

Custom Tree Care, Inc.  
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# CUSTOM TREE TIMES

WINTER 2007-2008

## SERVICES

Tree Pruning

Tree Removal

Stump Grinding

Tree Planting

24 Hour Emergency Service



We employ certified arborists by ISA & KAA

Licensed & Insured

Member of NE Kansas Better Business Bureau

## Avoid Volcano Mulching

Mulching is one the most beneficial things a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. As important as mulch is, too much can be harmful. Generally, the recommended mulching depth is 2 to 4 inches. Unfortunately, landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over mulching.

Benefits of Proper Mulching:

- Helps to maintain soil moisture.
- Helps to control weeds.
- Serves as a natural insulating blanket against weather.
- Can improve soil aeration.
- Reduces mower and weed eater damage to trunk.
- Gives trees a uniform and well-cared for look.



**Volcano mulching is not a proper technique..**

The two major types of mulch are inorganic, and organic. Inorganic mulches do not decompose and do not need to be replenished often. On the other hand they do not improve soil structure, add organic materials, or provide nutrients. Examples of inorganic mulches are various types of stones, lava rock, and rubber materials. Organic mulches include wood chips, pine needles, leaves, bark, and compost. Organic mulches decompose at different rates, depending on the material. Those that decompose faster must be replenished more often. Because the decomposition process improves soil quality, and fertility, many arborists consider this a positive characteristic despite the added maintenance. Deep mulch can lead to excessive moisture in the root zone, which can stress the tree and cause root rot. Piling mulch against the trunks may lead to insect and/or disease problems. Thick blankets of fine mulch may become matted and prevent the penetration of water and air. If mulch is already present, don't add any if there is a sufficient layer in place. If mulch is piled against the tree trunk, pull it back several inches so that the trunk and root crown are exposed. **Remember to mulch wide, not deep!**

## MIDWEST ICE STORM 2007

The night of December 10, 2007 ice began accumulating across a large portion of the Midwest. We at CTC began preparing for this major storm days in advance readying equipment and personnel. What came to follow for some, were days without power and significant damage to trees and power lines. The major areas affected were parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Calls immediately began to come in to our office from downed limbs and trees all across Topeka. We had three crews out working from sunrise to sunset seven days a week to stay caught up. I made arrangements to have 8 more bucket trucks delivered to us on a rental basis as we were getting calls to come to the Tulsa, OK area to assist in tree trimming and debris removal. On December 18th, our 11 trucks mobilized to Tulsa. One crew stayed behind to service our local clients. Upon my arrival in Tulsa, I noticed that the damage was much worse than here in Topeka. We trimmed broken limbs on contract for (4) cities in OK and (1) in MO. Our grapple truck was contracted by the City of Topeka to do the tree debris removal. It is now mid-February, and we are preparing to begin more ice storm contracts for the cities of St. Joseph, MO, Salina, KS, and Junction City, KS. Although Topeka was spared the worst of the damage, limbs that are broken and hanging should be removed to mitigate hazards. Trees with substantial crown loss should be considered for removal. Broken stubs should also be cut back to ensure proper healing. Please call us to assess any trees which have suffered damage from the recent ice storm. I hope everything is going well for you and your family and look forward to working with you in the upcoming spring.

\* We apologize for this late printing.

Greg Gathers  
President  
Custom Tree Care, Inc.





