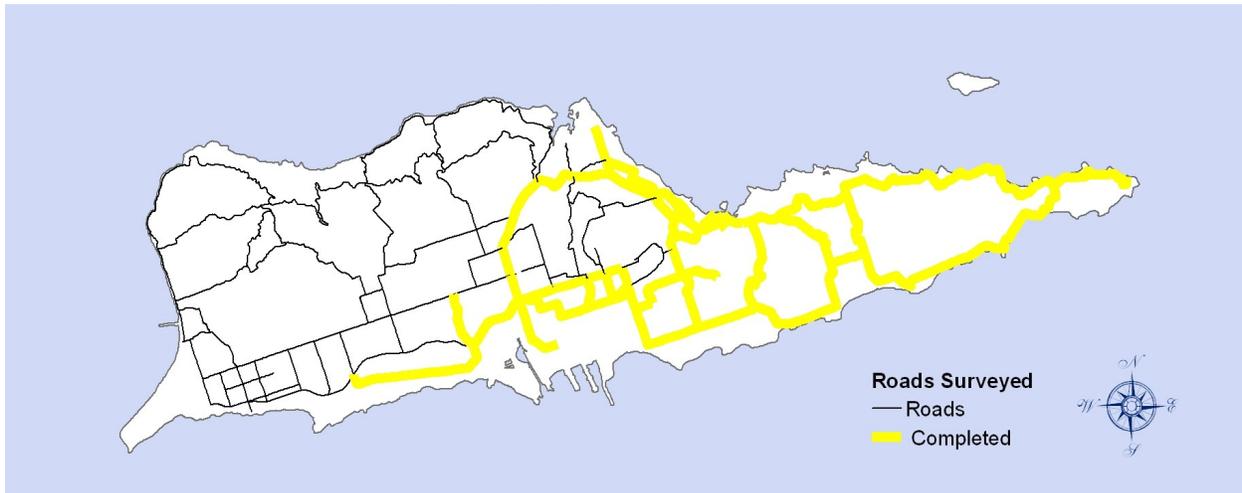




ST. Croix Hazard Tree Assessment Progress Report - November 2010

Completed Assessment Areas : St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

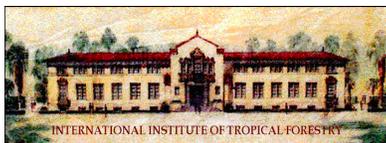


Roadsides Assessed	# Trees Assessed	Poles Mapped	Culverts
225 km	1927	787	46

In November Geographic Consulting resumed roadside field data collection by sampling an additional 50 km of roadside right of way (ROW), assessing 592 trees and mapping an additional 197 points of interest. The roads inventoried in November tended to be in more developed commercial areas such as Northside road in Estate Princess, Kingshill and along 5.7 km of the Melvin Evans Highway.



Trends in roadside tree damage data have begun to emerge. Tree conflicts with hard infrastructure (such as fences & sidewalks) are increasingly common in the more urbanized areas. This damage makes the trees more prone to failure and more susceptible to secondary problems such as fungus and termites.



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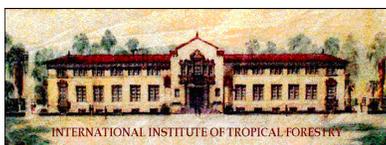
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Termites and the mushrooms in the photograph to the right effect dead and decaying wood. When observed on a tree's roots or branches they are a clear sign of a decay problem



When urban areas expand, impermeable surfaces such as concrete or asphalt are often spread over the roots of existing trees. This can reduce the tree's ability to absorb water and damage the tree's anchoring system. The result is often a stressed and/or damaged tree in the middle of a densely developed parking lot or roadside

Vehicle strikes to the tree canopy are the most frequently observed type of damage in more urbanized areas of St. Croix. This can cause minor to severe damage to both the vehicle and to tree limbs. Frequently struck tree canopies develop a distinct shape (area in red). Damaged/dead limbs hanging over roadways, in turn, become an additional hazard to motorists



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