

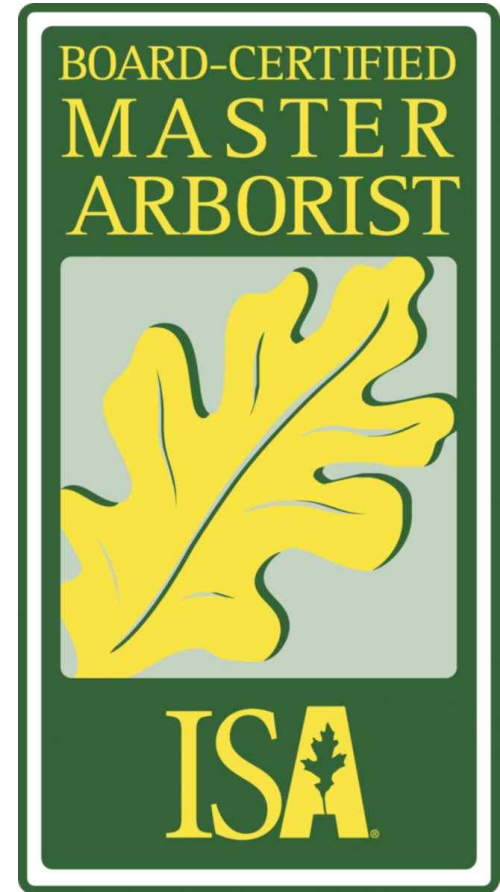


Tree Myths & Facts

Simplified

Keith Brown

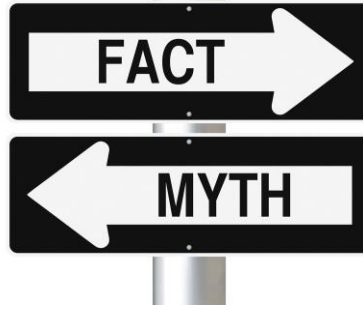
18 yrs experience
owner Austin Tree Experts
BCMA & CTW



Outline

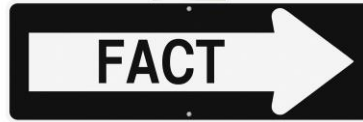
1. Oak Wilt
2. Pruning
3. Fertilization
4. Diagnosing Disorders
5. Watering
6. Managing Soil and Stormwater

You can identify
oak wilt from
foliar symptoms.



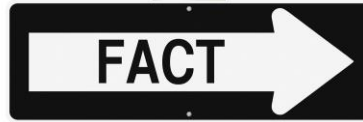
Pattern of spread
is the only
reliable way to identify
oak wilt.

Your trees will
get oak wilt if you
prune them in the spring.



Failing to prune your
trees when they
need it, will greatly
increase your risk to
oak wilt. Even if
it's spring time.

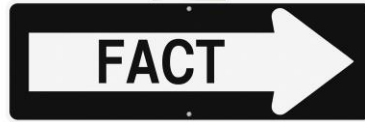
Treating your trees
and trenching can
solve your oak wilt
problems.



Trees process the
chemicals out of their
system but the disease still
stays in the roots.

Roots will re-graft across
trenches.

Nitidulid beetles are
the main way
oak wilt spreads.



Over 95% of oak wilt
transmission takes
place between
interconnected root grafts.
Above ground transmission
is very complex.

Tree Pruning

Time of Year
matters.



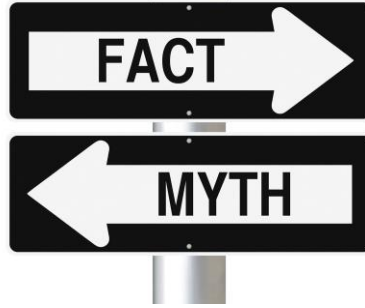
Our seasons are poorly defined. There are pros and cons to different seasons. You should prune as soon as you realize it needs to be done.

Pruning away
sucker growth allows
energy to flow into the
upper canopy of the tree.



