# MACHINE MASTERS

## TREE & PLANT PRESERVATION PRINCIPLES

Our approach is to preserve existing trees, fruit trees, and landscaping whenever reasonably possible while completing safe, efficient demolition and excavation. We respect the property owner's religious and personal preferences and plan equipment access around protected plants.

### Respect for Jewish tradition

Jewish law includes the principle of **Bal Tashchit** ("do not destroy"), rooted in Deuteronomy 20:19–20, with particular concern for needless destruction of fruit-bearing trees. Decisions about pruning, uprooting, or transplanting fruit trees can involve differing religious interpretations; owners should consult their rabbi before authorizing such work.

### Our on-site operating principles

- **Identify and protect:** Before work begins, the owner marks trees, plants, irrigation, and landscape areas to preserve; we review the work zone together.
- **Work around living plants:** Trees can usually remain in place. We plan a safe path for the machine and a nearby dumpster or truck to reach the structure, concrete, or soil being removed.
- **Protect roots and branches:** Avoid driving over root zones, stockpiling debris against trunks, striking limbs, or cutting roots. Use protective barriers and adjust access where practical.
- **Coordinate plant relocation separately:** When relocation is requested, the owner can arrange a qualified tree professional and any religious consultation at the most suitable time. Demolition can often proceed in other accessible areas while that work is planned.
- **Communicate before changes:** If a protected plant obstructs safe access, stop in that area and discuss alternatives before any trimming, moving, or removal. No protected tree is intentionally removed without clear owner authorization and required approvals.
- **Maintain safe operations:** Preservation is subject to equipment clearances, structural stability, utility protection, and applicable tree-protection rules; schedule or scope may need adjustment if safe access is not available.

### Practical site requirement

In many projects, **only a safe machine access route and an appropriate debris container near the work area are needed**. We aim to preserve the remaining landscape and sequence optional plant work to avoid unnecessary demolition delays. Timing and preservation outcomes cannot be guaranteed until site conditions are assessed.

Machine Masters provides heavy-equipment operator labor, not licensed general contracting services. The hiring party coordinates project scope, required permits, and any arborist or religious guidance. This is an informational operating policy, not a contract.

References: Deuteronomy 20:19–20; Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Kings and Wars 6:8–10; Bais HaVaad, "Fruit Preserves."