

Why Brooklyn Trees Die Faster Than Forest Trees

Quick Reference Guide - Greenleaf Tree Care

6 URBAN STRESS FACTORS AND WHAT TO WATCH FOR

1. SOIL COMPACTION

City soil is packed hard by foot traffic and pavement.

Roots cannot breathe or absorb water efficiently.

Sign: Slow growth, yellowing leaves, sparse canopy.

2. ROAD SALT DAMAGE

Winter road salt poisons soil, burns roots and foliage.

Sign: Leaf scorch, premature drop, dieback on one side.

3. URBAN HEAT ISLAND

City pavement raises local temperatures 5-10F higher.

Sign: Drought stress, leaf curl, wilting in summer.

4. LIMITED ROOT SPACE

Tree pits give roots only 2-4 sq ft vs acres in nature.

Sign: Surface roots, sidewalk heaving, stunted growth.

5. AIR POLLUTION

Exhaust and particulates clog leaf stomata.

Sign: Reduced leaf size, dull color, earlier fall drop.

6. CONSTRUCTION DAMAGE

Root cutting during sidewalk/utility work is common.

Sign: Decline within 2-5 years of nearby construction.

WHEN TO CALL A TREE PROFESSIONAL:

- Canopy thinner than 2 years ago
- Dead branches appearing in the crown
- Trunk cracks or significant bark loss
- Mushrooms at the base

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