

Mulching

Description

Use organic mulches to reduce water loss through evaporation, to reduce soil loss due to exposure to wind and runoff, to suppress weeds and to provide a more uniform soil temperature.

Basic Practice Guidelines

1. Heavily mulch planting beds with partially composted organic material in a layer three-to-four inches deep to reduce weeds, keep roots cool, keep soil moist and reduce the frequency of required watering. Also mulch tree and shrub bases as appropriate for each species.
2. Apply mulch to the soil surface, not against the plant stem or high against the base of tree trunks to minimize disease.
3. Organic mulch material includes bark, wood chips, chopped leaves and pine needles. Potentially appropriate inorganic mulch material includes gravel, pebbles and woven ground cloth. Fabric material can be placed underneath the mulch to reduce weeds. Some plants are better suited to inorganic mulches due to propensity to root rot, so check with nursery professionals regarding suitable mulches for specific plants.
4. Apply mulch to areas of disturbed soil to prevent erosion and sediment transport to drainageways. In areas prone to significant runoff, inorganic mulches that are less easily washed away than bark should be used.
5. Check mulched areas on a routine basis, at least monthly, and replace mulch as needed.

BMP Type			
Design			
Installation			
Maintenance/Operations		X	
Green Industry Relevance			
ASLA		GCC	X
ALCC	X	ISA	X
CALCP	X	RMSGGA	
CGGA	X	WFC	
CNA	X		

Mulch planted areas to help conserve water.

Source: Denver Water.



Regional or Industry Considerations/Adaptations

None identified.

Key References

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