

Activated Charcoal Application to the Plaza

02-24-11

Because of the detection of Spike beneath the plaza, the working group decided to apply flowable activated charcoal to the plaza pavers and the exterior of the granite curbing surrounding the tree beds. The majority of the plaza pavers are porous to allow water percolation, but this same property allows organic components to 'cling' to the pores. The action of applying and then washing in the activated charcoal through this area would expose those organic compounds to the binding characteristics of the activated charcoal. Additionally, any organic compound just beneath the pavers in the aggregate base would also be contacted by the activated charcoal. We expect most of the feeder roots to be below the aggregate base, and hope to lessen the downward movement of herbicide into the root zone by binding it to the charcoal. The crew used the same rate applied in the tree beds: 64 ounces per 1000 square feet of treated area.





Leaf Tissue Sampling

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All previous sampling has been of the soil in the beds or beneath the plaza. Initial leaf tissue samples and photosynthesis readings prior to the tree's metabolic increase from winter dormancy set the base point for further analyses for herbicide uptake and translocation. Foliage was collected from the trees' upper canopy which should be a sink for much of the herbicide absorbed by the root system and transported throughout the tree.