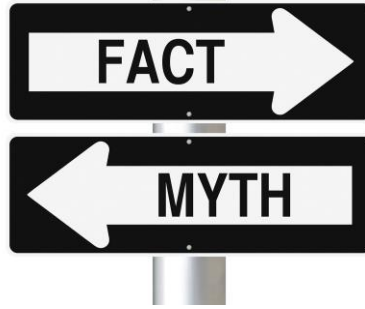
Sucker growth has
leaves, which make
energy, not consume it.
The inner canopy foliage
is a critical contributor
to the health of trees.

Tree wound
dressings
are good.



Arboriculture 101
says that wound
dressings are bad. We
only paint wounds on
oak trees because Agrilife
says it will reduce oak wilt.

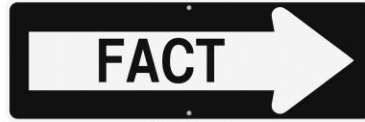
You should cut out
all rubbing
limbs on
oak trees.



It's only a
threat to the tree
if rubbing is causing
a wound. Don't
massacre your tree's
canopy if there is no
exposed wound.

Tree Fertilization & Composting

Trees don't need
fertilizer because
they've been doing fine
without it.




Urban and suburban
landscapes vary greatly
from native settings.
Nutrient cycles are
almost completely
disrupted. Not dead does
not equal healthy.

Soil testing is
required for proper
use of fertilizers.



Nutrient cycling in the
soil is complicated.
Seasonal biorhythms are
very important.
I believe soil analysis
can be very misleading.

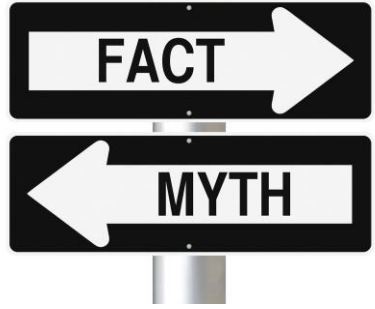
You need a
complete
blend of fertilizers

FACT 

 **MYTH**

Anecdotal evidence
tells me that
we should only be
supplementing N. I do not
visually see benefits
from P & K.

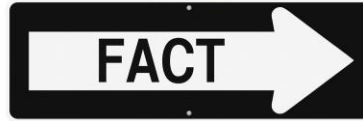
Conventional fertilizers
are bad for
the
environment.



Probably so when
applied at
recommended rates.

Humic acid and
mycorrhizae improve tree
response with significantly
reduced N rates.

You should compost
and mulch instead
of fertilizing.



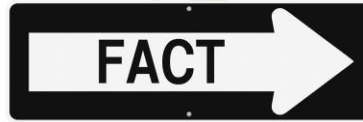
Compost is way better
than fertilizer.

Composting and
fertilizing together is

AMAZING!

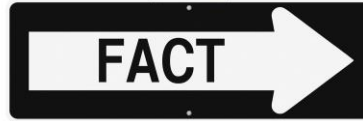
Diagnosing Tree Disorders

You can
diagnose a sick
tree from
foliar symptoms.



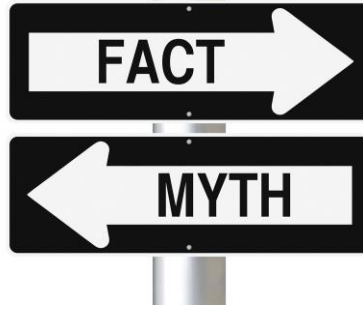
NO WAY.
Tree health and
seasonal influence will
impact symptom
expression. The same
disorder can have different
symptoms in trees.

“My tree was
fine last week
and yesterday
it started looking
terrible.”



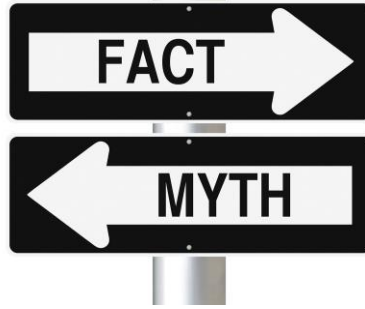
90% of tree
disorders take time
to show visual impacts.
90% of the tree fatalities
I see come from combined
stress factors, not just one
thing.

