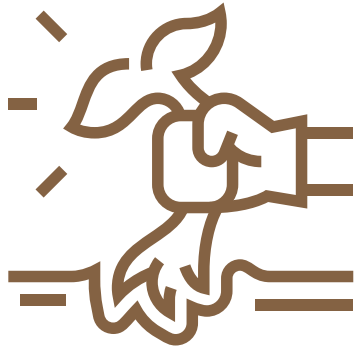


TREE MULCHING GUIDE

WHY MULCH?

- Reduce loss of soil moisture
- Control weed growth
- Improve soil biology & structure
- Protect soil against extreme temps
- Inhibit plant diseases
- Nice aesthetics discourage litter



STEP 1

Remove all weeds and grass growing at the base of the tree. Rocks, excess dirt, litter, and old mulch can also be cleared away. The trunk of the tree should be exposed at the base.



STEP 2

If soil is compacted, gently loosen with a shovel, trowel, or cultivator to a depth between 1/2 inch - 1 inch. Add a layer of compost to improve soil health.



STEP 3

For well-drained sites and thicker mulches (e.g., wood chips), apply 2-4 inches of mulch near, but not touching, the base of the tree. For wetter soils and finer mulches (e.g., composted materials), apply up to 3 inches. Be careful not to apply too much mulch!

For more information, visit nyrp.org/freetree