

Organic Mulch

One of the many questions homeowners have about their landscape is “What type of mulch should I use?” There are in fact a wide variety of mulches to choose from that are readily available at most nurseries and garden centers. There are two basic types of mulch: organic mulch and inorganic mulch. Organic mulches are those that will break down over time, providing essential nutrients to your plants. Organic mulch such as pine straw and oak leaves will need to be replaced several times a year. Mulch such as pine bark nuggets, eucalyptus and melaleuca will last several years in the landscape.

Organic mulches provide all of the benefits listed below:

- retain moisture in the soil
- helps moderate soil temperature
- help suppress weeds
- helps to reduce erosion
- break down, improving soil quality

Pine Bark Nuggets



Melaleuca Mulch



Oak Leaves



Pine Straw



When selecting organic mulch, the *Florida Friendly Landscaping™* program does not recommend the use of cypress mulch. Protect our wetlands and cypress by using alternative organic mulch.

No mulch around citrus



Avoid the practice of “Volcano Mulching”. “Volcano mulching” is when mulch is piled up next to the trunk of the plant. Volcano Mulching” can result in suffocation of plant roots causing yellowing and poor plant growth. Use a 2” to 3” layer of mulch out to the drip line of the plant. Pull mulch away at least two inches away from the trunk of the plant. High moisture from mulch planted next to the trunk can lead to diseases such as root rot or stem rot, which can be fatal to your landscape plant.

STOP “Volcano Mulching!”



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