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Adequate and Appropriate Methodology

By Scott Cullen, BCA #348, and Joseph D. McNeil, RCA #299

Introduction
ASCA's *Standards of Professional Practice*, or SPP (2011), defines arboricultural consulting as a "profession which involves the application of technical knowledge, analytical skills and professional judgment to arboricultural-related facts and circumstances." In the course of their work, Consulting Arborists carry out a wide range of arboricultural investigations using various investigative and analytical tools (i.e., methods). Methodology and method are not synonymous. In an ASCA context, methodology can be understood as a broad umbrella that encompasses the various particular methods, practices, and techniques that Consulting Arborists employ. For example, (2015a) defines methods, rules, by a discipline. That "methodology underpinning the method, set of practices can be

In our experience, Consulting Arborists are sometimes attacked—by other Consulting Arborists or by the public—for having violated an assumed profes-

of care if they do not select and apply some particular or "standard" method.

Purpose
This article considers how Consulting Arborists properly select suitable methods. We use properly to mean in a manner that satisfies both an overall duty of care and more specific practice standards as established by the SPP.

This article concludes that the SPP gives Consulting Arborists broad discretion to exercise professional judgment in selecting suitable methods, and that there is no duty to use any particular or "standard" method.

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Day 1996). ASCA commissioned author Scott Cullen to study the standards of other professional organizations and to draft a new ASCA standards document. Author Joe McNeil served on a new Standards of Professional Practice Committee, which molded the draft into the form of SPP that was adopted by ASCA membership in 1996. (The book was published in 1996) In 2000, serving as the SPP's first chair, Joe worked with me to force to study and provide guidance regarding enforcement of the SPP (Young et al. 2000). This article, we are part with the development of a new SPP's provisions regarding enforcement of the SPP. The ASCA board has made minor revisions to the SPP. In 2011, a new task force was formed to simplify the standard form (ASCA 2011). Some of the details are now being

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Documenting Evidence – Process and Practice

By Julian Dunster, Dunster & Associates Environmental Consultants Ltd.

Using Economic Values to Make Municipal Urban Forestry Decisions

An Evaluation of Plant Root Simulator Probes in an Arid Environment

By Douglas J. Merkle, Resource Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS

Proper soil fertility can often be the key to the long-term success of plantings. Most of what we know about ion uptake by plant roots is derived from studies using hydroponic methods of plant culture. In the real world, plants experience very different conditions. Soils are notoriously heterogeneous in terms of both their chemistry and physics.

Extreme soil types, the so-called problem soils, are those that limit plant growth by deficiencies or excesses of various elements. In addition, variations in pH may exert potent indirect effects on the availabilities of essential nutrients, as well as directly impacting root growth and leading to concentra-

simulator (PRS) probes manufactured by (WAI) Western Ag Innovations of Saskatchewan, Canada. WAI markets this type of ion-exchange resin membrane. The results summarized here were published by Drohan, et al., *Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.* 69:1482–1491 (2005).

Some of the reasons for the probes' popularity are their ease of use, their reported ability to provide a reliable measure of nutrient availability over a variety of soil conditions, their ability to extract a diverse suite of elements from the soil at once, and their affordability and speed of analysis. Compared with chemical-based extractions, ions measured with resins are thought to be a better index of relative plant nutrient

Figure 2. PRS probes in place on the Virgin River floodplain, in the soil profile.



Anion probes (orange) have a positively charged membrane to simultaneously attract and adsorb all negatively charged anions, such as nitrate (NO_3^-), phosphate (H_2PO_4^- , HPO_4^{2-}), and sulfate (SO_4^{2-}).


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of factual testimony, items, and along with a geotechnical and physical pieces of evidence or opinion which is true


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in opinion, it must be a reason

Measuring a tree trunk.



Inventory of palm trees.



uation. Comparing these programs and providing the details of the tree valuation modules or sections can be addressed in a separate article in the future.

One of the most common concerns about using the Trunk Formula Method for valuing trees in large-scale tree inven-

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