

Instructional Scenario



Landscape Maintenance

Course/Duty Area: Horticulture Sciences: Investigating the Landscape Industry

Scenario: Malachai is an 18-year-old senior who is studying landscaping in a high school program. He applied for and was hired for a part-time entry-level position at a local landscaping maintenance company called BNS Landscaping. He is very excited to go to work and receives training on what is expected of him.

One morning at 7:00 a.m., Malachai joins his supervisor at a client's job site. He receives specific instructions on mulching a garden bed that includes a medium size tree, shrubs, and perennials. All have been recently pruned. He completes the task enthusiastically, mulching the garden to the proper depth of three inches. When his supervisor checks his work, he finds that the mulch is covering the recently pruned perennials and is spread all over the sidewalk. Malachai also left his tools leaning up against the tree.

Big Question: What steps should Malachai have taken to satisfactorily complete the job?

Focused Questions:

- What should Malachai have done with the tools he was using?
- Is it a good idea to cover up freshly pruned perennials with mulch. Why or why not?
- In what condition should he have left the sidewalks?

Student Project or Outcome: Students should choose the necessary tools to mulch a garden area. They should begin by measuring the area and calculating the amount of mulch needed for a three-inch-deep application to the entire garden area. The next step is to purchase the mulch. The students should use the proper personal protective equipment and tools, ensuring they clean up their tools, sweep any sidewalks, and uncover any plants that were accidentally covered with mulch.

Teacher Resources:

- [Mulching Basics](#). California Native Plant Society.
- Kopsell, D. [Garden Mulches Fact Sheet](#). (2016). University of New Hampshire.

Instructional scenario submitted by Jennifer Mazza, ACE Center Hermitage, Henrico County Public Schools