

## **MULCH VOLCANOES KILL!**

As beneficial as mulch is, too much will kill trees and shrubs. Unfortunately, North American landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over-mulching.

More than 2 to 4 inches is over-mulching.

Piling up mulch up around the trunk or stem, in a "MULCH VOLCANO," will also kill the tree:

- Continuous moisture on the trunk will cause cankers and splits, and allow disease and pests to attack!
- Excess moisture in the root zone will stress the plant and cause root rot!
- Thick blankets of mulch can become matted and actually PREVENT water and air from getting to the roots!
- The problems go on and on...



**BAD BAD BAD  
START OVER!**

"Mulch volcanoes" cause many problems for trees

## **DO IT RIGHT! Proper Mulching**

- Check depth of mulch. If 2 to 4 inches is already there, just rake to refresh and break up mats.
- If mulch is piled against the trunk or stem, pull it back several inches so that the base of the trunk and stem crown is exposed.
- Apply a 2 to 4 inch layer. Do not place mulch near the trunk. Mulch out to the tree's drip line or beyond.
- Keep mulch FLAT, not mounded, so that water will not run off.



**GOOD GOOD GOOD  
GOOD JOB!!!**

## **TELL YOUR LANDSCAPER!!**

 *Newton Tree Commission*

*Source: International Society of Arboriculture*