

## FOCUS ON FLARE – A WORKSHOP

### *Understanding the Effects of Mulch on Tree Health*

September 10, 2010-- 9:00 am to noon--Hopkins Green—Lexington

**Workshop Overview:** Mulching is a common landscape practice that only benefits plants if it is done correctly. Participants in this workshop will gain hands-on experience with inspecting root flares of trees for potential problems and applying mulch.

**Workshop Goals:** Participants Will:

1. Understand the benefits of mulch in the landscape
2. Be able to identify a root flare and a graft union on a tree
3. Recognize proper and improper mulching in the landscape
4. Understand how improper mulching can cause girdling roots
5. Understand the effects of girdling roots on tree health
6. Perform a root collar inspection and recognize root collar problems
7. Learn some techniques to ameliorate root collar problems

#### **Workshop preparation: (1.0 hours MG CEU) BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

The instructors wish you to arrive at the workshop with some knowledge, so we can spend most of our time in hands-on activities or at least watching hands-on activities. You should visit one or more of the following websites to learn more about mulching and stem girdling roots. Read and study **at least** the information at the first three links listed here:

1. Gilman, University of Florida. *Overmulched Trees*. <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/overmulched.shtml>
2. Gilman: *Roots Girdling the Base of the Trunk*—follow all 5 blue links below the main title:  
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/rootcirclingpine.shtml>
3. Johnson & Hauer, University of Minnesota. *A Practitioner's Guide to Stem-Girdling Roots of Trees*.  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD7501.html>

Read the entire publication by following the various links under "Contents".

Optional reading:

4. Bartlett Labs. *Root Collar Disorders*. <http://www.bartlett.com/resources/Root-Collar-Disorders.pdf>
5. Foti Tree Service. *Root Collar Inspections*. <http://www.fotitree.com/treeservices/rootcollar.htm>
6. Bartlett Labs. *Phytophthora Root Rots*.  
<http://www.onlinegardener.com/disease/Phytophthora%20root%20rot.pdf>

**Tools You Should Bring:** Trowel, small digging tools, pruners, mulching fork, gloves, eye protection. Optional: knee pads. *Label your stuff.*

#### **Workshop Schedule:**

9:00	Meet at Hopkins Green; Introduce Instructors, Overview of Activities
9:15 to 9:45	Demonstration of Root Collar Excavations by Instructors
9:45 to 10:45	Divide into Groups for hands-on RCEs
10:45 to 11:00	Break for refreshments. Outline mulching tasks for Hopkins Green.
11:00 to noon	Install mulch at Hopkins Green
MG CEU =	

**Instructors:** Betty Besal, City Arborist, Lexington City;