

# MULCH COMPARISON TABLE

Attractive Improves soil Inexpensive Readily available Good weed control Long lasting Other benefits Possible weed seeds May need nitrogen Expensive May harbor pests Possible fire hazard Other concerns

## ORGANIC MATERIALS

Chipped, ground, or shredded bark	★	★		★	★	★				★	★	Shredded cedar bark should be used 30 feet or more away from structures	
Chipped, ground, or shredded wood	★		★	★	★	★		★	★			Dyed materials may contain undesirable chemicals from source wood	
Cocoa bean hulls	★									★		May be toxic to dogs	
Compost	★		★	★						★		Can support weed growth	
Grass clippings			★	★				★	★		★	May reduce water penetration if not dried first	
Green waste		★	★		★	★		★			★		
Hay & straw	★						Good water penetration	★	★			★	
Leaf mold	★	★	★				Can add acidity to soil						
Leaves		★	★	★							★	★	
Newspapers (shredded)			★	★							★	★	Inks may be toxic; don't use around edible plants
Pine needles	★			★		★	Adds acidity					★	Suitable for plants in acid soil
Rice hulls	★	★						★	★				
Sawdust		★	★	★					★				Can mat and inhibit water penetration

## INORGANIC MATERIALS

Crushed stone, gravel	★			★	★	★				★		May get hot; apply landscape fabric underneath to prevent soil and mulch from mixing
-----------------------	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	---	--	--

## SYNTHETIC MATERIALS

Geotextiles, or landscape fabrics (spun or woven polypropylene and polyester)					★	★				★		Brands differ in effectiveness and resistance to ultraviolet (UV) light
Shredded rubber	★					★					★	Leaching of zinc may be toxic to plants