

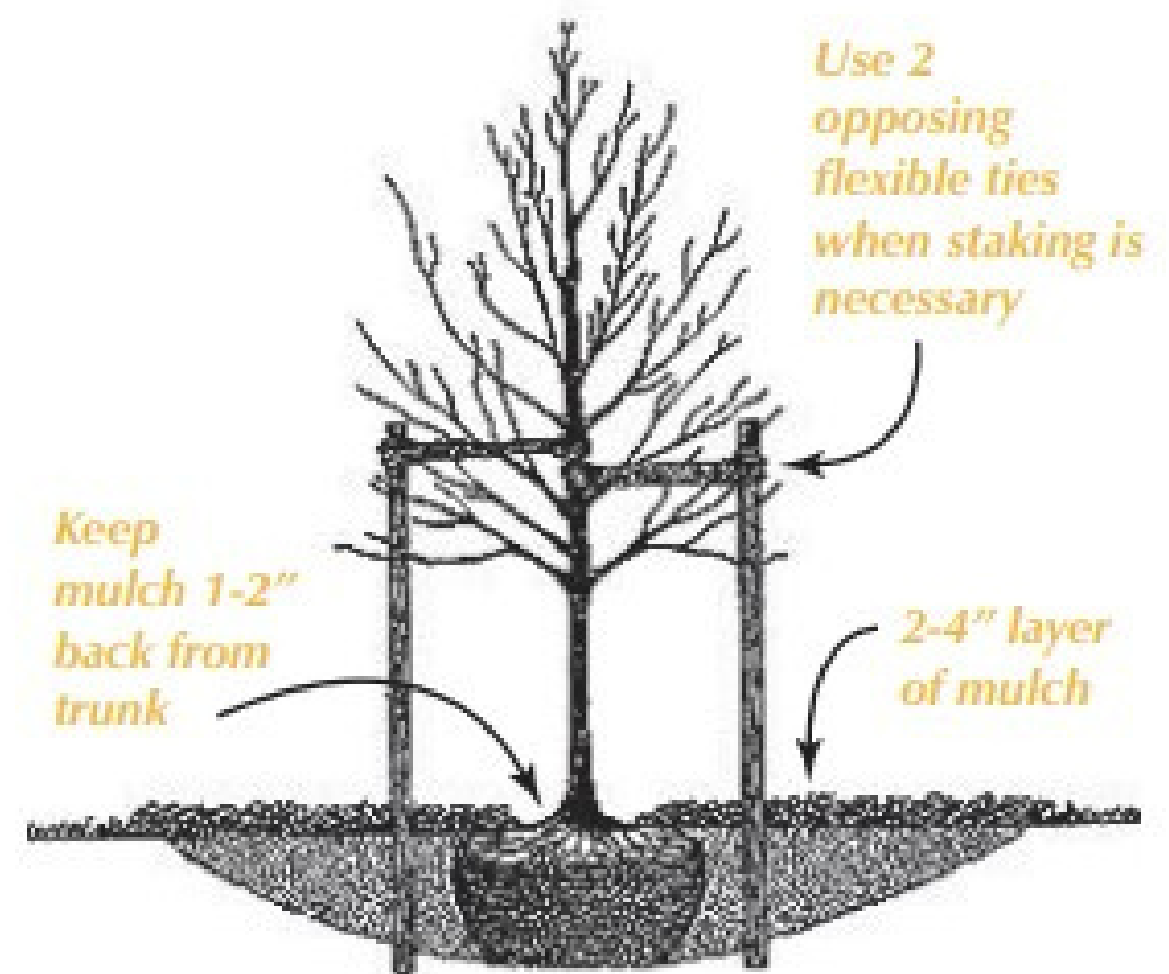


Tree Maintenance: Staking and Mulching

After planting a tree, there is care and maintenance that can be done to help ensure it's survival. Placing mulch around seedlings or largesstock trees helps reduce competition from other vegetation. Additionally, for large deciduous trees, stakes should be installed to help the tree grow properly.

Staking Your Trees

- Larger deciduous trees that are taller are prone to excessive movement. Stakes should be installed.
- Use 2 stakes Place stakes parallel with the prevailing wind, one on either side of the tree. For smaller trees, 1 stake can be used on the "upwind" side of the tree.
- Using a hammer, drive these stakes into the ground, keeping the stake away from the backfill of the hole and roots of the tree.
- Wrap twine around the stake and tree, leaving the ties slightly loose to allow natural movement of the tree. Wire with a piece of garden hose can work as an alternative.
- Check on the stakes regularly insuring they are functioning properly. Remove stakes once the tree is stable enough to support the crown.



Mulching Your Trees

- Mulch acts as a blanket at the base of your tree, holding moisture for the tree, regulating temperature and controlling competing grasses and weeds
- There are a variety of products that can be used as mulch such as wood chips, peat moss, leaf litter, shredded bark and coconut mats.
- When placing mulch, apply a layer that is 2-4 inches deep, more than 4 inches can cause issues with gas exchange
- At the base of the tree, only apply 1-2 inches of mulch against the base of the tree. Greater than 2 inches of mulch against the tree can cause damage and decay of the bark at the base of the tree.
- For the best results, apply mulch to your trees on a yearly basis.



Proper technique of applying mulch to a tree



"Cocomats" are a great substitute for mulch