

Worksheet 5: Mulch beautiful Mulch

What is mulch?

- Mulch is a layer of material placed on the soil surface



Types of Mulch

- Organic materials
 - bark, wood chips, leaves, pine needles, grass clippings
- Inorganic materials
 - gravel, pebbles, or woven ground cloth
 - Benefits not as great



Benefits of Mulch

Overview:

- Improves Soil
- Eases Maintenance
- Improves Plant Performance
- Adds beauty to the Landscape
- Suppresses weeds



Making Mulch...

Collect leaves.

Rake the leaves into a pile. Spread the leaves out into a layer that's no more than 2 inches (5 cm) thick.

Shred the leaves with a MOWER OR SHEARS

Use the mulch right away and store ANY EXTRA. Once the leaves have been shredded, they're ready to use.

Extra mulch can be stored in a ventilated barrel, a large bag with air holes, or spread out on a tarp and covered.

Grass clippings make an ideal addition to leaf mulch.

Newspaper and other types of paper from around the house can also be recycled and turned into mulch.

Mulch in summer and winter. In summer, mulch will help your gardens retain moisture and keep the roots cool. In winter, the mulch will protect the plants from frost and help to keep the soil warm.

Pull out weeds. Before adding mulch to the garden, go around and pull out all the weeds you find in the bed. Otherwise, the mulch will protect the weeds and allow them to thrive.

if you're tending to flower beds or vegetable gardens. It cuts down on the time it takes to water, weed, and fight pests. All in all, this makes for healthier fruits, veggies, and flowers.