

D E E H A N S C A P E S

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008



D E E H A N
S C A P E S

Changing the Way you Relax...

Greetings from Jaime!



We don't agree with Kermit the Frog. It is easy being green! This is a recent article I'd

like to share from the *Irrigation and Green Industry Magazine*:

"Green is the new Black" and Eco Chick phenomena are changing landscaping, gardening and businesses as we know it today. Government (not usually associated with trend setting or innovation) is playing a major role in this market through new compliance and regulatory mandates around smart irrigation, water footprints, LEED stan-

dards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and general development. Research tells us that today more than five million American families are using all-natural gardening methods, while 34% of all corporations and 38% of all municipalities have green strategies in which landscaping is integral. The number of households who "definitely plan to use" all-natural gardening methods in the near future will exceed 13 million, and another 22 million families say they will probably use a combination of natural and conventional landscaping and garden methods.

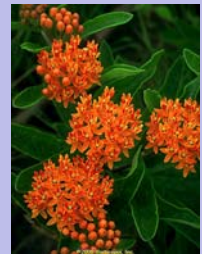
Environmental stewardship is not only smart and effective, it is downright strategically critical. A strong statement yes, but if you are sitting and waiting for Uncle Sam to make you act, your days are truly numbered! Some ways you can easily begin is by using environmentally safe products on your lawns, shrubs and trees, especially items like fertilizers and soil amendments. Using indigenous and native plants that are not intrusive to the environment is also a simple first step. Build a smart water feature that will create an ecosystem attracting a myriad of animal and plant life". *Article by Judith Guido, Irrigation & Green Industry Magazine, February 2008.*

Jaime Deehan, Founder & President

P.S. Remember, we were GREEN before green was cool!

Keeping our clients informed...

NATIVE PERENNIALS!



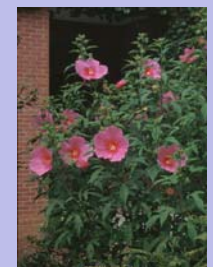
Butterfly Weed



Gayfeather



Ironweed



Hibiscus



Virginia Blueballs

Cate's Corner

This past January I received a surprising yet impressive letter from my Virginia state delegate. My initial thought was to recycle the annoying piece of mail, but for some reason I decided to respond to his constituent survey. Not being politically active other than voting in major elections, I decided to let my congressman know what was really important to me. And low and behold, he responded with very thoughtful responses to my concerns and has asked me for a meeting this fall to discuss the issues further so that they could be incorporated into next year's legislative bills!

Two of my suggestions addressed conserving our natural resources with respect to tree preservation during land development as well as reduction of landscape refuse in our landfills. Being somewhat skeptical of our political system, it's nice to know that someone out there is listening.



The Rotunda, VA State Capitol



Changing the Way you Relax...

Stop the Mulch Volcanoes!



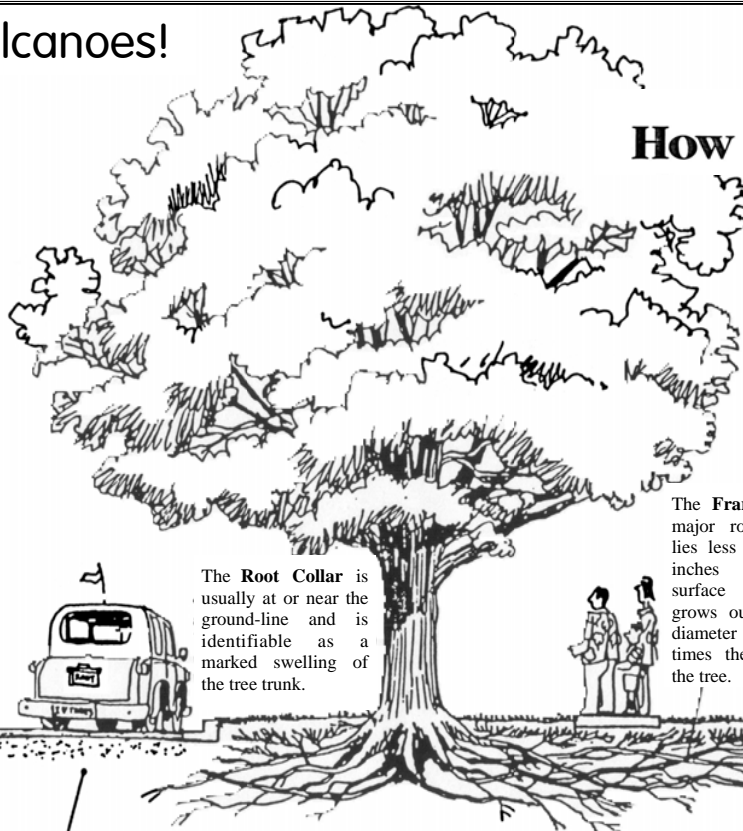
Proper Mulching Method



Improper Mulching Method



Mulch Depth too Deep



How Roots Really Work

A complex network of smaller non-woody **Feeder Roots** grow outward and upward from the framework roots. These smaller root branch 4 or more times to form fans or mats of thousands of fine, short, non-woody roots. These slender roots, with their tiny root hairs, provide the major portion of the absorption surface of a tree's root system. They compete directly with the roots of grass and groundcovers.

The **Framework** of major roots usually lies less than 8—12 inches below the surface and often grows outward to a diameter one to two times the height of the tree.

The **Root Collar** is usually at or near the ground-line and is identifiable as a marked swelling of the tree trunk.

Because **Roots Need Oxygen** in order to grow they don't normally grow in the compacted, oxygen poor soils under paved streets.

Note: A few species have a **Taproot** that grows straight down three to seven feet or more until they encounter impenetrable soil or rock layers, or reach layers with insufficient supplies of oxygen.

Illustration from *International Society of Arboriculture*.

Information was borrowed extensively from articles by Chris Carlson, Dir. Hort.Tech, Kent State Univ.; Diane Relf, Environ. Hort., VA Coop Ext, VA Tech; Dr. Robertt. Nuss, Hort., Penn State Univ.; Donald Rakow, Cornell Univ.

Top 8 Mulching Tips

1. **Cultivate existing Mulch:** Reduce mulch compaction and allow existing mulch to decompose naturally. Remove excess if needed.
2. **Pull Mulch & Soil away from the Trunk:** Expose the root collar around the base of the trunk to allow for strength and stability.
3. **Mulch to the Drip Line:** Reduce competition for water from turf & understory plants, as trees grow, the drip line expands outward.
4. **Mulch OUT not UP:** Not more than 2 inches total depth to allow oxygen to the root zone. *Greater than 2 inches is not better!*
5. **Top dress Mulch:** Refresh the mulch each season with a thin layer of new mulch. Remember to cultivate exiting mulch first.
6. **Protect Tree Trunks & Surface Roots:** A barrier of mulch around the trunk gives protection from lawn mowers and weed trimmers.
7. **Mulch to Reduce Water Loss:** A layer of mulch will help retain soil moisture.
8. **Reduce Weeds:** Use mulch to cover weed seeds to prevent germination.