



Future research potential

Soil Sampling

With tree attrition being approximately 10% of yearly plantings, the need to investigate the causes of such plant losses seems logical.

Unfortunately, minimal data/records have been kept in the past that provide much insight into causes of tree death. Essentially, rainfall and temperature are the only factors that can be currently considered.

However, now that the Arboretum has an up to date and reliable GIS, the prospect of taking extensive soil samples across the site, creating soil information shapefiles/layers and comparing that data to plotted tree losses may better inform future tree planting regimes.



Tree Mortality Records

Given that the GIS provides a far better 'archival' repository than was ever afforded to the arboretum volunteers in the past

(previously a mix of electronic and paper records), it will now be possible to extend the records and assign 'autopsy' data against each dead tree.



An 'investigative' mechanism will be formulated that prompts the volunteer who discovers the dead/dying tree to record such data as visible animal damage (chewing/rubbing), soil wetness, Ph levels, root architecture etc.

