

## Castle Hill—Soil & Mulch That Work

### Castle Hill, Ipswich, MA

Castle Hill is a grand seaside estate with marvelously landscaped grounds, notable for its broad, undulating lawn running down to the shore. It is maintained by the Trustees of Reservation, an organization whose mission it is to preserve, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts.

The challenge at Castle Hill for Bob Murray, facility manager, was how to replace hundreds of trees that line the lawn leading to the ocean and ensure that they will thrive as well as maintain a good appearance immediately after planting. Ongoing events at the estate require that it look good continuously.

It was decided that Agresoil Compost, made in Ipswich, be used in the backfill for the tree planting. The compost, blended in at 25 percent by volume, provided a high-organic soil that allowed roots to quickly establish. Tree survivability exceeded expectations in the first year and the evergreens continue to thrive.

Additionally, in order to maintain a good appearance, the compost was used as mulch around the trees. It did not have to be raked up each year and continues to feed the soil with nutrients and organic matter.

