

## MULCHING

Spreading mulch around your trees does more than keep your trees looking great. Mulch discourages weeds from growing, preserves up to 25% more soil moisture, keeps soil temperatures cooler in summer and warmer in winter, protects trees from lawn mower damage, and organic mulches can add much-needed nutrients to our sandy soil.

### Good Mulching

- Spread mulch ring at least 3 feet around the tree, preferably all the way out to the drip line (the outer edge of the tree's canopy.)
- Keep mulch several inches away from the base of the tree to avoid rot and disease.
- If grass is growing around your tree, put a 5-page layer of newspaper over the grass, get it wet, then add mulch on top.
- Spread mulch in a loose layer 2-4 inches deep to allow water and air to reach the tree roots.



### Bad Mulching

- A common bad mulching practice is to pile thick mulch around the base of a tree. These are called **mulch volcanoes** and are very harmful to your tree. Mulch volcanoes can trap moisture around a tree trunk leading to decay and eventually killing the tree.
- Don't use fine mulch. Thick blankets of fine mulch can become matted and prevent the penetration of air and water to your tree.
- Avoid adding excessive layers of mulch every year. Instead, break up the old mulch with a rake and add a new layer on top if the mulch bed is less than 4 inches deep.



**Tree Work Now** offers free wood chip mulch. To request your free mulch, contact us at **(386) 216-4481** or **(407) 216-4704** or **ask@treeworknow.com**.