



## Tree Mulching

The urban environment (soils, exposure, snow and grass maintenance, road salts etc.) restricts tree establishment and growth rate. We can improve conditions by removing grass and weeds surrounding the tree and replacing with organic mulch such as wood chips.

Using an organic material such as wood chips helps to maintain soil moisture, decrease weed competition, create a buffer from mowers and trimmers, and moderate soil temperature.

At the time of installation, Parks and Urban Forestry will remove a 1.5 meter diameter area of turf, install a new boulevard tree, and add organic mulch (wood chips) around the tree.

**FACT:** Placing any material directly against the stem will damage the tree. Always keep mulch materials 5 cm away from the stem at the base.

**FACT:** Limestone used as a mulch will damage and reduce the growth rate of your tree.

**FACT:** Rock surrounding the tree gives a different visual appearance, however rock does not aid in soil moisture retention and temperature moderation.

## Helping Your Tree Grow

Urban trees typically need 3-5 years to become established, during this time you can help your tree by:

- Leave the woodchip mulch surrounding the tree.
- Monitor the soil moisture under the woodchips and water during dry periods. Infrequent, once per week, deep watering is best.
- Do not install a raised bed or planter surrounding the tree.
- Do not install seasonal decorations or lights on the tree.
- Do not stake or install supports on the tree.
- Avoid lawn maintenance equipment near the tree. Removing portions of the bark significantly impacts the trees growth rate.
- Do not prune or remove branches from the tree.

If you have any questions regarding the proper care and maintenance of your boulevard tree please contact the Parks and Urban Forestry Department at 204.362.3999 or visit:

<http://www.mordenmb.com/city-services/urban-forest-program/>.

**REMINDER:** The City of Morden Parks and Urban Forestry Department is responsible for the planting, establishment, and maintenance of trees on city property. Activities such as pruning, staking, insect/disease control and removals is the responsibility of the City. If you should have a concern or would like to request an assessment please contact us. 204.362.3999 or [sdias@mordenmb.com](mailto:sdias@mordenmb.com).

*Morden*