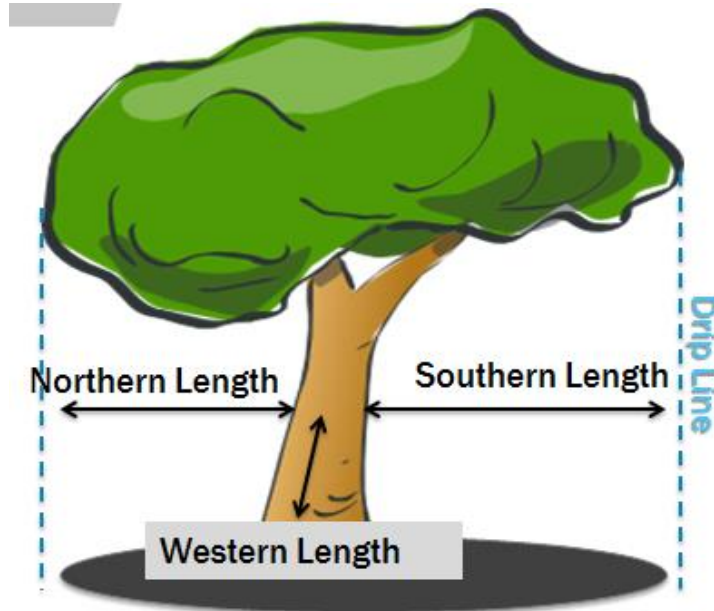


Measure Tree Canopy Width

Tree canopy width is an important attribute of the size of the tree that influences the benefits (e.g. cooling) that a tree provides. To measure the canopy width, we measure the diameter of the tree's crown (i.e. canopy) - i.e. the distance from one edge to the other.

To keep measurements between citizen scientists consistent and reduce subjectivity between one person and the next for this study, we ask you to measure from the trunk to the edge of the canopy, straight along the cardinal directions (north, east, south, and west).

To identify the edge of the canopy, walk to its edge, and look up imagining the *drip line* off its leaves (be careful not to trip!). If a tree were to function as an umbrella, the *drip line* would be the edge of the canopy where the water would run off.



Measure the distance from the trunk to the **drip line** in each of the four cardinal directions.

To assist with this, hold a compass (or compass app) flat in your palm in front of you while your back is to the trunk. Continue rotating around the tree (facing outwards) until you are aligned with the cardinal direction you are interested in measuring. From there, walk in a straight line until you reach the edge of the canopy in that direction and measure that distance. **Report** the lengths on your data sheet or on iNaturalist.

What if my measuring tape is not long enough for the whole spread? Break up the spread into lengths that your measuring rope or tape covers (by marking the end points with a rock, leaf, or friend), and add the distances together to create a single number representing the whole length.

What if the tree is leaning? If the tree is leaning to the point where the trunk is no longer directly under the canopy, instead measure from drip line to drip line in the cardinal directions. Record the distances as usual, but making a note in the comments/notes section of your data collection sheet (i.e. “Leaning tree”).

