

GyroTrac



A *GyroTrac* is a machine used to mulch shrubs and trees that have gotten too large to control with burning or mowing. The generic term for this type of machine is **forestry mulcher**. A *GyroTrac* is the brand name of one company's version of a forestry mulcher. The Spring Island Trust occasionally uses forestry mulchers to remove the vegetation in an area so it can be maintained with fire or mowing.



Workers sharpen the teeth on their mulchers

Forestry mulchers have a rotating drum head that contains numerous steel teeth that pulverize shrubs and trees into wood chips. They are equipped with tank-like treads to allow them to move through thick vegetation and minimize soil disturbance. The operator sits in a sealed

cabin to protect against flying debris. If you ever see a *GyroTrac* working, make sure you give it plenty of room.

One benefit of using a *GyroTrac* is that it quickly produces aesthetically-pleasing results (if you like the clean park-like look). For this reason, we use forestry mulchers in areas where a clean look is needed, such as along roadsides or in community spaces.



The clean look of a recently mulched area

As their name suggests, forestry mulchers turn woody vegetation into mulch. Depending on how much vegetation was previously in the area, the thickness of the mulch layer determines how long it takes for the area to fully recover. Because of this, a *GyroTrac* is not always the best method to use in an area. Over time the mulch layer will decompose.



The mulch left behind can temporarily suppress the growth of new vegetation