

EPISODE 010

Roots Deeper Than the Drought

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A tree can be dying for three years before it looks like it. Water stress, hidden signals, and what homeowners get wrong about watering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Listen first, then work through these together. There are no answer keys.

- 01 A tree can be failing long before the canopy shows it. Where else do problems stay invisible until late?
- 02 Lawn irrigation is not tree irrigation. Why do well-meaning efforts sometimes make things worse?
- 03 What does it take to notice slow change? What habits would you need to build?
- 04 Drought forces trade-offs between people, farms, and landscapes. Who should get water first, and on what grounds?
- 05 Pick a tree near your home. What three things would you check on it this week?

SHORT READING LIST

The Hidden Life of Trees Peter Wohlleben Accessible entry point on how trees communicate and share resources. Great for junior high readers.	Oaks of California Bruce M. Pavlik and others Field-guide style look at the oak woodlands that define much of the state's landscape.
Fire in California's Ecosystems Edited by van Wagtendonk, Sugihara and others Denser and more technical. Good for high schoolers digging into fire ecology.	The Overstory Richard Powers A novel, not a textbook. Fiction that raises the ethical questions we keep circling back to. Mature themes.

Where arboriculture meets faith, science, and the stewardship of California's living landscapes.