

# MULCHING



Mulch placed on a plant bed

Mulch increases water infiltration and reduces evaporation. It protects the soil from erosion, reduces compaction from heavy rains, prevents weed growth and helps the soil maintain an even temperature. As

mulch slowly decomposes it provides organic matter to the soil, which improves root growth and increases the water-holding capacity of the soil. The organic matter is also a source of plant nutrients and provides an ideal environment for earthworms and other beneficial organisms. This method is almost always used in combination with other WHC methods such as trench beds and planting pits.



Thatching grass can be used as mulch



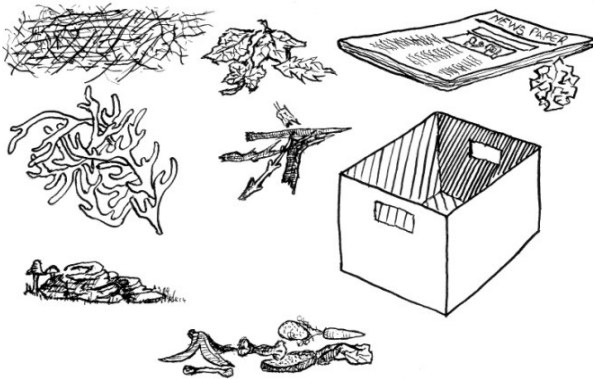
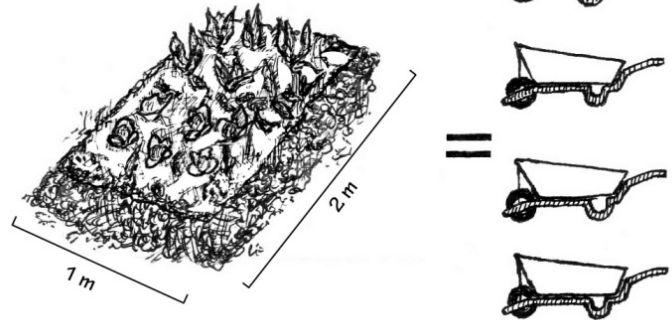
also called:	used in:	
	• -	gardens
	fields	✓
	grazing land	

Mulching is the practice of spreading plant and other organic material such as compost, straw, manure, dry leaves, dry grass clippings and wood chips onto the surface of the soil, usually concentrated around plants.

Soil	Slope	Rainfall	Tools & Equipment
Any soil type. On clay soils or soils prone to waterlogging, mulching thickness should be limited to less than 10 cm.	Any slope.	Any rainfall.	organic material* (e.g. dry grass, leaves, compost, straw, manure, egg cartons) fork wheelbarrow  *essential

## METHOD

1. Look at the total area you plan to mulch and estimate how much mulch you need (about 2 wheelbarrows of mulch per square meter of garden).



2. Collect the organic materials you plan to use as mulch, and spread it carefully over the soil, around and between plants.

3. When placing the mulch, ensure that it is a few centimetres away from all trunks and stems so that you don't provide a place for insects or diseases to begin attacking the plant



