

RESOURCES

Characteristics of mulches

	Water conservation	Weed control	Nutrient release	Erosion control	Longevity	Cost	Ease of application
Bark dust (medium)	**	***	*	**	**	*	***
Bark nuggets	**	***	*	**	***	**	**
Wood chips	**	***	*	**	**	**	**
Yard waste compost	**	*	***	**	*	**	***
Arborist mulch	***	***	*	***	**	*	*
Tree leaves	**	**	**	**	*	*	*
Mint compost	***	*	**	***	*	*	*
Sawdust	**	**	*	**	**	*	***
Hazelnut shells	**	***	*	**	***	***	***

* = low; ** = medium; *** = high

“Mulching Woody Ornamentals with Organic Materials” OSU Extension publication EC1629 by Neil Bell, Dan M. Sullivan and Tom Cook <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1629/html>

“Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes” Iowa State University Extension
<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Using-Mulches-in-Managed-Landscapes-Sustainable-Urban-Landscapes>

“Impact of Mulches on Landscape Plants and the Environment — A Review”. Linda Chalker-Scott; Journal of Environmental Horticulture 1 December 2007; 25 (4): 239–249. doi: <https://doi.org/10.24266/0738-2898-25.4.239>
Excerpt: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/files/80212.pdf>

“Mulch - A Survey of Available Options” (Penn State) <https://extension.psu.edu/mulch-a-survey-of-available-options>

“Problems With Over-Mulching Trees and Shrubs”, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS099, by Bruce Crawford, State Program Leader in Home and Public Horticulture, and Raul Cabrera, Extension Specialist in Nursery Production & Management <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs099/>

“Types and Uses of Mulch in the Landscape”, Cornell Cooperative Extension, <https://chemung.cce.cornell.edu/resources/mulch-in-the-landscape>

“Using Gravel to Improve Your Lawn” (Joy Creek Nursery)
<https://joycreeknursery.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/using-gravel-to-improve-your-lawn/>

Dry Farming Collaborative <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/dry-farming-collaborative>
also <https://dryfarming.org>

SMOTHER MULCHING

Extensive debate on Garden Professors about cardboard mulch <https://gardenprofessors.com/the-cardboard-controversy/>

Soil and Plant Properties in Cardboard Mulch Prepared No-Till Beds <https://projects.sare.org/project-reports/fne10-677/>

Sheet Mulching (Lasagna Gardening) – Does It Harm Soil?
<https://www.gardenmyths.com/sheet-mulching-lasagna-gardening-harm-soil/>