

Mulch is any material that is spread or laid over the surface of the soil as a covering. It is used to maintain moisture levels in the soil, suppress weeds, moderating temperature, and make the garden bed look more attractive.



Mulch Layer Depths:

- Ornamental beds (annuals, perennials and shrubs) Maintain a 3-4" layer.
 - Select a mulch that you find visually appealing. Double ground mulch is highly recommended.
- Trees - Maintain a 4-6" layer (if only mulching trees).
 - Use coarse wood chips.
- Vegetable Beds - Maintain a 3-4" layer.
 - Straw or organic mulches.
 - Black plastic is a good option for keeping weeds down and should be removed at end of growing season.
 - compost or shredded leaves.

Mulching Tips:

- * Keep mulch a few inches away from plants trunk or crown. This facilitates airflow, which helps prevent diseases. Pests are also more likely to attack a tree, etc. that has mulch jammed right up against its base. This is often called "volcano" mulching. If you've created a volcano around your tree, be sure to leave a 6-inch crater around the base of the trunk.
- * Using organic/natural **mulches** adds beneficial nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

Calculate How Much Mulch You Will Need:

- To determine the total amount of mulch needed, the formula is: Square footage (multiply the length by the width of the bed to obtain) x desired depth (in inches) divided by 324 (one cubic yard).