

Guide to Judging Plant Condition

Scoring system

No apparent problems	4
Minor problems	3
Major problems	2
Extreme problems	1

Factor 1: Roots

- Root anchorage
- Collar/flare soundness
- Mechanical injury
- Girdling/kinked roots
- Compaction/waterlogged roots
- Toxic gases/chemical symptoms
- Presence of insects or disease
- Mushrooms

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 2: Trunk

- Sound bark and wood Cavities
- Mechanical or fire injury
- Cracks (frost or other)
- Swollen or sunken areas
- Presence of insects or disease
- Conks

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 3: Scaffold Branches

- Strong attachments
- Smaller diameter than trunk where attached
- Vertical branch distribution
- Free of included bark
- Free of decay and cavities Well pruned
- Well-proportioned/proper taper
- Wound closure
- Deadwood or fire injury
- Insects or disease

	+		=	0
Structure		Health		Subtotal
(1-4)		(1-4)		(2-8)

Factor 4: Small branches and Twigs

- Vigor of current shoots (compare previous growth) Well distributed through canopy
- Appearance of buds (color shape, size for species)
- Presence of insects or disease
- Presence of weak or dead twigs

	Health Subtotal
(1-4)	

Factor 5: Foliage and/or

- Buds** Size of foliage/buds
- Coloration of foliage
- Nutrient status
- Herbicide, chemical, pollution injury
- Wilted or dead leaves
- Dry buds
- Presence of insects or disease

	Health Subtotal
(1-4)	

Total subtotal points assessed for the five Factors

0
(8-32)

Divide subtotal points by 32 (total possible) and multiply by 100 to obtain the Condition rating

0%
(25-100)