

# FACT SHEET

## Volcano Mulching



Piling mulch several inches deep and high up on the tree trunk is called “Volcano Mulching” and is extremely harmful to trees. The mulch around these trees (left) was measured to be 17 inches deep. Deep mulch provides a home for insects and rodents that chew on the tree bark and damage the trees vascular system. The mulch holds moisture against tree bark increasing the potential for fungus growth and rotting of the tree trunk. Volcano mulching can eventually be the reason for tree death. Proper mulching (right) is about 2 to 3 inches deep and reaches out to the drip-line of the tree. The mulch does not touch the tree trunk. Proper mulching protects the tree from mower damage and conserves valuable water during times of shortage.

