Classroom Challenges:
Tree Planting & Tree Care

COLORADO MASTER GARDENER TRAINING REVIEW
Team up in small groups and pick a challenge.

Discuss the challenge and determine potential response as a CMG.

Share with the class Challenges #1-8 as time allows.
CHALLENGE 1: The Case of the Over-Achiever

What is wrong with this picture?
Can the problems be fixed?
CHALLENGE 2: The Case of “What-were-you-thinking?” Property Owner/Builder

The planting space for this tree is about 2x3 feet. It is in an alley between two apartment buildings.

- What are the challenges of planting a tree in this location?
- How does this location impact tree care & future growth?
CHALLENGE 3: **The Case of The Off-Color Maple**

- What could be contributing to this tree’s decline?
- What could be causing the leaves to be chlorotic?
- Think about what you can see as well as what you can’t.
CHALLENGE 4: The Case of Gators-gone-wrong

- What happened to these newly planted trees?
- What clues do you have to determine their demise?
CHALLENGE 5: **The Case of Mr. Fix-it**

This crabapple branch split during a late spring snowstorm. The homeowner made this repair and both sides of the branch continued to produce leaves all season – and in the next year as well.

- Why would someone use this technique to repair the damage? Is it an effective long-term solution?
- What do you think will happen to this branch?
CHALLENGE 6: The Case of The Octopustree

Why can you see the tree’s roots above the soil line?

Do you see evidence of planting errors?

How would you improve this situation for tree health and aesthetics?
What likely caused the vertical split?

What is the most obvious planting error?

The bark mulch was pulled away from the base of the tree during diagnosis.

- Is it problematic to have new fine root growth near the base of the trunk?
CHALLENGE 8: The Case of the Tree with a Waist

The homeowners were concerned about the spruce tree having heavy sap flow (see left side of the trunk). The tree canopy appeared to be thinning.

• What planting problem do you see?

• What can be done to amend this situation?
Thank you