



Tree Care



Vertical Mulching

Vertical mulching is almost always very beneficial to trees of all ages. Vertical mulching increases water and air infiltration to the tree root zone.

Vertical mulching can be accomplished by using an auger with a 1 ½ -2" bit and drilling holes roughly 16 – 18" apart in a grid pattern approximately 18" deep. Always locate and avoid underground utilities and other obstacles before digging. Use caution to avoid remaining portions of the wire basket and underground obstacles.

Drill the holes out to (or beyond if possible) the drip line of the tree. Start the process a safe distance from the trunk and keep the bit away from any large diameter roots. Fill the holes with the following mixture:

- Aged pine bark or gravel (gravel will not break down and thus will provide longer benefit)
- Fertilizer, Lime, Etc. based on soil and tissue analysis

Trees should be watered thoroughly immediately before and after vertical mulching is completed.



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June 2006 - 4 inch trunk diameter -
Before vertical mulching



June 2007 - 4 1/2 inch trunk diameter -
1 year after vertical mulching



July 2009 - 6 1/2 inch trunk diameter -
3 years after vertical mulching