

Mulch Uses

By: Melinda Sperl

Mulch has several different applications in your flower beds but there are three very important reasons for mulch.

The first one is most important in the Houston area in the summer months. Mulch actually helps to keep the moisture from evaporating from your beds. With so much heat in the summer this can really cut down on the watering. It will also keep your plants from freezing in the winter by protecting the tender roots from freeze so it is recommended that you apply mulch twice per year.

Second, when mulch is applied the weed seeds that were spread by birds or the wind in prior seasons will be covered up. Because seeds need sunlight to grow, you actually will have a reduction in weeds. If mulching twice per year you really should notice a dramatic reduction in weeds.

Last, and certainly not any less important, the old mulch layer will biodegrade and become compost over time. This is especially good for your plants as it serves as a natural fertilizer.

Hardwood mulch is the recommended mulch for this area. Black or red mulch is dyed and can have treated lumber in it that could be detrimental to your plants.

Happy Gardening!

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