

Too Mulch of a Good Thing *By the Silver Lake Tree Commission*

Spring brings time to be in the yard and look over your landscape for any potential issues. The Silver Lake Tree Commission would like to encourage you to look over your trees and bushes for girdling roots before new mulch is added or the grass starts growing.

Girdling roots cross over the flare at the base of a tree or shrub and can be caused by volcano mulching or a grower not removing the girdling root. The remedy is to find them when they are small and cut or saw them away from the trunk of the tree.

They look like this:



Girdling roots

The Village Service Department would like to remind you not to over mulch (called volcano mulching) the Village parkway trees to avoid this problem. Healthy mulch depths are no more than 2-3 inches and pulled away from the trunk flare. See image for proper use of mulch.



Healthy mulch



A healthy trunk flare with no girdling roots

To learn more, two helpful articles can be read at:

<https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/1215>

<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1006>