



## Rainbow Gardens Mulch Application Guide

### What Is Mulch?

Mulch can consist of different materials and different grades of materials; you can usually find bark chips, shredded, and finely shredded mulch. The following are the most common types of mulch found for purchase:

1. Cypress mulch
2. Hardwood mulch
3. Cedar mulch
4. Pine bark mulch
5. Pine straw

Shredded leaves are also a great source for mulch.

### Why Apply Mulch?

1. Conserves water (reduces evaporation)
2. Regulates soil temperature (Cools soil in summer, warms soil in winter)
3. Restricts Weeds (prevents seed germination)
4. Prevents soil borne diseases by prohibiting water splashing on foliage
5. Keeps produce off soil preventing easy access to soil surface bugs (pill bugs, etc.)
6. Looks nice!

### When To Apply Mulch?

1. Reapply spring and fall. Depending on type of mulch, it can wash away, break down into soil, or fade in color.

### How To Apply Mulch?

1. Garden Beds: About a 2" layer of mulch is ideal. Applying more than that is counterproductive as it can create too thick of a barrier for water to penetrate through to the soil. Spread mulch equally around plants.
2. Trees: For new tree plantings, create a "donut" shaped basin that extends out from the trunk to the drip line of your tree (where the canopy spreads out to) and is about 3" to 4" high around the edges of the "donut". Your tree trunk should be in the center of the "donut hole". **DO NOT PILE MULCH UP AGAINST THE TRUNK!** Piling mulch up against the tree trunk can cause rot and death to your tree. The saucer shaped basin will help contain and distribute water equally around the tree's roots.

### Extra Tips About Mulch:

1. When planting in mulched beds, do not plant straight into current mulch. Pull back mulch to dig your hole in the soil, plant, gently fill in soil around the roots of your plant and then replace mulch around plant.
2. Most of our mulch at Rainbow Gardens comes in 2 cu. ft. bags. You need to measure the length and width of your planting area and then decide depth of mulch you wish to apply. There are a ton of mulch calculators on the web for easy help. Try <https://www.thecalculatorsite.com/construction/mulch-calculator.php>