

How to MULCH YOUR GARDEN BED FOR WINTER

Protect your soil. Prevent weeds. Feed your garden.
A little mulch goes a long way!

Mulching in the fall helps your garden rest and prepare for a healthy spring!

SIMPLE STEPS

1 CLEAN UP



Remove dead plants, weeds, and diseased leaves. Keep the soil, don't disturb it.

2 WATER



Water your garden bed lightly before mulching if the soil is dry.

3 ADD MULCH



Spread 2–4 inches of mulch over the soil. Good choices: straw, leaves, shredded bark, or compost.

4 KEEP CLEAR



Keep mulch a few inches away from plant stems and tree trunks to prevent rot.

5 LET NATURE HELP



Leave the mulch in place all winter. It protects the soil and breaks down to feed your garden in spring!

BENEFITS OF WINTER MULCHING

- ✓ Protects soil from freezing and thawing
- ✓ Prevents soil erosion
- ✓ Suppresses weeds
- ✓ Retains moisture
- ✓ Adds organic matter as it breaks down
- ✓ Creates healthier, more fertile soil



BEST MULCH CHOICES



Straw
Light, affordable, and great for vegetable beds.



Leaves
Free and rich in nutrients. Shred if possible.



Shredded Bark
Long-lasting and attractive.



Compost
Nourishes soil as it breaks down.



EXTRA TIPS



Wait until the ground starts to cool, but before the soil freezes hard.



Use extra leaves around perennials and fruit trees.



Mulch helps insulate the soil and protects plant roots.



Remove or gently pull mulch back in early spring as the soil warms up.