



GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

MULCH

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING MULCH?

Mulch can have significant benefits when you apply it correctly. It helps your garden by adding organic matter to the soil, it promotes sustainable water use by reducing moisture loss and it saves you time and energy by helping control weeds.

WHAT TYPES OF MULCH ARE AVAILABLE?

Mulch can be anything from aggregate (rock, pebbles, gravel, etc) to wood chips, pea straw, pine bark, coir and many more.

WHICH MULCH SHOULD I CHOOSE?

You need to decide what kind of 'look' you would like, the size of the garden bed you want to cover and, of course, what your budget is. Your decision will also depend on what types of plants are in the garden bed. Which mulch you choose will vary depending on the thickness of layer you need to put on your garden beds. In all cases, some mulch is better than none.

HOW DO I APPLY MULCH?

Always apply mulch to damp soil and keep it away from tree trunks and the stems of plants to avoid the potential for rot.

Approximate thickness guide:

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|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Fine mulch | 25mm (1 inch) maximum |
| Medium mulch | 25 - 50mm (1 - 2 inch) maximum |
| Coarse mulch | 50 - 75mm (2 - 3 inch) maximum |

Depending on which mulch you choose, you may need to add small quantities of an appropriate fertiliser to compensate for potential nutrient losses as the mulch breaks down.

TICKNER'S TIP

Michael Tickner, Adv Cert Hort (read Michael's profile at www.chw.net.au)

"A general rule of thumb is that the finer the mulch, the less thickness you need. This is because a fine mulch forms an impervious layer or crust when you apply it too thickly. If the mulch is coarse, you can apply a thicker layer because there is more space between the mulch particles and water can find a way through."



If you have any questions about using mulch on your garden, ask your nursery professional for advice.

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