

Reusing Landscape Debris by Mulching

The Country Club of Naples
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The Problem

The on-going maintenance of trees and landscape plants at a golf facility can produce considerable amounts of debris. Collecting and hauling landscape debris off-site to a landfill is expensive and time consuming. Therefore, The Country Club of Naples sought a method to reuse landscape debris on-site.

The Solution

Several years ago, The Country Club of Naples hired an outside contractor with a large grinder and loader to mulch landscape trimmings. The material was ground on-site into coarse mulch and piled near the maintenance facility for the golf course crew to spread around trees and shrubs. Mulch benefits landscape plants by helping keep surrounding soil moist, reducing weed seed germination and protecting plants from mower damage.

The Results

The mulch generated by the grinder is coarser than typical mulch or pine straw but it saves the course \$7,000 to \$10,000 annually by not having to haul the waste off-site. Additionally, landscape material is kept out of local landfills. Because the mulch looks different, it was necessary to educate golfers on the environmental benefits and cost savings of the mulching program.

Mulching and reusing landscape debris has been a success at The Country Club of Naples. For several years now, recycled mulch has been used around trees and shrubs on the property. In high-use areas of the golf course, pine straw is used around trees to improve playing quality and aesthetics.



Figure 1 - Mulching landscape waste and using it on-site saves money and keeps material out of local landfills.