



GROWING YOUR GARDEN

Mulching your learning garden: Garden guide

Why Mulch?

- Maintains long term soil health
- Evens soil moisture and reduces frequency of watering
- Suppresses weeds
- Healthier plant roots
- Maintains more consistent soil temperatures



Recommended Mulch

- Leaves (shredded is best)
- Compost (apply first as a mulch, and then mix into the soil after the growing season)
- Lawn clippings (try to avoid grass with seeds)
- Straw (AVOID HAY as it contains weed seeds)
- Avoid wood chips. They can steal nitrogen from the soil as they decompose
- Avoid chemical laden mixes and dyes
- Try to stay local when sourcing mulch - leaves are abundant and work great

How to Mulch

- For effective mulching apply mulch between 4 and 6 inches thick
- Water your mulch, this will help it break down and become an available food source for your soil microbes, it also aids in keeping your mulch in place in windy environments
- Do not bury stems of plants in mulch as this can cause mold to develop

When to Mulch

- Mulch is great for your garden all year long
- Especially important to mulch before putting your garden to bed (around October)

Where to Mulch

- Mulch everywhere in the garden, being sure to cover all exposed soil
- Be mindful of newly planted seeds
- Allow light to penetrate the areas where your seeds have been planted