

Gilbert Aide-de-Camp

Your friendly Outdoor Assistant

The Magic of Mulch

Adding mulch to your garden beds has many benefits for your plants. It acts as a protective barrier on your soil and around your plants, and adds an appealing finish to your garden.

The best mulches are organic natural mulches like Barks, Wood chips and Straw. Composted grass clippings and leaves are also effective. In-organic materials like rocks, gravel and weed mats are less effective.

• Moisture Retention

Organic mulches absorb water, and this helps to keep the soil beneath from drying out and hold moisture longer. Garden plants can then thrive on the extra moisture.

A thick cover of mulch also reduces evaporation from sun and wind. This means the garden does not need to be watered as often, which saves on water bills.

• Weed Control

The protective barrier of mulch prevents weed seeds from falling to the soil and germinating. This barrier also blocks the sunlight from penetrating to the soil, removing another element that weeds need for sprouting.

• Prevents Erosion

Garden soil can be easily washed away by rain, but a thick layer of mulch acts as a rain coat, and blocks the impact of heavy rain drops from dislodging the soil.

They can also act as a protective wall to help divert rain run-off around the garden bed.

• Adds Nutrients to Soil

As organic mulch naturally breaks down over time, the nutrients in the organic mulch are released into the soil, and taken up by your garden plants.

With the retained moisture in the soil, and reduced sunlight, more earth worms will come to the surface bringing their nutrient-rich castings with them and improving the soil structure.

Also, soil-living bugs and beetles will take up residence, helping to break down the mulch and add their own castings to invigorate the soil.

• Can deter some Insects

Some bark mulches like pine, cedar and cypress have natural oils that act as a repellent to some insects. The more fragrant, the more effect.

• Beautifies your Garden

Garden mulch enhances the look of your garden, giving them that formal polished appeal.



They are pleasing to the eye, provide an attractive garden setting, and invite compliments from your friends and neighbours.

• Low Maintenance

Once a garden is effectively mulched, they don't need any maintenance. Just the occasional hosing when there hasn't been any rain for a while.

Because organic mulch naturally breaks-down over time, garden beds only need to be topped-up every 2-3 years.

And the Magic of Mulch keeps happening whether you're home or not.

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