Melcourt®
Industries Limited
Proven • Safe • Sustainable

Landscape Design and Installation using Melcourt Products

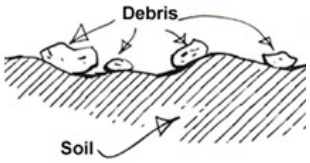
Covering...

1. Newly Planted Areas **2.** Existing Planted Areas **3**. Designing Out the Problems **4.** How to accurately check the mulch depth

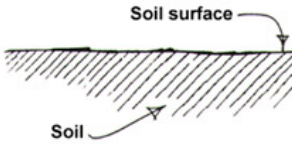
1. Newly Planted Areas

Before planting, the soil surface should be raked over, removing any large stones, building rubble and debris.

It is also very important to remove any perennial weeds. If the soil surface is not even, it will be extremely difficult to install and to subsequently check the mulch spreading depth.



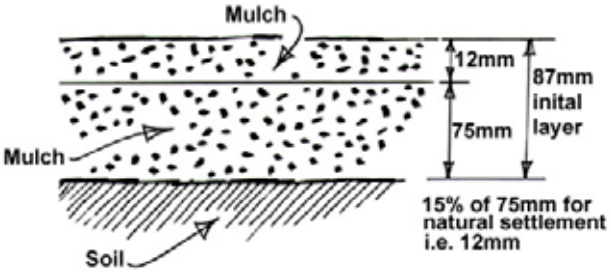
Side View before levelling



Side View after levelling and removal of debris

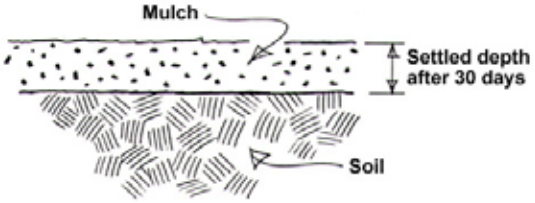
Apply the mulch evenly onto the soil surface, to the minimum spreading depth as set out in the Contract Bill of Quantities, plus the stated percentage as shown for natural settlement, after 30 days.

Side View



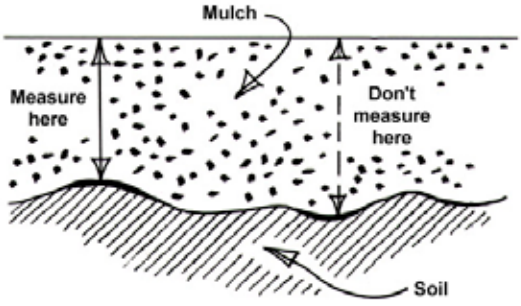
For example: Melcourt Amenity Bark Mulch

Side View



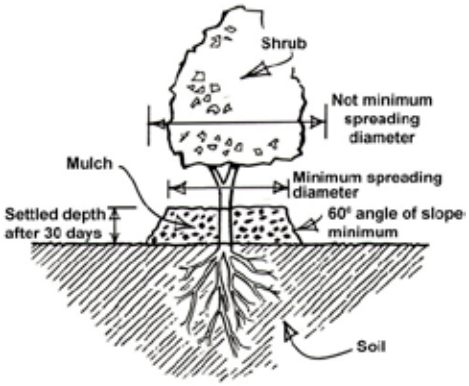
About 30 days after spreading, the mulch should have naturally settled by the settlement depth shown at right, to give the minimum desired settled depth.
Note : The mulch should be applied after completion of planting, not before.

The mulch should not be used to 'even out' areas where the soil has not been properly levelled, as it will be difficult to check the finished spreading depth. If this is done however, the minimum recorded depth should be taken as the actual minimum depth, not the average depth.
Side View



If the settled mulching depth was required at 75mm, but only installed by the contractor at 65mm, this would represent a 13% cost saving to the contractor.

When the area immediately adjacent to the planted items are to be mulched, rake level the soil within the immediate vicinity only.
Install mulch as shown.



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1. Newly Planted Areas

Usually this situation occurs when:
- a mulch was not applied immediately after the original planting.
- the mulch did not perform as required. This could be because the wrong grade was selected, or it was not correctly installed.
- the overall appearance of the landscaped area needs enhancing.

The following procedure should be followed:
1 As above for Newly Planted areas.
2 Remove any unwanted weeds by either hand hoeing or chemical spraying.
3 During regular maintenance work (to replace dead plants, pruning or general 'tidying-up'), top up any bare or thin patches with the same grade of mulch, as used originally.

3.Designing out problems

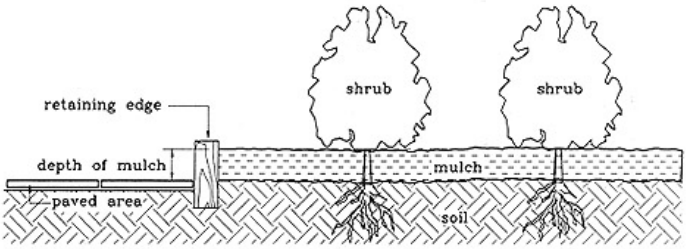
The following examples illustrate the most common landscape design and product application problems. With correct design detail and on-site application, these faults are easily overcome.

***PROBLEM*: Mulch spread and maintained at below the recommended depth, allowing bare earth to show.**

SOLUTION:
1. Ensure that correct product specification, together with installation depth and an allowance for settlement is set out in the Tender documents
2. Use the details on the website to review all the relevant potential products. If you still need help, either call us on 01666 502711, or complete our On-line Product selection Enquiry form
3. Ensure that the contractor adheres to product specification and application depth as set out in the Tender documents.
4. Carefully check mulched area 30 days after installation, to ensure that the mulch has been correctly installed to the specified depth. Refer to How to Check Mulch Depth (below).

