

Bargain Mulch

By: Melinda Sperl

\$199 Mulch for all average yards! I was handed a flyer that was put on every door in a neighborhood. Does this sound like a good bargain to you?

Like any other product you buy there are grades of mulch and producers with cheap and better qualities. To the consumer all mulch may appear to be simply chipped wood when actually cheaper soil yards may add yard waste, like nutgrass & weeds, into the mix. In the end it all looks the same yet the consumer could end up with a whole lot of mess in their yard.

If properly done and composted over a very long period of time where the inside temp. reaches very high heat, those weeds will decay but the majority of soil yards have such a high turnaround that they accept the yard waste from landscapers, shred the mulch and sell it within the same week, if not sooner.

Mulch has also so many purposes for your plants as it breaks down and actually will contribute to the aerobic activity within the soil. This does not happen with black and red mulch so avoid those if at all possible.

A professionally landscaped yard will not have mulch piled up around the base of the plants as this causes the plants to decline. Mulch retains water, which is wonderful in our hot climate but is not good at the base of the plants. A properly mulched yard will not have a "mulch Volcano" around the trees as this will cause the trees to mildew at the base and send out new stabilization roots at the new soil level.

Happy Gardening!

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