>330 new trees planted so far
Care arranged for hundreds of trees
Goal: All trees thrive and grow big and shady.

**TREE GROWS POORLY**
when mulch is piled high around the base.

**WHY?**
Mulch pile tricks the tree into growing stringy “adventitious” roots, which rob nutrients the main roots need to grow.

1. **REMOVE** Mulch and soil from the tree, until you see the tree base flare out to the big roots going down.

2. **SNIP** off adventitious roots.

3. **SHAPE SOIL** around base so water flows easily to main roots.

4. **MULCH** only 3” deep, keeping mulch away from base of tree. Shredded hardwood mulch is recommended.

**TREES IN SLOPE OF A RAISED YARD:**

5. **STabilize SLOPE**
Place *stones* in “wall” behind the tree to hold runoff.
Plant shallow-rooted *low plants* among the stones to hold soil and rocks in place and direct water to the new, healthy soil ecosystem around this tree. RIGHT: Periwinkle (Vinca minor). Photo: Hortipedia

* More on mulching on reverse. Video at restoremassave.org/green-your-street/planting/*
WHY MULCH VOLCANOES HURT TREES

See reverse for how you can rescue over-mulched trees.

MULCH VOLCANOES will KILL your TREES!

- Lack of ventilation prevents trunk from drying
- Soft trunk is an invitation for insects and disease
- Trunk can eventually become spongy and rot
- Excess mulch can cause root girdling leading to death
- Mulch pile can become a hotbed in summer heat
- Water will not penetrate and reach the root ball

PROPER MULCHING will help your trees

2 - 3 Inches of MULCH will:

- Be level with the soil line edge
- Serve as an insulation blanket, keeping roots cool in the summer and warm in winter
- Protect tree from weed and grass encroachment
- Help maintain soil moisture, minimize evaporation
- Protect trunk from damage during turf maintenance
- Provide a uniform well-cared-for look

Poster: Suburbanig
Image: Montgomery County, Maryland

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