***PROBLEM*: Mulch spilling from planted area, particularly narrow beds, onto adjacent surface**

SOLUTION:
Incorporate edging, so that the mulch and soil is retained within the planted bed



***PROBLEM*: Poor visual appearance caused by wrong product selection**

SOLUTION:
1. Careful product selection, based on site requirements.
2. Use the details on the website to review all the relevant potential products. If you still need help, either call us on 01666 502711, or complete our On-line Product Selection Enquiry form
3. Review the Melcourt Product Specification and Performance Guide and Melcourt Product Selection Guide.

***PROBLEM*: Wrong product selection, which could increase fire risk.**

SOLUTION:
Use a bark based, not wood based mulch which has been fire tested in accordance with British Standard 4790:1987.

PROBLEM: Mulch 'migrating' down slope and not effectively covering soil.

SOLUTION:

1. Select mulch with known stability characteristics on slopes.
2. Do not use geotextile membrane under the mulch, as the membrane will cause the mulch to slide downwards.
3. Do not allow the contractor to supply a product without first checking the 'stability on slopes'. Refer to Line 20 in Melcourt Product Specification and Performance Guide

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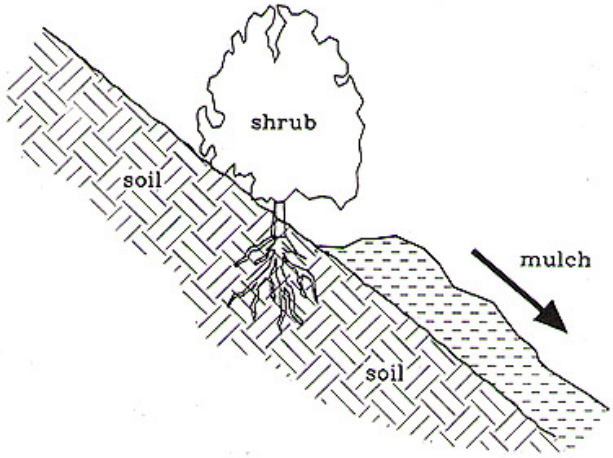

PROBLEM: As a cost saving, the mulch was taken out of the contract. During subsequent hot, dry weather, the plants died

SOLUTION:

1. Do not, under any circumstances allow the mulch to be deleted from the scheme. If you have a budget problem:-
2. Contact us to discuss other suitable products.

4. How to Accurately Check the Mulch Depth

The mulch depth should be checked about 30 days after installation, using the following simple procedure:-

1. Carefully remove the mulch material, from to the soil surface, using a garden spade, rake or similar tool.
2. Ensure that the excavated mulch is put into one heap.

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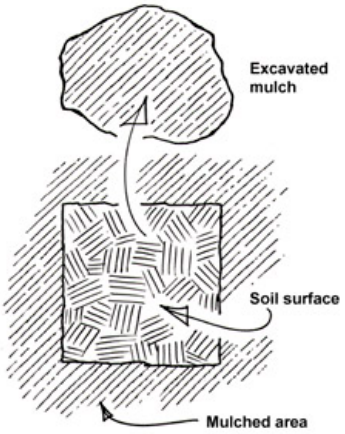

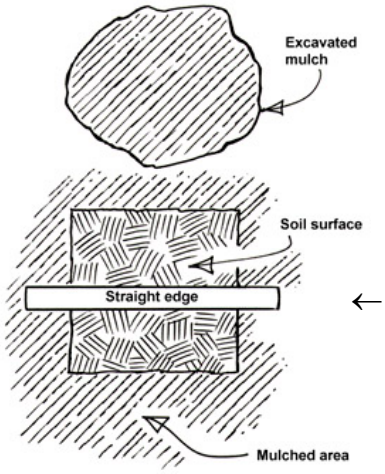

← 3. Lay a straight edge, of at least 1 metre long, across the adjacent mulch.

4. Carefully measure the vertical distance from the bottom of the straight edge, to the soil surface.
5. Record measured depth.
6. Backfill the sampled area with excavated mulch and firm down to existing adjacent mulched area.

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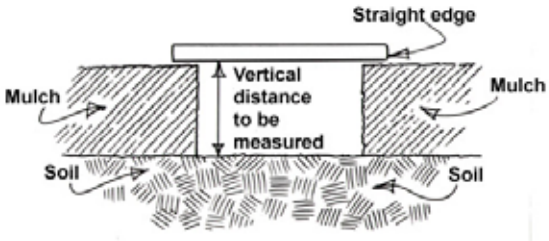

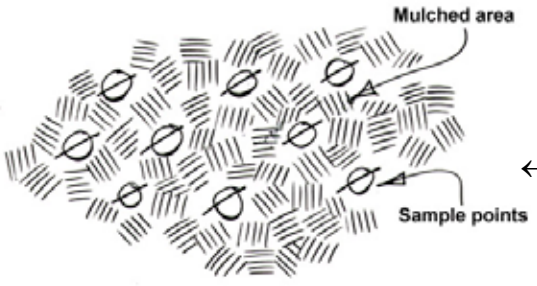

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7. Using the same procedure as above, take a number of measurements throughout the mulched area.
8. Compare the measurements taken on site, with the required spreading depth, after natural settlement, as stated in the Contract Bill of Quantities. Any 'under' spreading depth or 'low areas' should be re-installed correctly, at the contractors cost.
9. Remember that a 10mm less quantity on a 75mm depth, could represent a 13.3% cost saving to the contractor. For a quantity of say 1,000m^3, this could represent a saving to the contractor in the region of £2660.00 for the material alone!!!