

## M U L C H

### Mulch & How it can Benefit a Landscape

#### What is Mulch?

Mulch is any material that is loosely & uniformly spread on the surface of the soil under and around plants. There are many types commonly used; tree bark, peat moss, compost, wood chips, recycled wood waste, sawdust, gravel, cobblestone, and inorganic geo-fabrics.

#### Benefits of Mulch:

The benefits of mulch are the conservation of soil moisture, stabilization of soil temperature, reduction of soil erosion on slopes, and providing a uniform appearance. The mulch should be no greater than 2" in depth and kept away from the plant trunk. Excess bark can cause roots and plant trunks to rot.

#### Different types of Mulch:

Applications are different and certain types of mulch will out perform others in appearance, function, and durability. On a slope where erosion can be a problem, shredded redwood bark (gorilla hair) is used. This material mats well and doesn't float away in heavy rains. In large green belt shrub areas where there isn't a great deal of attention, wood chips from any local tree pruning company can be used at a very reasonable cost. Landscape beds that suffer repeated foot or auto traffic can be dressed up with cobblestone.

#### Best time to install Mulch:

For the best results, broadcast mulch throughout shrub beds after leaves from surrounding trees are finished dropping and a few months before leaves normally drop. If the mulch is applied just before or during leaf dropping, it will not have had significant time to settle, resulting with a percentage of the new mulch being picked up during regular leaf cleanup.



## Spring Landscaping Punch list

### Soil Test

Determine the best course of action to take, develop a plan and budget ahead.

### Ornamental Pest Control

Get pests under control early and avoid permanent damage to your ornamental landscaping.

### Install Color

For best quality and selection, order color early. This will ensure availability when you need it.

### Snail Bait

Start early and get them under control before they can do real damage to new growth in the spring.

### Irrigation

Check for leaks that may have developed over the winter, broken pipes and prepare for the hot months ahead.

### Fire Marshal Abatement

Save time, money, headache and lives by removing the growth near and around buildings that is a hazard in the hot summer months.

### Fertilize

Summer is too late to capture the prime spring growing season for plants and also may be too hot for some fertilizers.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How do you do a Soil Test Report?**  
Depending on the size of your property, a Soil test can be done with as few as one sample. This sample is then sent to a laboratory for analysis.

**How long does it take?**  
The test sampling is very fast and in most cases can be taken in less than one hour.

**How much does it cost?**  
A basic report can cost as low as \$50. A more comprehensive report will run \$100 to \$150.

**How soon will I have the results?**  
Results are usually received in two to three weeks.

**How will the information be used?**  
A comprehensive fertilization and treatment program will be developed using the data from the report.

**Will I see immediate results?**  
Visual results can usually be seen in about one month.

**Do I need to do another one every year?**  
Yes. This report is easy to do and very cost effective. Since conditions can change from year to year, we recommend a new test every spring.



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