

Fruit of the Loam

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Getting your young trees to actually grow

For years we at the Green Haus have been encouraging homeowners to not let the grass grow up next to your young trees. Now K-State has done some research on this particular problem and the results are interesting.

K-State found that allowing grass to grow next to the trunk of young trees was a very bad thing to do. Strangely, there was no difference in tree growth between mulched trees and bare soil around trees but in the test where grass was allowed to grow around the trees growth was significantly reduced.

So let us revisit the recommendation for trees newly planted up to about 5-10 years along in your yard. We encourage and so does K-State now, about a three foot circle, grass free area around your trees. No grass, no flowers and no plants what so ever in that three foot circle. Then mulch the area to conserve moisture and stop weed growth.

How many times have I been called on the phone or told in person by someone, “My trees are not growing very fast.” Then when I go look at their trees they have grass or flowers right next to their trees that are not mulched. The trees usually are scarred from mower and weed eater damage also.

So mulch your trees. We also sell tree guards that will help you. *Hi Yield Killzall* is safe to use next to the tree to kill the grass or weeds growing as long as no trees leaves next to the ground from sucker growth.

While you are working to protect your trees sprinkle a little fertilizer around that newly mulched area. My guess is your trees will grow this summer! We grow our own and that's the difference.

To keep up to date on the Green Haus go to
<http://www.kansasprepfootball.com/Green%20Haus.htm>

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