

MULCH TIPS

Why Use Mulch?

Mulch is aesthetically pleasing, controls erosion, and retains soil moisture. Safe and non-toxic, it moderates soil temperature, retards weeds, and improves the health of your plants.

How Deep Should Mulch Be Applied?

Mulch should be applied 3 to 4 inches deep.

How Much Mulch Do I Need?

Our mulch is sold in 3 cubic feet bags. There are 27 cubic feet, or 9 bags, in one cubic yard. This formula will help you figure out how much mulch you will need:

1. Determine the size of the area you want to cover in square feet -- multiply the length of your garden by the width.
2. Decide how deep you want your mulch to be, in inches.
3. Multiply the size of your garden in square feet (#1) by the depth of your mulch in inches (#2).
4. Lastly, divide the number you get in #3 by 36 (the number of cubic inches in a 3 cubic foot bag). This is the number of bags of mulch you will need.

EX: 20 ft X 10 ft = 200 sq ft ... 200 sq ft X 3 in = 600 ... 600 / 36 = 16.6 bags

Although this is a relatively straightforward formula, mulching is not a science. Because each bag never seems to go as far as you might expect, it is almost impossible to over order. This mulcher ordered 25 bags last year and wished she had ordered 30. That said, if you do have extra bags they can be set aside and used when needed.

How Should Mulch Be Applied?

For trees, mulch should be applied from the trunk to the drip line (the end of the branches). Do not apply mulch around tree trunks like volcanoes, which will prevent water from reaching the roots, and do not apply directly against the trunk of trees as this could result in trunk decay and insects. Do not use black plastic under mulch as this could suffocate roots.

If weeds are in the mulch, pull out or use a herbicide such as Roundup.

Reapply mulch regularly - once or twice per year - because mulch decomposes and remember to keep the depth at 3 to 4 inches.