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Common Spruce and Poplar issues in residential settings:

When considering your landscape in a residential setting it is very important to keep in mind that small trees grow, both above and below ground. Selecting the proper species as well as ensuring the tree has adequate space to grow is essential. Most trees take a significant amount of time to grow, they provide an entire eco-system to surrounding life. Trees are an important investment in your property, but they can also work against you if the landscape plan has not been thought out from a long-term perspective. Spruce and Poplar are two very large growing tree species, with their own specific root issues.

Spruce:

- Average height is 60-75 feet tall by 26 feet wide
- It is important to ensure spruce are planted a minimum of 15 feet away from any permanent structure. You cannot tip and top a spruce to suppress its natural growth: this is not a legal pruning practice and should be avoided as it spreads disease, it is very costly and will eventually kill your tree.
- There is no such thing as a tree that is too tall, just a tree planted in the wrong location
- We like to ensure access to doorways and unit number visibility for emergency situations.
- We like to ensure doorway visibility for security reasons.
- Spruce have lateral surface roots that heave pavement as they reach maturity.
- When spruce reach maturity they sap seep, planting these trees next to driveways is not wise as we often receive complaints of paint damage to vehicles due to sap.
- When planted too close to buildings they can sap seep on the side of the unit, causing damage to the siding, clogging eaves etc.
- Spruce bows can be raised from the base of the tree to provide access, however the tree does lose a lot of its appeal as no grass will grow under the spruce, exposing the dead under the canopies: for this reason, spruce should be planted where they can reach maximum growth (courtyards, parks, acreage etc)

Poplar:

- Average height is 75-90 feet tall average width is 32 feet
- You cannot top these trees or you will end up with a structural mess, topping is an illegal tree pruning practice.
- Female poplars create a fluff that creates a significant mess in eaves.
- Poplar roots can be aggressive in that these trees require a lot of water. When they lack water, roots will come to the surface seeking water, doing damage to cement.
- Poplar roots take the path of least resistance, however if there is a crack in foundation, that becomes the easiest path and cause issues.

- Poplar roots tend to wrap around and squeeze any kind of piping underground (conduit, irrigation etc).
- Poplar can be a very invasive tree if they are not planted in a conducive location.

Kind Regards ,
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