

► Inspection

By **regularly inspecting** your trees, you can prevent or reduce the severity of potential future issues such as pests, diseases or environmental problems.

These **8 indicators** to assess a tree's health are a guide for all species:

1. Presence of new leaves or buds

- absence of new growth, particularly in the spring, is a negative sign.

2. Leaf size

- new leaves are often small, but should reach full size by summer. Stunted, small leaves could indicate stress. Bear in mind that newly planted trees may exhibit slightly smaller leaves than is typical during their first growing season, as their energy is often diverted into developing a strong root system.

3. Leaf appearance

- mottled, deformed, discoloured or dead leaves (in summer) can indicate infection or poor health.

4. Twig growth

- the tree's twigs should get longer each growing season. You can recognise new season extension growth as it will be softer and a different colour than older growth. Growth rates can be compared with previous season's by looking for bud scars along branches of deciduous trees, as this mark indicates where growth has stopped each autumn.

5. Continual growth of the crown

- the tree's crown should be gradually increasing in size, in a balanced way, with no dead branches or lop-sidedness. Unbalanced growth is not uncommon, especially where daylight may be stronger to one side. However, this can be corrected by pruning.

6. Evidence of insect activity or disease symptoms

- not all insect infestations are cause for worry
- most common problems, whilst temporarily unsightly, will not cause any long-term harm to the tree. Tree diseases vary in severity, and often only last while the environmental conditions for the disease are present. As trees establish, their susceptibility to disease decreases.



We stock two sizes of soil auger, which are available to purchase. These enable you to assess the soil moisture levels and new root growth. Please call your advisor if interested.



Fungal growth isn't always a bad sign. However, it is important to examine if they are growing directly on your tree. It could be a sign that the tree is planted too deep, and mycelium is feeding on decaying wood.

7. Condition of the trunk and bark

- loose bark, deformed or irregular stem or branch growth, or presence of fungi can indicate decay or weakness. Some barks naturally crack and peel as they mature, so check the tree attributes before becoming alarmed.

8. Root system

- This can sometimes be difficult to inspect due to being underground; however, anchorage roots should spread into surrounding soil quickly. The base of the trunk should always feel firm, with no soil movement when the head is moved.

If any abnormalities are found during these inspections while the tree is under the establishment warranty, they should be noted and acted upon appropriately. Should you require advice on how to resolve any health issues on your Majestic Tree(s), please send photographs along with a description of your concerns to your sales advisor.

There are also specialist companies which can often advise treatments for many issues. Contact information can be found in the Professional Services and Advice Section.