

GARDENS & OUTDOOR LIVING

The Benefits of Mulching

Mulching can be an easy way to improve your gardens. However, if done improperly you will not receive the benefits you wanted. These handy mulching tips are provided by Nova Tree, Truro.

1) Mulch works like NATURE'S SUNSCREEN, ensuring a well balanced soil temperature and healthy root systems. It also prevents soil compaction, soil erosion, and the leaching away of valuable nutrients. Your plants will love the benefits!

2) Mulch gives you more time to enjoy your garden: it acts as a barrier to weed growth, reducing the need for weeding. A layer of mulch slows evaporation of moisture, reducing the need for frequent watering.

3) Mulch complements the healthy green of foliage and offsets the brighter hues of flowers.

Aged Dark Brown Mulch - Made from the bark of fir and spruce trees, this mulch is aged, screened and then aged again. This process produces a texture and consistency that is easy to shovel and spread.

Coloured Red and Coloured Black, Colored Brown Mulch - Coloured mulch is composed of shredded wood and enhanced with naturally occurring soil pigments: iron oxide for an eye-catching red and charcoal for

a deep black. These colours are designed for safe use around plants, children and pets.

Colour-enhanced mulch is colourfast as soon as it dries and typically will maintain its brilliance for at least a year.

Mulching DO'S & DON'TS
 - The recommended thickness of a mulch layer is 2 - 4 inches. Too little mulch will be ineffective, but too much can deprive root systems of the oxygen they need. Keep mulch at least 2 inches back from the trunks of trees and stems of shrubs and plants. Mulch piled up against the trunks and stems make the plants more susceptible to decay and disease. Refresh your mulch at least once a year, preferably in the spring. Rake the top layer, discard any leaves or other organic material, and add a fresh layer of 1 - 2 inches of mulch.

Calculating How Much Mulch You Need - To calculate the area you need to cover, measure the length by the width. If the area is not in straight lines, just average it out. These calculations will help you order the right amount, but if you have some extra, you can use it next season. 100 sq ft, 4 inches thick requires 1.25 cu yds; 100 sq ft, 3 inches thick requires 0.93 cu yds; 100 sq ft, 2 inches thick requires 0.62 cu yds and 100 sq ft, 1 inches thick requires 0.31 cu yds.



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It's Cottage Time - Enjoy

By Christine Urquhart

This is that time of year that those of us who have cottages are opening them up for the summer season. If you arrive at your cottage to find that someone has broken in, take caution to be sure they are no longer there. Call the police right away! Check for any missing items and make a list for the police, even if you have to take a few days to do so.

It is rare for a cottage to be broken into unless you have expensive items on show. Always keep your drapes closed when you are away and the doors locked. Now for arriving to your cottage with it as you left it!

A few tips I have learned through the years about

cottage openings: First - plan for something to screw up! The taps will leak, or there's been a family of mice living in your towels, or a tree has fallen down across the driveway! Second - take some extra things with you such as batteries - you know you forgot to pack them last time! - or an extra roll of toilet tissue just in case those pesky mice ate the one roll left from last season.

Thirdly - don't forget to wear your boots! Chances are the yard is much wetter than expected. And dress warm - it is always cold inside a closed up building until you get the air circulating again. Now - go and enjoy your cottage!

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