

Mulching

Phoebe Wall
University of Guam
Cooperative Extension Service



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What is in a Mulch?

- Organic material applied to surface of soil
- Mulch basically consists of plant residue such as leaves, twigs & branches, or paper & cardboard (torn or shredded)
- Over time as it decays it blends with soil it increases its organic matter, soil micro-organisms, earthworms, & insects
- It mimics the process that takes place naturally in undisturbed jungles & forests.



Types of Mulch



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Organic Mulch

Examples of Organic Mulch:

Grass clippings, small leaves*

Wood chips**

Pine needles (Gago Tree)**

Banana leaves & palm fronds**

Coconut husks**

Branches**

Compost

Shredded paper*

Cardboard **

*Fine Material & ** Coarse Material



Advantages of organic mulch

- Conserves water & reduces erosion
- Improves soil structure & absorption
- Adds nutrients (living mulch recycles nutrients)
- Suppresses weed growth
- Prevents pathogens from splashing on foliage
- Insulates soil
- Increases microorganisms, earthworms, & insects
- Prevents trunk damage from bush cutter
(Limits weeds near plant so no need to cut close to plant)
- Reduces landscape maintenance



How Much to Apply?

Thickness depends on types of material:

- Fine Material:
 - No thicker than 2–3”
 - Can mat together & suffocate plants
- Coarse Material:
 - At least 4”
 - Thinner weeds can penetrate through if too thin of a layer



Mulch Material Size

Categorized by Size:

➤ Fine Material:

A lot of surface area

Can suffocate plants

➤ Coarse Material:

Doesn't blow away as easily

Water & air can penetrate through it



Mulch Placement



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Palm fronds around breadfruit tree



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Now That You Have Mulch

- Apply in planting beds
- Around established trees & newly planted trees
- Mulch will eventually need replacing
- Fine material needs to be replaced often
- Coarse material can be replaced either once a year to every two years



Possible Problems

- Chickens and Pigs love it too
 - Can destroy plants, dig up roots
 - Scatter mulch
 - Where animals are a pest, create a barrier
- Barriers to hold mulch in bed can be made of many things.
 - Lemon grass or other plant barrier
 - Low block or rock walls
 - Low fencing



Mulch with Lemon Grass Barrier



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Mulch with Block Wall Barrier



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What a difference mulch can make!!!



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*Thank you
Si yu'us ma'ase*



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