

MULCHING

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GARDENING



AN INTRODUCTION TO MULCHING

Mulching is an essential component of gardening, but novices may find it difficult to understand. To help any beginner gardener get started, we've created a 30-day course. The aim of the course is to assist you in learning how to create the ideal garden space for your needs and how to best highlight the features you already have in your garden in each section of the course.

In this section of the course, you will learn about the various kinds of mulch and how to use them in your garden.





WHAT IS MULCH?

Mulches are sheets or loose coverings of material applied to the soil's surface. Mulches can be used to cover compost in containers or to cover bare soil.

Mulches can be broken down into two main categories: non-biodegradable as well as biodegradable. Both types conserve moisture by reducing evaporation from the soil surface and suppress weeds by blocking sunlight, which is required for weed seeds to germinate and grow.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Mulching has numerous advantages, depending on the kind of mulch used, including:

- Retaining moisture in the soil
- Reduce the need for watering
- Suppress weeds
- Improve soil matter
- Provide nutrients
- Deter some pests
- Warm the soil in spring
- Protect the roots of plants from extreme heat and cold.
- Create a barrier between edible plants and the soil.
- Give a decorative finish



THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MULCH

Biodegradable Mulches

- Garden compost
- Wood chippings
- Processed conifer bark
- Leaf mould
- Well-rotted manure
- Straw (for strawberries)
- Seaweed

Non-biodegradable Mulches

- Slate
- Shingle
- Pebbles
- Gravel
- Stone chippings
- Sea shells
- Tumbled glass

How to Make Mulch



Materials needed:

- Leaf blower or rake
- Lawnmower
- Barrel/ large bag with holes or tarp

Leaf mulch is probably the simplest kind of mulch to make at home because many gardens have trees and plants that make good mulch materials. For the garden, leaf mulch is also an excellent all-purpose mulch. You can collect fallen leaves by raking them up or by collecting the leaves that have been pruned off of plants.

Using a leaf blower or rake, make a pile of the leaves. Make a layer of the leaves that is no more than 5 centimetres thick. Using a lawnmower, shred the leaves several times until they are broken up into small pieces.

After it has been shredded, the mulch can be used immediately or stored in a barrel with ventilation, a large bag with holes, or spread out on top of a tarp and protected from the elements.

When to Use Mulch

The middle of spring and autumn are the best times to apply mulches; at the point when herbaceous plants are torpid and yearly weeds have not yet developed. They can be used on new plantings, beds with existing plants, and specimen plants. New plants that need to lay out can be mulched any time of the year; when they will profit from weed concealment and moisture retention in the dirt.

How to Apply Mulch

Beds and borders may be completely mulched; ensuring that mulches are not piled up against the stems of woody plants or on low-growing plants.

To be effective, biodegradable mulches need to be between 5cm and 8cm thick. Remove any weeds where you wish to lay the mulch. Once the soil is not frozen, lay mulch over moist soil. Single trees and specimen shrubs should be mulched to the radius of the canopy.

