

Stump Removal

When trees are felled or fall, their stumps should be removed as this can lead to problems with suckering where new shoots arise from the trunk and roots. Completely dead stumps won't form suckers, but they can play host to root diseases such as honey fungus, so aren't worth leaving in and taking the risk.

Stump grinders will mechanically grind out the main root plate, leaving fine sawdust. Some roots will inevitably be left in the ground but the majority should eventually rot down.

Myers Trees tackle any size of stump, we grind to below the ground level which allows for replanting or ground preparation for turfing.

What Is a Sucker?

Suckers are any new vertical growth that arises from the base of a trunk, almost all trees and many landscape shrubs, suckers are generally unwanted.

They're sort of like parasitic rebels. Even if distant from the original plant, the new stem is connected to the main trunk or crown of the plant by the roots underground, Suckers are like a new baby plant that has suddenly come into being connected to the relatively massive root system of its older parent: in short, it is young, vigorous, and has a lot of food. For this reason suckers are able to grow very, very fast, easily many feet in a single season.

They are your toddler outgrowing pairs of shoes, your teenager stealing the credit card and going on a spree - Suckers are ravenous nuisances.

Honey fungus or Armillaria (white rot root disease)

Honey fungus is a genus of parasitic fungi that is a potentially fatal pathogenic organism that affects trees, shrubs, woody climbers and, rarely, woody herbaceous perennials. Honey fungus grows on living trees as well as on dead and decaying woody material.

Honey fungus spreads both from living trees, dead and live roots and stumps by means of reddish-brown to black root-like rhizomorphs ('bootlaces') at the rate of around 1 m a year, although infection by root contact is also possible. Infection by spores is rare. Rhizomorphs grow relatively close to the soil surface and invade new roots, or the root collar (where the roots meet the stem) of woody plants. An infected tree will die once the fungus has girdled it, or when extensive root death has occurred. This can happen rapidly, or may take several years. Infected plants will deteriorate, although may exhibit prolific flower or fruit production shortly before death.

Preventing infections

Honey fungus can be prevented by removing tree stumps or other dead woody material such as roots from the soil, by stump-grinding. Killing stumps chemically is often not sufficient.

If the presence of honey fungus is confirmed, all dead or dying woody plants and any roots or stumps need to be removed. The stumps can be ground, or chipped, by a contractor.