You can send a
tissue sample to
a lab and get
a rock solid
answer.



False negatives.
False positives.
Shipping risks.
Contaminated samples.
If there is no disease.
Decay fungi don't culture.

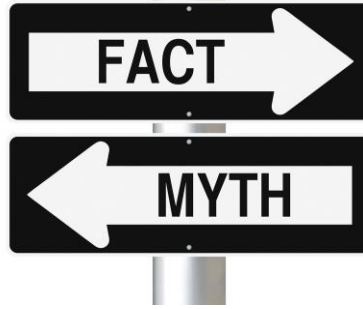
I'll figure out
what disease or
bug is the problem
so I'll know what
chemical to use.



Figuring out the
secondary intruder
doesn't really solve your
problem. You need to
address underlying
stressors.

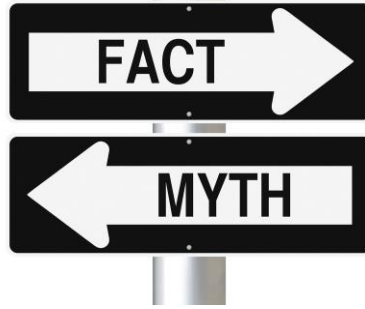
Watering Trees

Soaker hoses
work.



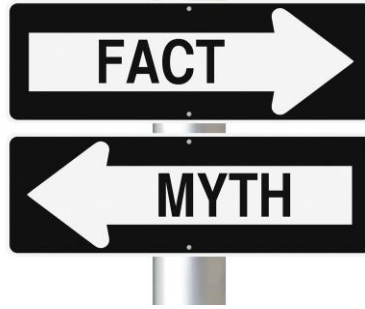
Maybe if you
left them on for
a week straight.
They don't let enough
volume through
for a tree.

You should water
at the edge
of the canopy.



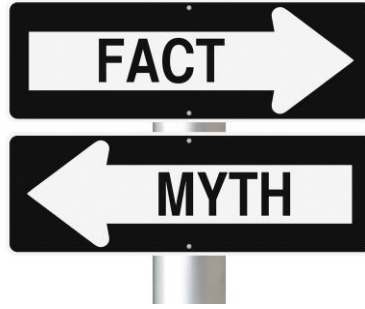
A hula-hoop of water
around the tree
will dry super quick and
not soak in well. Put all
your water in one spot and
saturate the largest area
possible close to the tree.

Don't let water
touch the
trunk.



It could be a concern
in limited situations
but don't turn off your
sprinklers or limit your
efforts if water accidentally
hits the trunk.

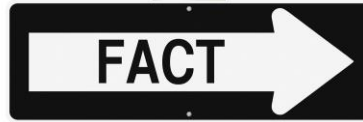
Random or
periodic water
supplements are
helpful.



Consistency is what
matters.

Managing Soil & Stormwater

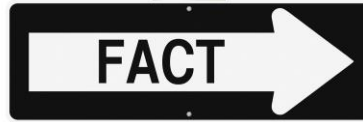
I have to live
with the soil
I have.



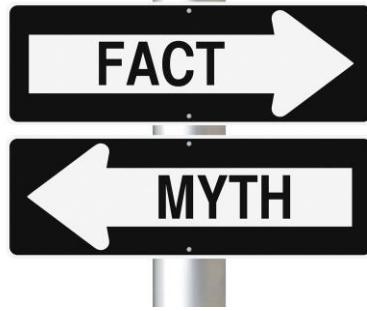
Well, kinda.

You be surprised
how fast soil can build
up with regular
top dressings with soil,
compost and mulch.

People are
giving this enough
attention.



A bio swale can
do a better job keeping
soil moist than some
irrigation systems.



Questions?