



## Guide to mulching

### **Why should I mulch?**

Mulch helps to keep weeds out of your garden and also helps to keep moisture in the ground. Mulch also gives a nice, finished look to your landscaping.

### **What kind of mulch should I use?**

Usually you can choose whatever mulch looks the best to you. In most cases any mulch will do the same job.

A few things to consider before you choose:

- Finer mulches will look better around small or more delicate plants
- Shredded mulches are easier to walk on
- Larger mulches will not be washed around by heavy rains

### **When to mulch?**

It is important not to mulch too early in the spring. You should wait until the ground has warmed up before mulching. If you mulch before the soil temperature has risen you will slow the growth of your plants.

If you will be planting a new bed, it is easier to mulch after you are done planting.

Newly planted perennials, rose bushes and fall planted bulbs should also be mulched in late fall after the ground has started to freeze. This will prevent these plants from being heaved out of the ground over winter and possibly being damaged.

### **How much mulch do I need?**

If your goal is to keep weeds down and moisture in, you will need to have a layer of mulch that is 2 to 3 inches deep.

If you are mulching just for appearance, or topdressing old mulch, you will need to put down about 1 inch of mulch.

Do not put mulch directly against the base of trees and shrubs as that will damage the plants.

### **Doing the math**

Measure the length and width of the area you will be mulching, determine how deep you will be applying the mulch, then follow this formula:

**Length in feet x width in feet x depth in inches all divided by 12**

This will give you how many cubic feet of mulch you will need.

To determine how many cubic yards this would equal you would divide this number by 27.

It takes 13.5 bags to equal one yard

### **One 2 cubic foot bag will cover:**

24 sq. ft. at 1" thick

12 sq. ft. at 2" thick

8 sq. ft. at 3" thick

### **Twelve bags will cover:**

288 sq. ft. at 1" thick

144 sq. ft. at 2" thick

96 sq. ft. at 3" thick