

HOW TO..... MULCH

Saving Trees from Drought and Heat

Determine mulch area.

- The sizes of the plants and turning radius of your mower determine the size and shape of the mulch area.
- Mulch out to the drip line or edge of the widest branches, if possible.
- Group shrubs and trees into beds, instead of mulching around individual plants, to save mowing time and unify your landscape plantings.

Eliminate weeds and turf.

- Clear all the weeds and grass from the area you intend to cover to prevent them from growing up through the mulch.
- Pull weeds by hand or hoe them out.
- Remove lawn grass by slicing under it with a spade, being careful to dig only into the top 2 to 3 inches of soil.
- Shake the soil out of the turf before discarding it to maintain the soil depth around your trees and shrubs.

Spread mulch.

- Cover the cleared area with 2 to 4 inches of mulch.
- Rake the mulch into a flattened doughnut shape.
- Make a neat outer edge by leaving a small gap between the mulch and the edge of the surrounding lawn.

Maintain mulch.

- Replace mulch as needed during the growing season to maintain the 2 to 4 inch depth.
- Rake up and replace organic mulch in the spring, especially around roses and fruit trees.