



Agriculture and Natural Resources

SFI

SMALL FARM INSTITUTE

Prairie View A&M University
College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
Cooperative Extension Program

The Small Farms Institute (SFI) is part of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS) Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) Agriculture Natural Resources (AGNR) Unit at Prairie View A & M University. Currently, CEP provides educational programming in 34 Texas counties which includes a high concentration of limited-resource and socially disadvantaged landowners in Texas.



United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS conservationists provide technical expertise and conservation planning for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners wanting to make conservation improvements to their land.



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Cooperative Extension Program

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension's mission is to empower and assist our clients and their goals through education and technical assistance. Our aim is to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap facing many of our clients in areas such as:

To learn more about how you can implement an Urban Agriculture program in your area, contact your local Extension agent

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The Cooperative Extension Program does not discriminate against anyone regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity. Persons who require communication in a language other than English, who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotope, etc.), or who has a disability should contact Ms. Belinda Lewis at 936-261-3585 in advance.



Mulching

Urban Agriculture

How To Topics:

- Mulching Fruit Trees
- Mulching Application for Vegetable Gardens
- Mulching for Conservation
- Mulching for Pollinator & Herb Gardens



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Mulches help protect valuable topsoil and can improve soil health -NRCS

What is Mulch ?

Mulches can either be organic, such as leaves, grass clippings, straw, bark chips, and evergreen boughs, or inorganic, such as stones, brick chips, and plastic. Mulch is an organic topdressing that mimics natural growing conditions, where organic matter falls to the ground, decomposes, and recycles into new growth.

Benefits of Mulch

- Retain Moisture
- Improve Soil
- Reduce Weeding
- Protect Soil
- Protect Plants
- Pest Control
- Protect Tree, Fruits , and Vegetables
- Improve landscape aesthetics

How to Calculate Mulch ?

- Mulch is sold bagged or bulk by the cubic feet or yard. Bagged mulch is often easier to handle, especially for smaller projects. Most bagged mulch comes in 2- or 3-cubic feet bags.
- Estimate the square footage of your bed. Multiply width by length for square or rectangular beds—or for round beds, multiply the radius (distance from the middle to the edge of the bed) by itself, and then multiple that total by 3.14.
- One cubic yard of the material covers a 324-square-foot area an inch deep, so to determine your total, multiply your square footage by the depth in inches desired, then divide by 324.
- Formula: Square footage x desired depth/324 = cubic yards needed.

Mulching in Gardening

- Mulch is the ultimate gardening time-saver. Flower beds to vegetable gardens will reap many benefits when properly done.
- In garden beds, organic mulches can be incorporated into the soil each year to improve soil structure. Regardless of the source of organic matter, two important factors to remember is the stage of mulch decomposition and the relative salinity of the material.
- Mulches provide an insulating barrier between the soil and the air, which moderates the soil temperature. This means mulched soil in the summer will be cooler than bare soil; while in the winter, the mulched soil may not freeze as deeply. Since mulch acts as an insulating layer, mulched soils tend to warm up slower in the spring and cool down slower in the fall.

