Mulch

Mulch is a top-dress for soil. There are two main types: organic or inorganic. Organic mulch includes woodchips, bark, and partially decomposed compost. Inorganic mulch can be rocks, pebbles, decomposed granite, or even

shredded tires.

Benefits

- Moderates soil temperature
- Conserves water
- Controls weeds
- Reduces erosion
- Improves soil structure
- Looks good

Which to use

Follow mother-nature:

• Inorganic mulch is best for gardens that feature desert, chaparral, or scrub plants. Dry-adapted plants thrive in well-drained, nutrient-poor soil, best maintained with inorganic mulch.

Decomposed granite mulch visually

complements residential, dry garden

above, while organic woodchips are

most appropriate for woodland bed

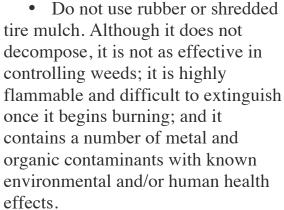
in school garden.

• Organic mulch keeps soil moist, and in time, decomposes enriching soil. Woodland and riparian plants are better adapted to these conditions.



How to use it

- Use clean mulch. Avoid material that may contain weed seed, pes ticides or other toxins. Use green waste from your own property to reduce the waste stream.
- Maintain a 4 6 inch thick layer of mulch thick enough to suppress weeds, not so thick as to hinder air and water circulation. Replenish organic mulch as it decomposes.
- Keep mulch away from trunks or stems of plants.





• Leave some ground mulchfree since many native solitary bees nest in bare soil. Mulch-free, undisturbed soil provides habitat for these important pollinators.