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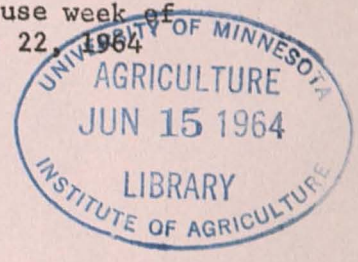
Yard 'n' Garden



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SUMMER MULCHES

Mulches can be a big help to both garden and gardener if they are applied at the right time.

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Mulches help to control weeds, conserve moisture, keep the ground cool and keep fruits and edible parts of vegetables clean. They also cut down on the work of hoeing and watering and make gardening easier.

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Cultivation often results in cutting roots on the plants. Problems like blossom-end rot of tomatoes may be due to this practice. A mulch will tend to prevent this trouble.

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Some good mulches are ground corncobs, finely chopped straw, grass clippings or sawdust. A layer an inch or two deep will be sufficient. Apply the mulch before mid-July immediately following a rain or right after watering.

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If slugs become troublesome, secure one of the chemicals available containing metaldehyde. These chemicals are on the market under various trade names. Follow directions for applying.

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Sometimes you may notice a yellowing of foliage with the use of a mulch. This yellowing indicates a nitrogen competition which can be corrected by adding a little ammonium nitrate or a complete fertilizer over the mulch.

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