



Don't use meat or bones. They will make your compost smell bad--and attract pests!

Don't miss Mulch

MULCH is a layer of nonliving materials. People can spread it on top of the soil around plants. Why use mulch? Mulch shades and cools the soil. It keeps moisture in the soil. Mulch protects the soil from packing down. Best of all, it stops pesky weeds from growing. Mulch can be:

- Wood chips
- Dry leaves
- Grass clippings
(with NO weeds or chemical weed killers)
- Rocks
- Compost

Compost ingredients:

Fill in the missing vowels.

A c__ff__

gr__nds)

B gr__ss

cl__pp__ngs

C f__d scr__ps

D d__c__y__ng

l__v__s

E v__gg__

p__ls

F

G

fr__t

c__r__s

s

Try This!

How thick should a mulch layer be? See for yourself!

First, choose two plants growing in your garden, yard, schoolyard, or nearby park. Then...

1. Put 1 inch of mulch around the base of plant #1.
2. Put 3 inches of mulch around plant #2.
3. Check in one month.

I predict _____

This is what happened: _____

What I want to know now: _____

Go on a Mulch Hunt!

How many places can you find mulch around plants?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> At home | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schoolyard | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor's yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Boulevards |

Place	Kind of mulch	Any Weeds?	
		Yes	No

Tip for Grown-ups:

Avoid "beaver lodge" mulching around trees. Spread the mulch evenly and leave a 3-4 inch air space around the base of your tree.

