

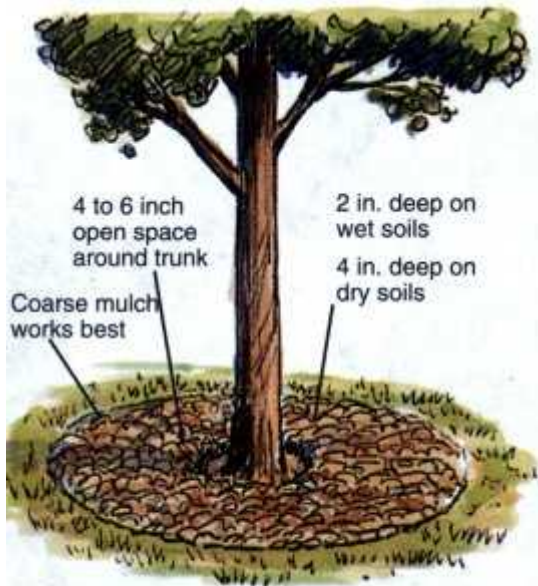
Proper Mulching

Many homeowners know that mulch helps trees by keeping the ground moist, preventing damage from lawn mowers and keeping out weeds. However, improper mulching kills trees! Mulch should never be piled up into a cone around a tree trunk. These "mulch volcanoes" are killing trees and are wasting money on excess mulch. According to The Arbor Day Foundation, mulch piled against the trunk can encourage decaying fungi, kill the tissue of the inner bark, and harbor animals that gnaw on bark. Also, if the mulch layer is too deep, the roots won't get enough air.



Incorrect: Mulch piled too deep or close around trunk may be hazardous to your tree.

Mulch should be placed in a **donut** shape around the trunk, starting 4 to 6 inches from the trunk and out to the drip line, and 2 to 4 inches deep. Here's a good way to remember this - Make Donuts, Not Volcanoes!



Correct: Mulch is a tree's best friend, but it must be used correctly.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.arborday.org/treeinfo/treebasics/?question=86>
