



# MULCH & BARK MULCH

## WHAT IS IT?

Mulch is a mix of organic material waste, often including sawdust, bark chunks, or other woody byproducts such as woodchips or nut shells. Bark mulch comes from tree bark, while non-bark mulch is typically made up of shredded wood sources. White wood mulches are often tinted.





### **MOST COMMON USES?**

- Mulch serves several purposes. It suppresses weed growth, mitigates soil erosion, slows moisture evaporation and moderates soil temperatures. When it breaks down in the soil, it also improves soil health and density over time.
- Mulch is typically used by home gardeners, commercial crop production and commercial landscaping operations, and recreational facilities such as playgrounds.
- Bark mulch can be advantageous because the bark chunks decompose at a slower rate than the shredded wood in regular mulch, but bark chunks are lighter and will float away in areas prone to heavy rains and flooding.

### **HOW IS IT MADE?**

Mill waste and logging slash can be shredded and used as inputs for mulch. Bark mulch is harvested exclusively from tree bark.

### **DESTINATION/FATE**

Both mulch and bark mulch decompose in the surrounding soil, adding nutrients and texture for a healthy topsoil layer.

### **CONCERNS**

Bark mulch can also consume nitrogen from the surrounding soil if the bark has not been aged.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATION**

- Recover low quality wood from mills, and firewood processes to benefit from value added urban demand for weed control and to add organic matter to soil.