

Landscaping Tips: Volcano Mulching is Bad!

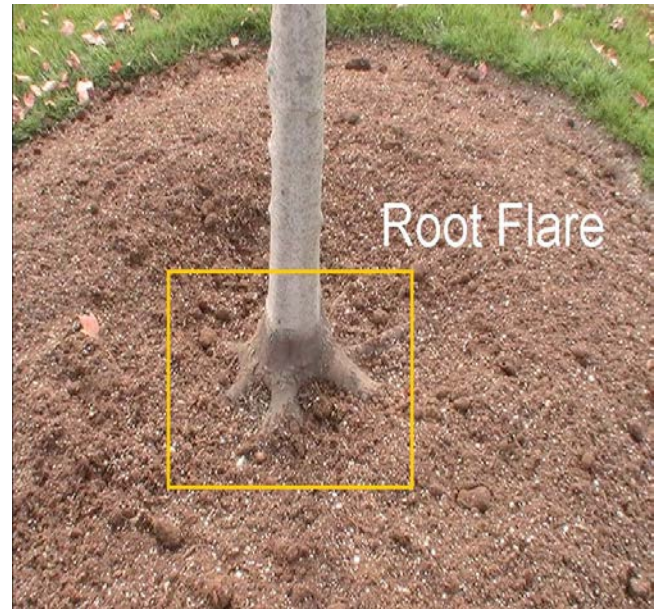
Mulch Volcano



Not a
mulch volcano, but
still *incorrectly*
planted and mulched



When a tree is properly
planted and mulched, the
Root Flare is *always* visible



Too much mulch around the trunk of a tree can sometimes look like a volcano. However, sometimes, the mulch layer may only be a couple of inches deep, but the underlying soil piled against the trunk can be as much as a foot deep! The point is that **any soil or mulch piled above the root flare** is likely to damage the tree in the long run.

No visible root flare can lead to several potential problems:

1. Poor root-development due to reduced oxygen availability
2. Stem-girdling roots that can eventually kill the tree
3. Bark and trunk decay
4. Stunted growth
5. Weak trees susceptible to insects and disease infestations

For more information about proper planting and mulching, visit the web site of the **International Society of Arboriculture** at

<http://www.treesaregood.com/treeowner/treeownerinformation.aspx>