



**S&S**  
**TREE AND HORTICULTURAL SPECIALIST**

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## MULCHING TREES AND SHRUBS

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The placement of four to six inches of organic mulch on top of the soil beneath the canopy of a tree or shrub is easily one of the best ways of improving their health and vigor. Any type of organic mulch such as leaf litter, shredded bark and twigs, peat moss, and wood chips, when placed correctly, will provide the following benefits:

- Maintains and conserves soil moisture
- Prevents large soil temperature changes
- Protects root system and trunk from mechanical injury
- Reduces if not eliminates weed and other plant competition
- Improve nutrient levels in the soil
- Improves soil properties such as aeration and drainage
- Prevents soil compaction

When placing mulch under trees, please keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk that will help prevent trunk decay. In addition, avoid using plastic or landscape fabrics under the mulch because they restrict water and air movement in the soil and can lead to increased soil temperatures.

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**NOBODY KNOWS TREES BETTER**

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