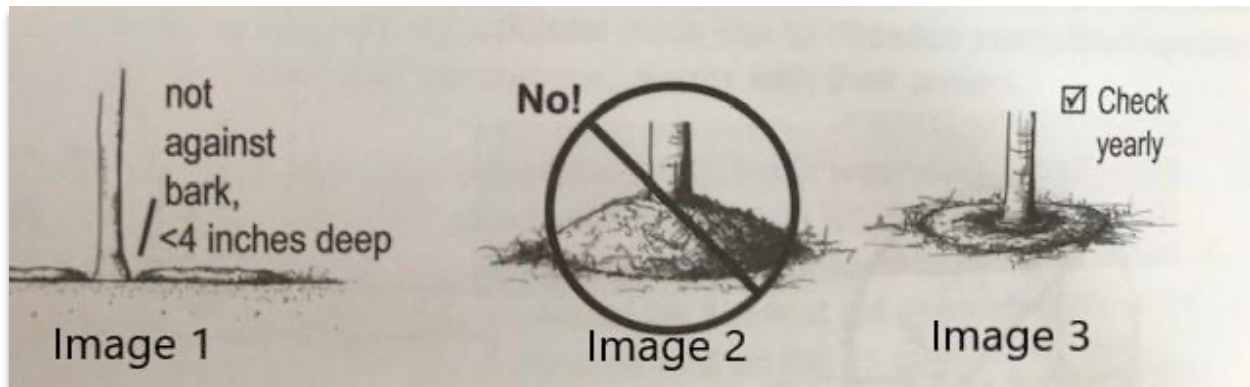


Donuts vs Volcanoes

Tree Mulching Basics



From: *Tree Owner's Manual*- USDA Forest Service

Mulching is an important step to encourage proper growth and longevity of your trees. Organic wood chips are best as they will eventually decompose, enriching the tree's soil.

Every spring, review mulch levels of your trees and add mulch as needed.

Image 1: Mulch levels should be approximately three inches in depth and not touch the tree trunk. Mulch piled against the tree creates heat and moisture which can cause disease and rot and can attract insects or rodents.

Image 2: Mulch should be spread in a donut shape around the trunk with the center ring free of organic material.

Image 3: This inner trough allows water to collect and be absorbed after rainfall or watering. As the tree grows, widen the diameter of the mulch donut. This allows both water and oxygen to reach the tree's roots.

Proper mulching will promote healthy trees that provide shade and beauty for years to come.

- For information on planting and pruning techniques, consult the *Tree Owner's Manual* published by the USDA Forest Service. www.treeownersmanual.info

This article is presented by the Bound Brook Shade Tree Commission. Our mission is to improve the quantity and quality of the shade trees in the community forest and to foster an appreciation of the importance of trees in the Borough.

If you have questions or would like to become involved with the Shade Tree Commission, contact: **Bound Brook Borough Hall, 230 Hamilton St Bound Brook, NJ 08805. 732-356-0833**