

ISA Standards: Matching Trees to Site

The International Society of Arboriculture makes it clear: the long-term success of a tree is determined more by the site than the species. In constrained right-of-way planters—especially those surrounded by concrete with compacted soils—we are not providing the rooting volume or soil conditions required for large canopy trees to reach maturity.

When we plant large trees in small spaces, we are not creating canopy—we are creating future conflicts, decline, and costly removals. ISA standards guide us to match the mature size of the tree to the available space, both above and below ground.

In short: if the site can't support the mature tree, it's the wrong tree for that location. Right tree, right place isn't a slogan—it's a standard of care."