

Mulching your trees is a great way to avoid many common tree problems.

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a home owner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed competition, and improve soil structure. Properly applied, mulch can give landscapes a handsome well-groomed appearance. Mulch must be applied properly; if it is too deep or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants.

Benefits of Proper Mulching

Helps maintain soil moisture. Evaporation is reduced and the need for watering can be minimized.

Helps control weeds. A 2 to 4-inch layer of mulch will reduce the germination and growth of weeds.

Mulch serves as nature's insulating blanket. Mulch keeps soils warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Many types of mulch can improve soil aeration, structure and drainage over time.

Some mulches can improve soil fertility.

A layer of mulch can inhibit certain plant diseases.

Mulching around trees helps facilitate maintenance and can reduce the likelihood of damage from "weedwhackers" or the dreaded "lawn mower blight".

For more detailed information on proper mulching techniques visit the following websites:

www.isa-arbor.com

www.treesaregood.com