



Jeff Napieralski
City of Stow | Urban Forestry
Landscape Arborist
(330) 689-5121 | StowOhio.org

Memorial Day weekend is a great time to apply mulch to your landscape.

The Urban Forestry Commission wants to offer these tips to maximize the value applying mulch can have on your trees.

- Spread mulch near, but not touching, the trunk. Piling up mulch around the trunk can create a “volcano” mound that increases the risk for disease and can lead to girdled roots that will stunt or kill the tree.
- Apply a layer roughly 2-4 inches deep. Too much mulch will prevent fast decomposition, leading to those volcano mounds.
- Use mulch made from organic material such as wood, leaves, compost, or pine needles. Organic material breaks down faster, promotes a healthier soil ecosystem, and provides nutrients for the tree. Inorganic material, such as rocks or rubber, do not provide these benefits and can actively harm the tree.
- If you still have mulch from previous years, using a hard rake or pitchfork to turn over the mulch can provide a fresh appearance that allows the mulch to continue decomposing.

For more information on mulching or other tree care information, visit the City of Stow’s Urban Forestry website. <https://www.stowohio.gov/208/Urban-Forestry>

The Urban Forestry Commission meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 3:30 pm in the City Hall Boards & Commissions Room. Meetings are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide their comments.