shall be placed the protected area prior to the work beginning.
  - No grade changes shall occur within the protected area unless specifically indicated in the plans.
  - No trenching shall be allowed within the protected area. If it is necessary to install underground utilities within the temporary fence, the utility trench shall be hand dug so as not to cut any roots over 2” in diameter, or a line may be bored and drilled.
  - Only dead, weakened, diseased, or dangerous branches shall be removed, and only by a licensed arborist. Any roots 2” in diameter or larger that must be cut shall be cleanly cut with pruning (not excavation) equipment.
  - Hose off all dust from foliage of oak trees once every week during the construction of the project.