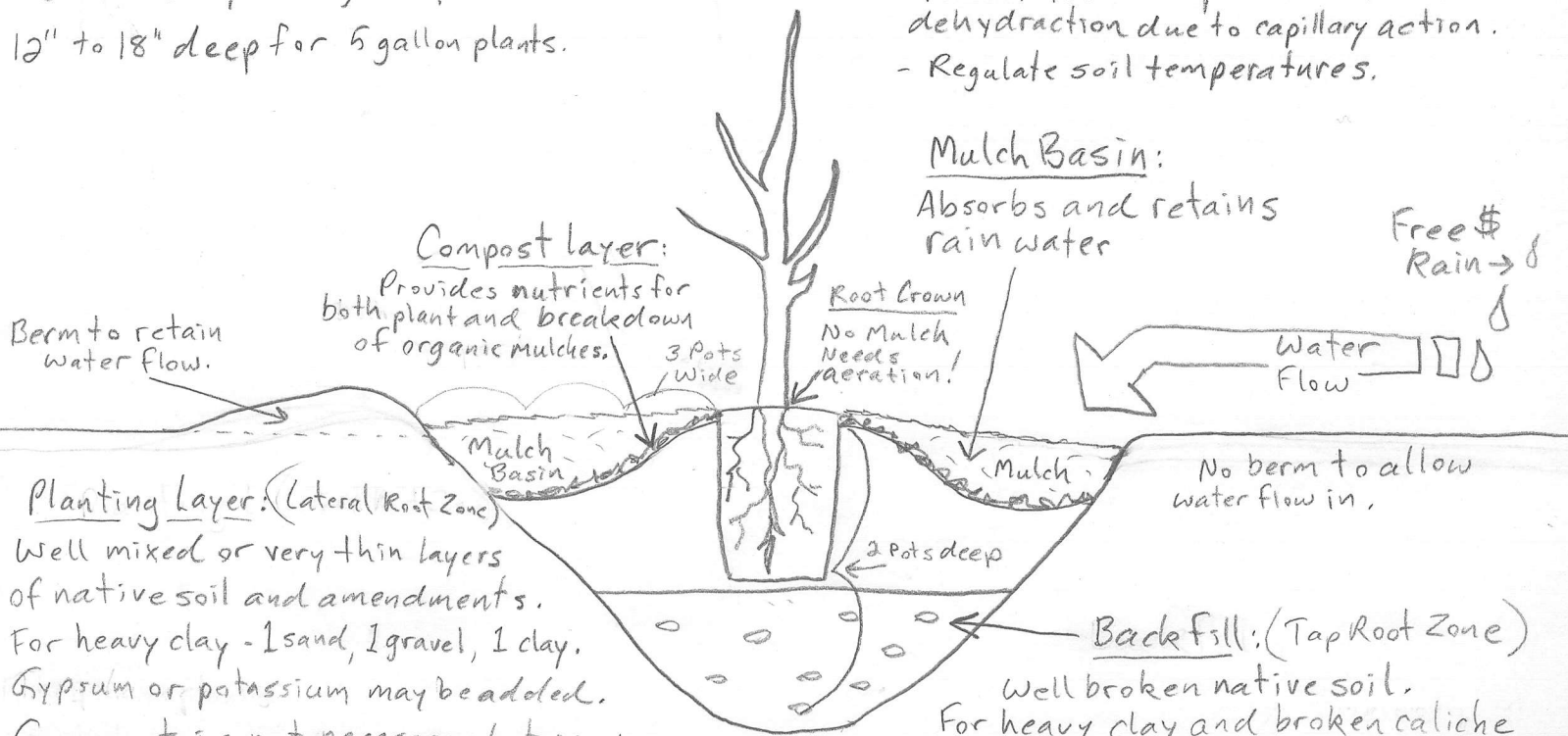


# Mulch Basin Planting

Mulch basin should be  
 8" to 9" deep for 1 gallon plants.  
 12" to 18" deep for 5 gallon plants.

- Harvest and retain more water than with flat surface mulching.
- Protect from evaporation and dehydration due to capillary action.
- Regulate soil temperatures.



## Mulch Basin:

Absorbs and retains rain water

Free \$ Rain →

### Planting Layer: (Lateral Root Zone)

Well mixed or very thin layers of native soil and amendments.  
 For heavy clay - 1 sand, 1 gravel, 1 clay.  
 Gypsum or potassium may be added.  
 Compost is not necessary but may be added lightly if you cannot help yourself.  
 For riparian plants no greater than 25% compost to 75% native soil.  
 For xeric plants no compost!

### Backfill: (Tap Root Zone)

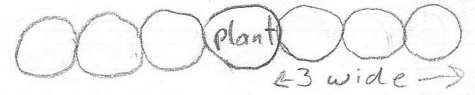
Well broken native soil.  
 For heavy clay and broken caliche add 1 sand, 1 gravel to 2 native soil.  
No organic material at this layer.  
 Gypsum or potassium may be added for heavy clay.

- This layer is important for lateral root growth. It must allow for drainage, permeability, aeration and nutrient uptake.
- The planting layer should be left fairly lean. Lean soil actually encourages root growth beyond the original planting hole. Richer soil gives less incentive to grow roots adequate to withstand harsh conditions.

- Depth is important for encouraging tap root development. 2 pots deep
- Caliche must be penetrated to allow water permeability.
- To check for drainage - Fill hole with water. If water is still standing 2-3 hours later, dig deeper and/or pierce soil with a spud bar, jackhammer, or dynamite.

Width is important for lateral root growth and for capture of more water in mulch basin.

3 pots wide in both directions = 6 pots wide



Note: Organic mulch needs nitrogen as it decomposes. Initially this binds up nutrients which eventually become available to the plant.