

# LEARNING CENTER



## URBAN FOREST MULCH RING

### Healthy Root Zones = Healthy Trees

The Urban Forest is quite a different habitat than the natural forest. Urban forest trees face many negative stresses that undisturbed forest trees never have to encounter. The root system of an Urban Forest tree is often overlooked as a source of a tree's decline in health or lack of vigor. Just like the above-ground portion of the tree, the below-ground critical root zone needs to be part of the arborist's focus and plan, when it comes to tree preservation and health.



### Benefits of Urban Forest Mulch Rings

- Moderates soil temperatures
- Mitigates drought stress
- Promotes healthy soil biology
- Improves nutrient availability
- Keeps mowers and string trimmers from causing damage
- Reduces girdling roots
- Reduces compaction
- Keeps turf away
- Improves aesthetics

### Negative Impacts on Urban Forest Tree Roots

- Compact soils
- Limited space for root growth
- Construction damage
- High soil temperatures
- Mechanical Damage to trunk and roots
- Competition with turf
- Drought conditions