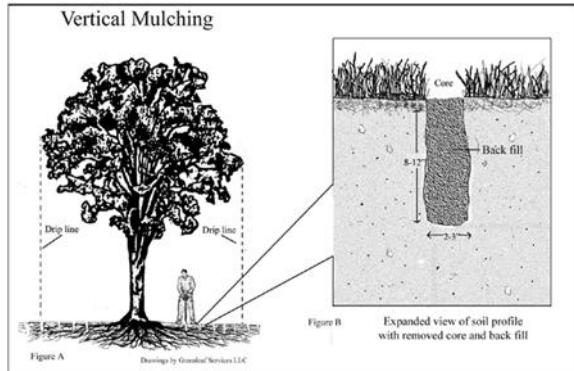


VERTICAL MULCHING

Vertical mulching is the creating of holes around the base of a tree or shrub that is stressed. The holes are filled with a mixture of organic material. The back fill and aeration can dramatically improve root growth and reduce or eliminate stress caused in a lawn environment or construction damage.

Some of the reasons to Vertical Mulch are as follows:

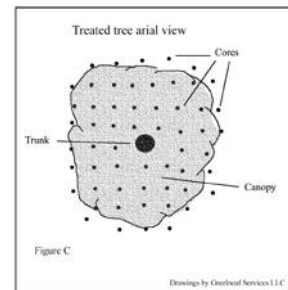
- To alleviate soil compaction and allow air to flow more easily to the roots
- To add organic rich compost to poor soil.
- To expand the root system by the addition of Mychorizae.
- To allow faster percolation of water in wet areas by changing soil structure and aerating.
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It is a relatively simple and unobtrusive process. The holes are created with an air spade or soil auger (figure A). starting a few feet out from the trunk and continued in a grid pattern (approximately 2' apart) beyond the drip line (figure C). They are usually back filled with a mixture of compost, organic fertilizer, and Mychorizae (figure B). The actual fill may vary according to the individual needs of the plant treated.

Some of the benefits are

- Reduced compaction
- Increased drainage
- Increased oxygen to the root system
- Introduction of organic mater to existing soil
- Increased soil organisms
- Increased water retention



Vertical mulching is one of the most effective ways to treat stressed trees and shrubs. The aeration and soil treatment create an environment that mimics nature and allows for greater nutrient uptake, increased root growth and the potential regeneration of a damaged root system. We like to follow up our Vertical mulching jobs with [compost tea and humate applications](#) to further help the root system repair and provide for itself.