



MULCHES

	soil temp.	rain penetrate	retains moisture	controls weeds	helps soil fertility	cost	looks nice	stays in place	summer use	winter use
ORGANIC TYPES:										
ALFALFA HAY <i>(Allow bales to sit out long enough to germinate weed seeds)</i>	cools	var.	yes	var.	yes	var.	var.	yes	yes	yes
BARN LITTER & MANURE <i>(Can burn plants, somewhat hard to apply)</i>	cools	yes	yes	var.	yes	free	var.	yes	var.	yes
COMPOST <i>(Hard to obtain in large enough quantities)</i>	cools	yes	var.	var.	yes	var.	yes	yes	yes	no
CORN COBS (GROUND)	cools	yes	yes	yes	no	low	yes	var.	yes	yes
GRASS (DRY) <i>(Flammable, watch for herbicides)</i>	-10F	var.	yes	yes	yes	free	yes	yes	yes	no
GRAVEL <i>(Use over plastic for better weed control)</i>	cools	yes	yes	no	no	var.	yes	yes	yes	no
LEAVES (DRY) <i>(Weather for 6 months to prevent growth inhibitors)</i>	-18F	var.	yes	yes	var.	free	var.	no	yes	yes
PAPER, BLACK	+4F	yes	var.	yes	no	var.	var.	no	yes	no
PAPER, NEWS <i>(Never use colored or glossy pages)</i>	cools	yes	var.	yes	var.	free	no	no	yes	no
PEAT MOSS <i>(This can acidify the soil somewhat)</i>	cools	var.	yes	var.	yes	high	yes	yes	yes	no
PINE NEEDLES <i>(Flammable, somewhat acidifying)</i>	cools	yes	yes	yes	yes	free	yes	var.	yes	no
ROCKS <i>(Help regulate air temps, good for erosion control, warm early in spring, hold heat in fall)</i>	cools	yes	yes	var.	no	free	yes	yes	yes	no
SAWDUST <i>(Acidifying, can tie up nitrogen if fresh, avoid cedar, butternut & black walnut - toxic)</i>	cools	var.	yes	yes	var.	low	yes	var.	yes	no
STRAW <i>(Oat straw is less likely to tie up nitrogen than wheat straw)</i>	cools	yes	yes	var.	var.	low	yes	no	yes	yes
WOOD CHIPS <i>(Deteriorate slowly, use over plastic for better weed control)</i>	cools	yes	yes	var.	var.	high	yes	yes	yes	no

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<u>INORGANIC TYPES:</u>										
ALUMINUM FOIL	-6F	no	yes	yes	no	high	no	yes	yes	no
<i>(Warm air during day, reflects light, repels aphids)</i>										
CARPET, USED	cools	yes	yes	yes	no	free	no	yes	yes	no
PLASTIC, BLACK	+6F	no	yes	yes	no	high	var.	no	yes	no
<i>(Apply over moist soil only. Must bury edges to hold in place)</i>										
PLASTIC, CLEAR	+12F	no	yes	no	no	high	no	no	yes	no
<i>(Same problems as black plastic)</i>										
SPUN POLYESTER	cools	yes	yes	no	no	high	no	no	yes	yes
<i>(Must bury or weigh edges to hold in place)</i>										



Carver Scott Help Line: 952-466-5308

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