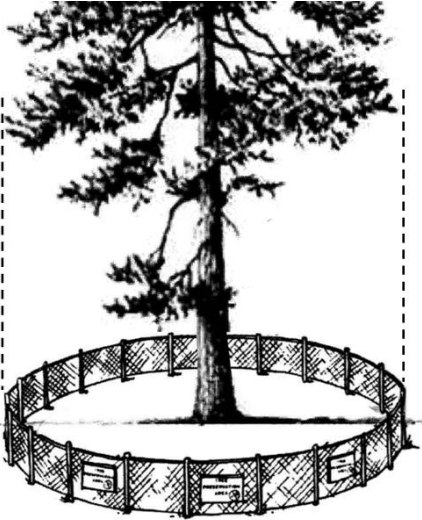


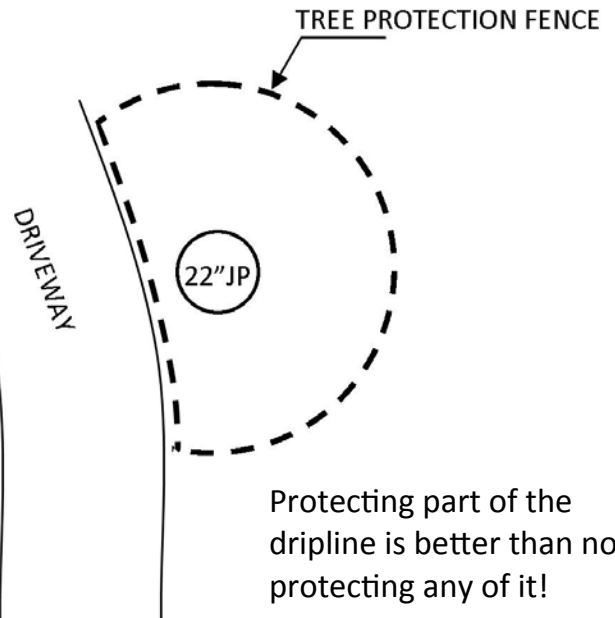
## TREE PROTECTION FENCING



The entire dripline of a tree should be protected whenever possible, because:

- ◆ A tree's most important roots are within the dripline zone
- ◆ Roots need air to survive:  
**soil compaction = no air for roots = tree suffers and may die**
- ◆ A tree may not show signs of compaction stress for 5 or more years— and by then it's too late to save the tree

If site constraints don't allow for protection of a tree's entire dripline, fence off as much of the dripline as possible. The higher percentage of a tree's roots that are protected, the higher the chance of that tree's survival.



Protecting part of the dripline is better than not protecting any of it!

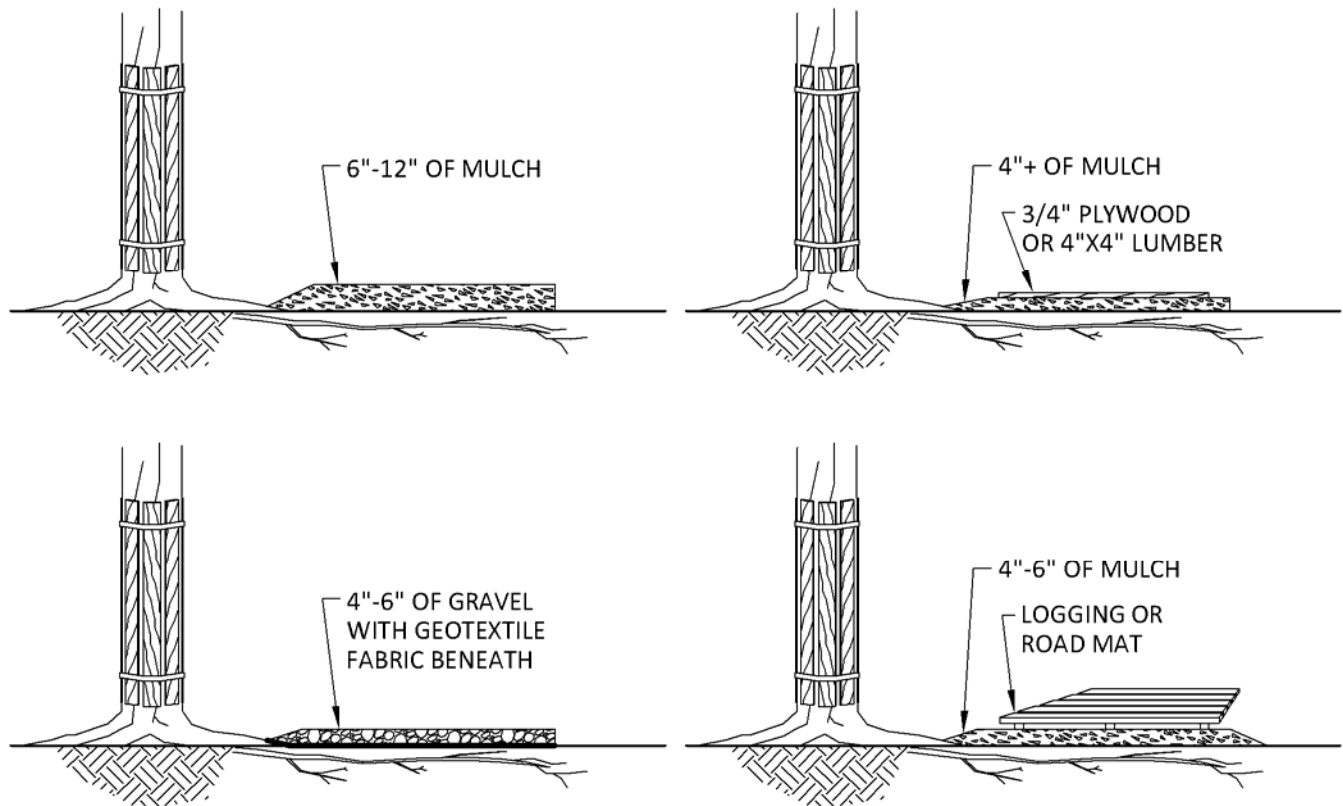
## DON'T PILE ANYTHING INSIDE THE DRIPLINE

Most of a tree's fine roots (the ones that absorb water and minerals) are within 12 inches of the surface. Even a few inches of soil piled over the root system can smother the fine roots and lead to root and tree decline and death.



## WORKING INSIDE THE DRIPLINE

**Activity within the dripline of a tree must be authorized by and discussed with TRPA in the field before it may occur.** If work or traffic has been approved within the dripline area, the following techniques can be used to help reduce compaction of the soil and roots. Traffic should still be minimized as much as possible, and these treatments should be removed as soon as the activity is finished. **Treatments within the dripline may only be placed by hand, unless otherwise authorized in writing by TRPA.**



## ROOT PRUNING TECHNIQUES

When roots are encountered during excavation, they should be carefully pruned rather than left torn or crushed. Although plant material doesn't "heal," callous material forms over wounds and prevents infection. Less exposed root material results in a lower chance of infection. It's a good idea to prune all fine roots encountered; roots >1" diameter must always be pruned.

- ◆ Cut roots as far away from the trunk as possible
- ◆ Use loppers, a hand saw, or a small chain saw to make a clean vertical cut
- ◆ Leave adjacent root bark intact