

ALL ABOUT MULCH

What Kind · How Much · How To · Common Problems

Best-bet Mulch Picker

Which mulch will suit YOUR needs?

Material	Resists Compaction	Attractive	Resists Wind	Readily Available	Fights Weeds/Disease	Low Fire Risk
Compost	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Leaves	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cocoa Bean Hulls	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Grass Clippings	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Fine Needles	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Wood Chips	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shredded Bark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sawdust	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Hay/Straw	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Landscape Fabric	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Black Plastic	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Gravel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manure	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

Using Compost for Mulch

If you're composting, strive for good results:



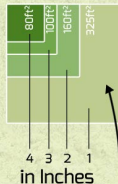
pH: 5.5 – 8.0
moisture: 35-55%
Texture: Use **COARSE** compost to keep weeds down and to avoid wind erosion

Favored Areas to Mulch



- ✓ Flower beds
- ✓ Vegetable gardens
- ✓ Pathways
- ✓ Trails
- ✓ Driveways
- ✓ Play spaces
- ✓ Rock gardens

Mulch Depth



Calculate Your Needs

Use our calculator to determine your mulch needs in cubic feet

Step 1: Determine the area size



Step 2: Determine how deep you want your mulch

Step 3: Calculate the result here:

STEP 1 X STEP 2
The number of cubic feet of mulch you'll need

A Little Advice!

Too much of a good thing is, well, too much! Avoid damaging structures and woody plants by giving them a mulch-free zone.



Watering Guide



Water your plants with **DEEP** watering every other day

Common Mulching Mistakes



Fixing Mulch Issues

Mulch toxicity
Identify mulch toxicity by the smell of vinegar or sulfur. To prevent it, turn mulch a couple of times a month. To test for it, take a pH reading. Basic mulch reads at between 1.9 and 2.5.

Slime molds
Identify slime by the yellow and orange fungus after wet spells. To fix it, take a shovel, pick it up and toss it away!

Artillery fungus
Identify fungus by creamy brown spores. You'll see them on home siding and on vehicles and plants. To fix the issue, cover mulch with pine needles.

Matted mulch
Identify matted mulch by the thread-like fungi that cover the mulch in dry spots. To repair the problem, use a rake to break up the mulch, then water frequently.

Stinkhorn fungi
Identify Stinkhorn by their awful smell! To fix the issue, use compost or pine needles instead of hardwood mulch.

Toadstools and mushrooms
Easy to spot, these edible-looking mushrooms are not food! To repair, remove from your yard and beds before children & pets get involved!