

INTRODUCTION

It is the intent of this dictionary to provide a terminology universal to Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. The dictionary contains as complete a list as possible of words and terms used in the management of urban trees to further the understanding of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry and the development of the Arboricultural profession. This will benefit public interest and those within the community charged with making decisions about urban trees. It will facilitate better communication about Arboriculture and Urban Forestry. Many of the terms are from Arboricultural science, while others are empirical in origin; some are derived from unproven but commonly applied concepts. It is the role of this dictionary to record these terms and their meanings but this generally does not extend to analysis or critique of their usefulness.

A growing awareness of the importance of urban trees is being realised through research into Arboriculture, Urban Forestry and related disciplines. This research appears in both scientific journals and texts. The texts are usually specialised and contain many new concepts, terms and phrases with most including a glossary defining their key words. As this body of works grows, it reveals the broad range of related terms required to understand the subject area. There are, however, areas of uncertainty in the terminology as used in many of the texts. Sometimes concepts are only partly defined and so uncertainty can remain as to their exact meaning. Here the dictionary aims to provide clarity. Some new concepts have been introduced where the existing terminology to describe trees was limited or nonexistent.

This dictionary has been compiled to allow for broad application and use by a wide variety of people. It therefore endeavours to convey, in plain language, concepts which are sometimes complex. This has been achieved by cross-references between most major terms. To assist further, some diagrams have been provided. Botanical terms pertinent to an understanding of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry have been included while omitting the many terms readily found within dictionaries of general plant sciences and botany.

The value of language to describe accurately a tree or a tree problem can never be underestimated. Such accuracy is critical to successful management of trees in urban environments. A photograph of a tree or tree problem can be an invaluable resource but an inability to interpret and describe the image will