



VILLAGE OF MEDINA MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD 600 MAIN STREET MEDINA, NEW YORK 14103

"Roots in the past, planting for the future."

A High Quality Tree for Your Planting Site

Ginkgo biloba **Ginkgo**

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Any number of problems alone or in combination with the others will greatly reduce or enhance a tree's chances for a long, attractive, healthy, and productive life. Here are a few more items to consider.

- ***Don't replace mulch with rock or plantings.*** A tree's best friend is a good layer of mulch. When properly done, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawnmower damage, and adds an aesthetic touch. Remove any grass within the mulch area, and area from 3 to 10 feet in diameter, depending on tree size. Applying a 2" to 4" layer of organic mulch can mimic a more natural environment and improve plant health. Pour wood chips or bark pieces 2" to 4" deep within the circle, ***but not touching the trunk.***

Please remember that ***mulch should NOT be heaped next to the trunk of the tree.*** You may have seen those "volcanoes" of mulch around some trees. Look around- there out there! This is not only improper but can be hazardous to a tree. It can invite rot and subsequent disease or insect infestation. A small gap should be left between the trunk and the mulch. Newly planted street trees are mulched at the time of planting. Mulch settles and breaks down over time, therefore, adding a little mulch each spring or fall is beneficial. ***Village residents are encouraged to mulch recently planted street trees in the spring, as long as the tips in this article are followed. If you can afford to do so, your help would be welcomed and appreciated!!! Weed them by hand throughout the summer too!***

Organic mulches include wood chips, pine needles, hardwood and softwood bark, cocoa hulls, leaves, compost mixes, and a variety of other products usually derived from plants. Organic mulches decompose in the landscape at different rates depending on the material and climate. Those that decompose faster must be replenished more often. Because the decomposition process improves soil quality and fertility, many arborists and other landscape

professionals consider that characteristic a positive one, despite the added maintenance.

- ***Don't use chemical weed killers in the area of a tree's root zone.***

Fertilizer mixes that contain weed killers should be used sparingly, if at all, within the root zones of trees because the weed killer could harm the tree. Some “weed ‘n feed” lawn preparations are specifically formulated to perform without being harmful to trees. Read and follow directions printed on the label before applying these products, and try to use weed killers that are less damaging to trees or recommended for use around root zones.

- ***Don't compact the soil heavily around a tree.*** Because roots need oxygen, they don't normally grow in the compacted oxygen-poor soil under paved streets. Some trees perform better than others under these conditions, and some simply will not tolerate soil compaction at all. This is why a select few trees are best suited for sites such as parking lot or sidewalk planters. The framework of major roots usually lies less than 8 to 12 inches below the surface! Roots often grow outward to a diameter one to two times the height of the trees. The spread of the root system however, can be very extensive, often extending 2-3 times the spread of the crown, however, the majority of major roots can be found within the drip line of the tree canopy.

- ***DO NOT prune, or remove street trees — that is the responsibility of the village!*** There is a right way and a wrong way to prune a tree! Most trees unless damaged, are best pruned when they are dormant. Some trees, such as Elm varieties, can be seriously harmed if pruned while they are actively growing. If you think a tree on your village right of way needs pruning, notify the Tree Board and/or Building Department. They'll investigate and see that the tree is cared for properly. ***REMEMBER!- Trees on right of ways and public lands are protected. Tampering with them unlawfully is a crime.***

Please- respect the village tree ordinance. It is there to ensure our village forest is healthy, safe, and beautiful!



Mulch Volcano Excavated to Expose Buried Trunk.

Mulch should not be piled around the trunk. Some trees may even develop girdling roots under the mulch pile.

If the trunk flare is not visible you have mulched incorrectly! Note the discoloration on the stem just below the mulch line. This moist and discolored area may become diseased, decayed, and invite insect infestation.

Leave a 3"-4" space between the trunk and the mulch. *Remember*- mulch should be no deeper that 2"-4"! More is not better!