

March is for Mulching!

The unusually mild and warm weather this previous month has been inspiring people to tackle some yard work, including landscaping. Mulching, in particular is often a significant part of landscape design and can be a huge help to Oklahoma trees.

Some advantages of mulching your trees:

Mulch can help a tree retain water and survive drought by keeping moisture in the ground, as well as providing a buffer between hot and cold temperatures. Mulch helps trees by suppressing weed competition, it prevents soil compaction and can help deter trunk damage from weed-eaters.

Mulch also has an aesthetically pleasing appeal.

Organic mulches that will eventually compost are best because they will eventually turn into nutrients for the trees.

However, before you buy those bags of woodchips or compost, please take a few things into consideration:

Make sure to leave SIX INCHES of open space from the trunk! Do not put mulch right up against the trunk! This can introduce disease and encourage small rodents and bugs to nest near the trunk and do damage to it.

Also, do not mulch too deep. Two to three inches spread out at least 3 feet around the tree diameter. Although, for larger trees, going out further is better because their absorbing roots will likely extend further. Beware over-mulching, this will actually limit the amount of water that gets to your tree roots, therefore causing drought stress to your tree instead of helping to avoid it.

Mulching is one of the easiest and cheapest way to care for your trees, and with such wonderful weather there is no reason not to get your hands dirty!