

MULCH VOLCANOES KILL TREES LET'S STOP THE MULCH MADNESS



Even modest mulch volcanoes will kill.



Strangled trunk, caused by a mulch volcano.



Tree killed by a mulch volcano.



Proper mulching – keep mulch away from the trunk.

There is a strange, decorative fad out there that is harming trees. Landscape professionals and homeowners are heaping piles of mulch around trees, creating “mulch volcanoes” that will almost certainly doom their tree.

HOW DO MULCH VOLCANOES KILL?

According to tree experts from Cornell University, mulch volcanoes kill in several ways:

- By causing roots to girdle & strangle the tree
- By smothering the roots, which suffocates the tree
- By retaining moisture, allowing deadly fungi & insects to thrive

WHAT IS PROPER MULCHING?

We recommend following the 3-3-3 rule when mulching. First, and most important, keep the mulch at least 3" from the trunk. Extend the mulch in a 3 foot radius around the tree, to a depth of no more than 3". Properly applied, mulch keeps the roots cool & moist as well as suppressing weeds. You should be able to see a visible "root flare" at the base of the trunk.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD ... MULCH VOLCANOES KILL

Many people are unaware of the impacts of mulch volcanoes. Tell your friends and neighbors. When you see mulch volcanoes where you work or shop, educate them about the negative impacts of mulch volcanoes. Does a landscape service care for the grounds where you live? Work with them to ensure tree mulching is done correctly. Let's work together to end the deadly mulch madness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: <http://sustainablesaratoga.org/mulch-volcanoes-kill/>

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