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# Yard 'n' Garden



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## SUMMER MULCHES

Summer mulches in the landscape can help to control weeds and conserve moisture. They can also help to unify the garden, especially where the soil may be of poor texture.

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Mulch materials include such materials as commercial peat moss, sphagnum moss, buckwheat hulls, cocoa mulch and well rotted compost. Apply the mulch to a depth of 2 to 3 inches among the plants.

Before applying the mulch fertilize and cultivate the garden. This practice assures the movement of nutrients into the soil and provides for the competition for nutrients which will exist after the mulch is in place.

\* \* \* \*

Most plastic sheetings do not serve the same purpose as the organic mulch materials in the landscape garden. Because of their reflective quality they often serve as a source of distraction.

\* \* \* \*

Use of gravel or rock mulches in foundation planting has become quite popular. To apply a rock mulch to the foundation planting, first use a plastic film around the plants. There should be a dished area around the base of the plant to afford easier watering. After the plastic is in place spread gravel mulch over the plastic to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

Careful observation for watering is necessary with the gravel mulches. Especially is this true where there is a wide overhang and eave troughs.

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