



**SHADY LANE**

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## **MICROBIAL ANALYSIS FACT SHEET**

### **THE NEXT STEP IN PLANT HEALTH CARE.**

Just as leaves are important for above the ground, it is just as important to analyze the soil below the ground to get an overall idea of plant health. Once the data is analyzed, then the Plant Health Care Team can put together a treatment plan to help improve the health of your landscape.

### **THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT.**

Trees get most of their nutrients from under the ground and the soil microbes convert the nutrients into a plant available form. Soil microbes create macro-and micro-aggregates which help to aerate the plant roots, act as a carbon sink, and help breakdown chemicals to help contribute to a cleaner environment. Urban soils in particular suffer from low levels of soil biology. Compaction, salts, chemicals and waterlogging kill soil microbes. **Soil without life is dirt and dirt cannot support trees.**

Diagnosing the soil biology starts with counting the hundreds of soil microbes in a soil sample and calculating overall numbers (and ratios) of different functional groups. The main parameters a soil biology analysis will tell us is 1. if the soil food web is complete or needs improvement, 2. if the fungal to bacterial ratio is appropriate for the types of plants being grown, and 3. if there are any pests, diseases or anaerobic indicator organisms in the soil.

### **WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE?**

Have you seen a change in the health of your landscape? Has an Arborist been on your property lately and noticed a change? Has there been a significant impact to your landscape recently? Not sure if the plant health care program you are on, is working?

The Shady Lane Plant Health Care Team is just a phone call away. Soil biology analysis, in conjunction with our photosynthetic health evaluation, allows Shady Lane to create reports using quantified fact-based data not assumptions. With a combined analysis in the canopy and below the ground, an overall plant health assessment is complete. Shady Lane can put together a treatment plan that meets with your goals for a healthy landscape.

**CALL SHADY LANE EXPERT TREE CARE TO ARRANGE A CONSULTATION**