

Mulching Basics



Let's Talk About Mulch!

- ▶ * Compost: Fully decomposed organic soil amendment
 - ▶ Healthier soil & plants
 - ▶ Conserves moisture
 - ▶ Saves money
- ▶ * Mulch: Goes on top of soil
 - ▶ Controls weeds
 - ▶ Conserves moisture
 - ▶ Provides protection against heat & cold

Mulch

- ❖ What is MULCH?
- ❖ What does mulch do?
 - Suppresses weeds
 - Conserves moisture
 - Moderates soil temperature
 - Prevents compaction
 - Controls Erosion
 - Invites worms



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- ❖ Nature does not like bare soil, either you cover it with mulch or it will be covered with weeds!

How Much Mulch Should I Use?

Application Depth

- * 2-4" thick in close plant spacing
- * 6" thick in open plant spacing

Application Area

- * 6" from trunks
- * 12" from buildings



Mulch Care



Water mulch with oscillating sprinkler

Before and after spreading and smoothing

Helps provide moisture to encourage worms

Promotes decomposition of mulch



Important in months when we don't get rain



Add new mulch yearly to keep up depth



Allow leaves from trees and plants to drop where they are

Creates new coat of mulch

Plants leaves are the best for replacing nutrients

Sprinkle or “veneer” fresh mulch on top



What About Mulching With Rocks?

Grasscycling. What's That?



- ▶ Leave your grass clippings on lawn after mowing to decompose.
- ▶ Leaves nutrients in the soil, reducing need for fertilizer and pesticides.
- ▶ Helps environment by reducing material sent to the landfill
- ▶ It does not cause thatch!



UCCE Placer County Master Gardeners



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Thank You!

Any Questions?

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❖ You can download a Pdf of this presentation and handouts on our web site



UC Master Gardeners of Placer County