



TREE STUMP REMOVAL

Many fast growing trees on city lots have outgrown their space and become a hazard to the home owners. Poplars, Willows, and Manitoba Maples are the most common trouble makers. Once these trees are cut down the stump needs to be treated to prevent suckers from growing through the lawn.

The best method of killing deciduous tree stumps is with 2,4-D herbicides or non – selective herbicides such as Side-Kick or Amitrol T. Cut the tree down leaving a stump several centimeters above ground level. Drill holes 1-2 cm in diameter, straight down into the wood, 5-8 cm deep, and 4-6 cm apart. Arrange these holes so that they are in a circle, right next to the bark. When finished, fill the holes with undiluted herbicide, taking precaution about fumes and skin contact. Cover the stump with a sheet of plastic and secure. This helps prevent the chemical from evaporating or being washed away. This operation is most successful if done in late summer or early fall but may be done any time during the growing season. A second application of herbicide is sometimes required on very large tree stumps. It generally takes one complete growing season to completely kill a large root system. Any sucker growth occurring the first summer can be individually treated with a herbicide.

Removal of the tree stump should not be done until the roots are completely dead. Hand digging is the cheapest method but requires the most back-breaking work. Special machinery has been developed for quickly grinding or chipping the stump away. These are available through several tree maintenance companies.

An alternative to these methods is to burn the stump out. Igniting open fires is not permitted within the city limits of Regina, but rural homeowners may wish to follow this procedure. The stump should be treated with a product several months prior to burning, to help it smolder completely. Stump removal products, such as De Stump are available from Unique Garden Centres. Follow the directions on the package carefully.

