

Hi Bob,

A thousand apologies for not writing you sooner re: the awesome air spade demo your crew put on here earlier this month. My only excuse is that it has been an unusually hectic month, with a number of special visitor events piling extra work onto our normally busy seasonal changeover chores. So now the following have all come and gone, Assn. de Jardin Botaniques de France, Intl. Dendrological Society and Wellesley Historical Soc.; summer irrigation system shut down and drained, sprinklers and hoses gathered up for storage, etc., etc. and I can actually take a breath and remember to write a note.

Seeing the root systems of the young *Acer* and *Larix* laid bare so quickly and efficiently was amazing to witness. The resulting opportunity to do some preventive root pruning on the *Acer* (heading off future problems with overcrowded/girdling roots) will undoubtedly pay big dividends down the road. Your educated guess re: the *Larix* was 100% confirmed as it was clearly revealed by the air spade that the root flare was buried 4 to 6 " deep. This goes a long way toward explaining the painfully slow rate of growth for that tree. Your crew's expert analysis was that they would need to expose a much larger diameter of the root system and then use a forked bucket to gently raise the trunk, filling in underneath with topsoil/compost to keep the tree at it's newly raised level. With no bucket tractor on hand, it was impossible to follow up on their recommendations at that time.

Bottom Line: I gained a real appreciation for what an air spade can do and I wanted to thank you very much for the demonstration. Mrs. H was very appreciative as well when I described to her the knowledge gained about the root systems of the two trees and what the corrective measures were for each one. She had a specific follow-up question: What would you charge to come back and raise the level of the *Larix*?

Meanwhile, like me, her head has been kept spinning all month with preparations for this cluster of visitor groups as well as a big anniversary celebration at the house for one of her daughters so we have had no further discussions re: the other tree work you have given us estimates on. She's leaving today for a trip to visit one of her granddaughters in Spain, so I'll pick up the thread on that conversation when she returns next month.

Cheers,