

Evaporation Beds

Evaporation beds are normally 150 sq. ft. beds of washed rock that are usually 18 inches deep. Evaporation beds are utilized on surface discharging systems to help reduce the ‘ponding’ of treated effluent and allow for it to evaporate and/or soak into the ground. Follow these simple rules for maintaining an evaporation bed:

- Do not allow children to play on or store their toys on the rock.
- Do not plant anything in the bed.
- Do not allow weeds to grow in the evaporation bed.
- Avoid blowing grass clip-pings or leaves into the bed.
- If you want to plant something around the outside of the bed to disguise it, choose short or low-lying, water-loving plants and shrubs.

For more information about onsite wastewater disposal systems, contact:

Knox County Health Department
1361 W. Fremont Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: (309) 344-2224
www.knoxcountyhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Knox County Health Department

Healthy people in a healthy community!

TREE AND SHRUB ROOTS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Tree root invasion of septic tanks, distribution boxes and absorption fields is a common problem in the maintenance of an onsite wastewater treatment system. Many trees and shrubs readily invade these systems because they can provide air space, water, and nutrients. Listed here are a number of species and the potential for roots invading septic systems.



Tree Roots That Commonly Invade Septic Systems

Common Name	Latin Name
Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoids</i>
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix alba Tristis</i>
Peachleaf Willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>
Corkscrew Willow	<i>Salix matsudana Tortuosa</i>
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Slippery Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>



Tree Roots That Rarely Invade Septic Systems

Common Name	Latin Name
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus Strobus</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>

Prevent Physical Damage

- Dig carefully with a spade when planting on or near your drainage field
- Don't park or drive vehicles over your drainage field
- Don't install patios, basketball courts, or other impermeable surfaces over the drainage field
- Don't store any machinery, soil, or construction materials on your drainage field

Shrub Roots That Commonly Invade Septic Systems

Common Name	Latin Name
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Red Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elacagnus umbellata</i>
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia spp.</i>
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i>



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