



The Plant Professionals

Benefits of Compost & Mulch

COMPOST

A mixture of organic residues such as leaves, brush and the like, that have been piled and allowed to undergo aerobic biological decomposition, a process called composting.

Benefits of Compost

- Provides nutrients the plants need.
- Improves microbial activity that helps release soil nutrients for plant use.
- Reduces or eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers that are costly and potentially damaging to the environment.
- Increases the amount of organic carbon and nitrogen by improving the physical properties of soil, allowing higher nutrient intake by plants and higher crop yields.
- Improves soil structure, porosity and density, making tillage easier, thus creating a better plant root environment.
- Increases water holding capacity of the soil, thus reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils.
- Increases moisture infiltration and permeability of heavy soils, thus reducing erosion and runoff.
- Aerates soil, breaks up clay and binds sand.
- Degrades pollutants and neutralizes toxins.
- Improves and stabilizes soil pH.
- Supplies beneficial micro-organisms to soils and growing media, thus controls or suppresses certain soil borne plant pathogens.
- Helps create a balanced soil food web.

MULCH

Loose organic materials such as grass clippings, tree leaves, brush and the like. Used to cover the soil around the plants for protection or improvement of the area covered.

Benefits of Mulch

- Conserves soil moisture by reducing evaporation of water from the soil.
- Prevents crusting of soil surface, thus improving the absorption and percolation of water to the plants where the roots are growing.
- Prevents soil compaction and erosion.
- Prevents fruits and plants from mud splashes and reduces soil borne diseases.
- Maintains a more uniform soil temperature by acting as an insulator, which keeps the soil warm during cool times and keeps cooler during the warm months of the year.
- Reduces weed problems by preventing weed germination especially if the materials are weed free and if applied thickly.
- Builds good organic soil structure.
- Protects and stimulates microbial activity in the soil.
- Adds nutrients to the soil as mulch decomposes.
- And by the way, the area covered looks great and beautiful.