

## Why Is Our Mulch So Expensive?

By: Melinda Sperl

I hear this all the time and I think the old saying holds true of any work that you contract, you get what you pay for.

We recommend only Hardwood Mulch. My long term readers know that I repeat this quite often. Black mulch is chipped treated waste lumber like 2 x 4's that are either dyed or burned. There is no nutritional value to your plants from this mulch and in fact it can be detrimental if used over time. Red mulch is dyed treated lumber of no value to plants. Pine mulch is light wood and will just wash or blow away, so don't waste your money.

We also do not buy mulch where we dump our trash. Other soil yards take landscaper debris, recycle it and sell it for mulch. That includes the weeds and nutgrass that I just took out of your neighbor's yard yesterday!

We take the time to clean your beds, not just top the weeds, before the mulch is put down. Putting mulch on top of your weeds is defeating the purpose as those weeds will just come right through. One purpose of mulch is to cover the weed seeds so they will not germinate. Putting mulch on your beds regularly will help keep weeds in control.

The other job of mulch is to break down into compost which microorganisms in your soil feed on. Treated lumber or burnt wood will not break down and burnt wood is actually harmful to plants.

We charge more because we use usually do more, we use quality products and we are here tomorrow to stand behind our work.

Happy Gardening!

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