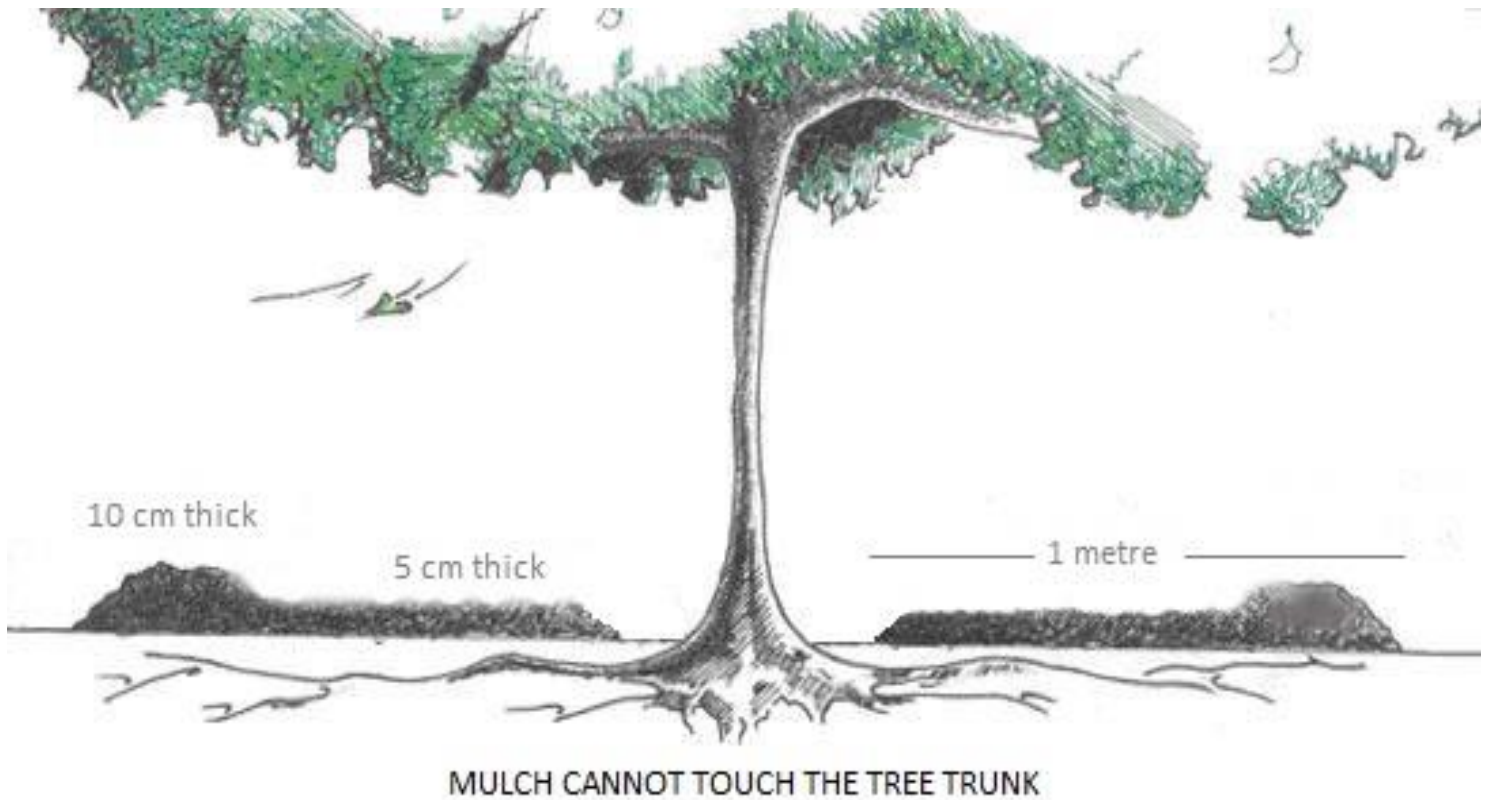


MULCHING TIPS

Mulching is important for keeping the soil moist as well as providing extra nutrients for the tree. It also helps keep roots cool in the summer and insulated in the winter. This is especially needed for young trees to grow properly. Mulch also suppresses the growth of weeds and competing grasses.

Mulching of Trees and Shrubs:



1. Mulch shall consist only of woody material. Do not use grass clippings as mulch. The grass clippings are toxic to the tree once they are broken down.
2. Tree mulch shall be applied 50 centimeters from the main stem at a thickness of 5 cm $\frac{2}{3}$ of the radius and 10 cm for the edge adding up to a radius of 1 metre- **see diagram**.
3. **MULCH CANNOT TOUCH THE TRUNK OF THE TREE.** This promotes excess moisture against the bark causing rot and ultimately the death of the tree.
4. Volcano type mulch mounds are to be avoided at all times.
5. For shrub beds, mulch shall be applied evenly at a thickness of 75 – 100 millimeters (3-4 inches).
6. Any landscaping interlock, rocks, cement, or regrading around the base of the tree will compact the root system and restrict air flow, preventing newly planted trees from growing properly. The roots will be of poor quality and the tree will grow stunted, weak, and unappealing. On a mature tree, the compaction of the root system will affect the respiration processes of the tree, killing it.
7. Artificial turf around or on top of the root system will severely restrict the addition of nutrients and moisture to the soil. This will cause the tree to slowly die as it cannot absorb water or nutrients through their roots.