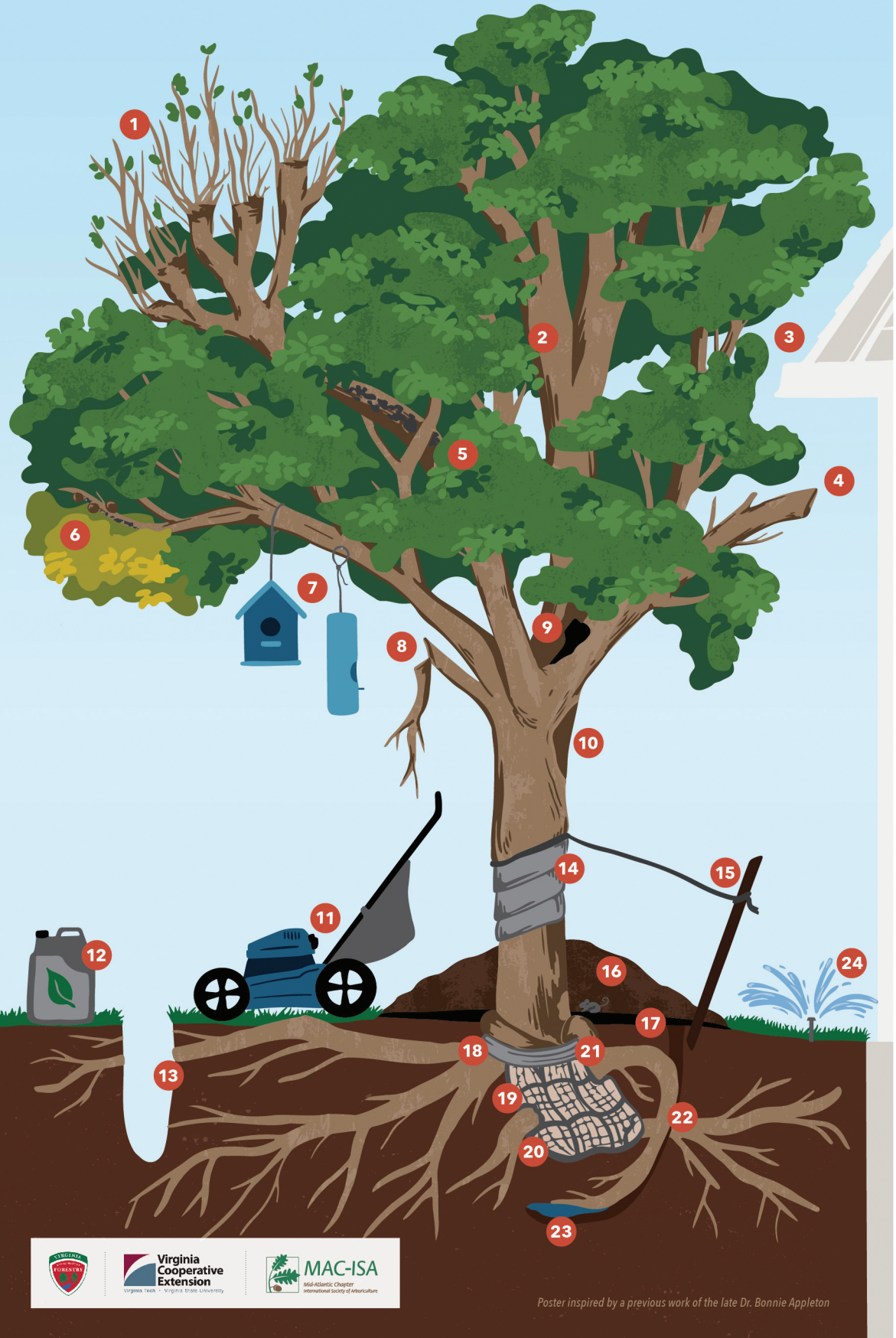
HOW TO KILL A TREE

Few residential trees die of "old age." Mechanical damage and improper tree care kill more trees than any pests or disease. **AVOID** making these harmful mistakes and consider hiring a certified arborist to perform advanced tree care.



1. "Top" your tree to encourage weak watersprouts
2. Leave codominant leaders with included bark that split during winds and storms
3. Plant close to house or obstacle to reduce adequate growing space
4. Leave "stubs" when pruning to promote branch decay
5. Leave crossing branches when pruning to rub bark wounds
6. Ignore pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies
7. Nail or attach items to tree to damage bark and girdle branches
8. Encourage pests by leaving broken branches on the tree
9. Coat pruning cuts with paint or sealer to slow wound closure
10. Cut large branches flush with the trunk to increase decay
11. Damage roots and trunk with lawn equipment
12. Spray herbicides on turf that accidentally poison tree
13. Cut through roots when digging trenches
14. Encourage rot and hinder tree growth by leaving wrap on trunk
15. Leave tree staked until guy wire girdles trunk
16. Pile mulch against the trunk to encourage rodent damage and bark rot
17. Prevent water and nutrients from reaching the roots by covering the soil with a plastic weed barrier
18. Leave root ball twine on to girdle the trunk
19. Leave wire basket in place to girdle roots
20. Leave on treated or synthetic burlap to prevent root growth
21. Leave circling roots that will strangle the tree
22. Dig planting hole too narrow and overamend backfill to discourage proper root spread
23. Dig hole too deep to smother the trunk flare and drown the roots
24. Drown the roots by over-irrigating your lawn

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Poster inspired by a previous work of the late Dr. Bonnie Appleton