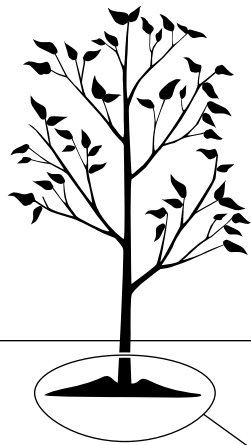
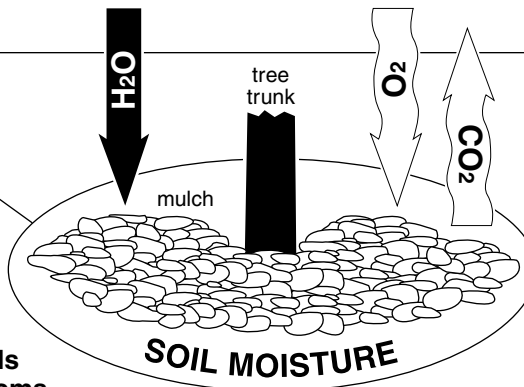


**Penn State Pointers ► Mulching Plants and Shrubs for Growth and Health**



Typically apply mulch from 2 to 4 inches deep.

To help reduce rot, avoid piling materials against trunks or stems.



Coarse mulch applied at the proper depth allows:

- Oxygen to enter the soil
- Carbon dioxide to exit soil
- Water to reach soil and roots
- Soil to retain moisture

**Choose a mulch...**

- with consistent color and texture
- that resists compaction
- that resists wind and water erosion
- with a slow rate of decomposition
- that reduces weed growth

Graphics / Illustration: Tom Laird, College of Agricultural Sciences. © Penn State 2000

Additional graphics and information available on the Internet at [aginfo.psu.edu/psp](http://aginfo.psu.edu/psp)

**For Spring/Summer/Fall Time Frame**