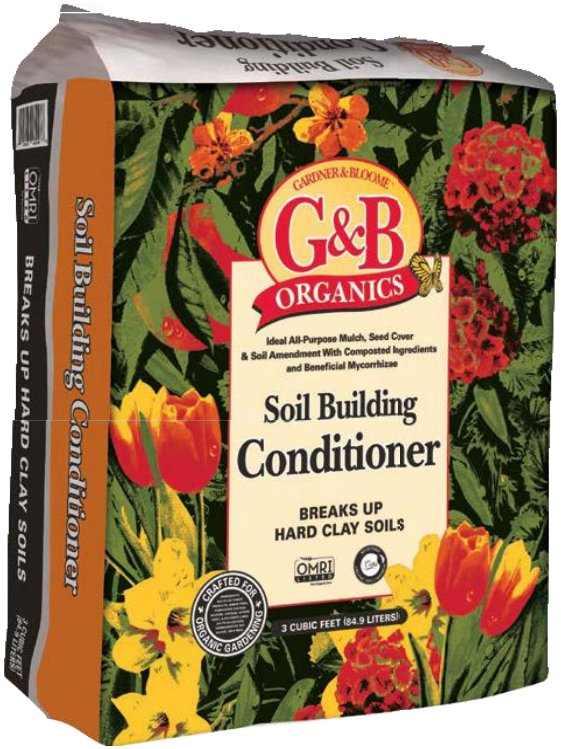
Mulching 101-1001

Top-Down Gardening

Soil Building Conditioner

All-Purpose Premium Amendment Planting Mix, Seed Cover & Mulch w Mycorrhizae

Available in 1.5 & 3 Cubic Feet Sizes



PRIMARY USES:

- A premium , all-purpose amendment, planting mix, seed cover and mulch
- Seed top-dressing for new or existing lawns
- Bare-root planting

FEATURES & BENEFITS:

- Superior for loosening hard, compacted and heavy CLAY soils
- Exceptionally long-lasting in the soil
- Al-organic formula is fortified with nutrient-rich ingredients
- Will not deplete essential soil nitrogen like untreated organic products
- Adds valuable micronutrients to the soil
- Improves soil drainage and aeration
- Increases moisture retention in soils
- Promoted healthy root growth
- Includes several species of beneficial Mycorrhizae soil fungi:
- These living organisms dramatically improve water and nutrient absorption in the root system of many plants

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR INGREDIENTS:

Recycled forest products, bark fines, composted chicken manure, gypsum, oyster shell & dolomite limes (as pH adjusters), vermicompost, bat guano, kelp meal

Master the Art of Mulching

- Mother Natures Forest Floor
- Mimic Mother Nature
- Drop it, Spread it, Protect it
- Mulch- Your Gardens BFF
- Magic of Mulching
- Mulch Matters
- Got Mulch

Mulch

- Mulch-what it is
- Mulch organic (functional, nutritious, decorative)
- Mulch synthetic (functional (?) not nutritious)
- Mulch as soil protector & temperature regulator
- Mulch as soil conditioner & disease suppressor
- Mulch as natures fertilizer
- Mulch as water saver
- Mulch as habitat for beneficial organisms
- Mulch and earthworms
- Mulching products

Mulch-What it is

- Mulch is a protective layer of material placed on the soil surface.
- Mulch mimics mother nature in creating a forest floor in your yard or garden.
- Mulch is top down gardening
- Mulching is the practice of applying organic matter to the surface of the soil.
- Mulching is one of the last steps in establishing a garden- it is the icing on the cake, the top coat.

Mulch-What is it made of Organic, Nutritious & Decorative

- Organic mulch is plant material that was once living (carbon rich) such as leaf litter, bark, twigs, cardboard, newspaper, compost, grass clippings, pine needles, sawdust and shavings, bark chips, cocoa hulls, nut shells, redwood compost, cedar mulch, hemlock mulch, rice hulls, straw and woodchips, etc.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, some mulches are both nutritious and decorative.

Mulch
Synthetic Not Nutritious

- Inorganic and synthetic mulches like plastic, landscape fabric, stone or gravel.
- Stone mulches absorb or reflect light and heat, depending on their color and this affects the above ground microclimate and soil temperatures which can have a thermal affect and warm the soil surface.
- There are many variables when choosing which mulch is right for your project. Each having it’s own pro’s and con’s.
- Some mulches maybe functional but are not nutritious.
- Not all mulches are created equally.

Mulch-Soil Protector and Temperature Regulator

- Mulch acts as an overcoat in the winter keeping soils warmer and an umbrella in the summer keeping soils cooler, helping maintain the soils temperature.
- Mulch prevents or minimizes frost heaving of plants. Reduces winterkill by keeping soils warm. Allows root growth later in the fall or even through winter.
- Think of mulch as a protective down comforter over the soil and roots, helps to regulate temps.
- Fluffier materials insulate the soil more effectively than dense materials.

Mulch as Soil Conditioner and Disease Suppressor

- Organic mulches like compost, leaves, and woodchips, etc. decompose slowly and add humus and plant nutrients to the soil.
- Humus helps soil hold air and water and improves drainage.
- Improves the physical structure of soil.
- Minimizes & prevents soil erosion
- Mulch attracts beneficial organisms that protect against pest & disease.
- Mulch prevents soil splashing onto leaves to reduce soil borne disease infections.

Mulch as Nature's Fertilizer

- Mulch promotes soil health, creating a natural fertilizer as it break down.
- Mulch increases fine root growth in plants, allowing surface root feeding with minimal weed competition.
- Plants covered with mulch root deeply, more deeply than plants that are not mulched.

Mulch as Water Saver

- Mulch helps to keep the wind and sun from drying the soil. It also dramatically reduces water evaporation from the soil surface keeping it in the root zone longer.
- Mulch acts like a sponge, absorbing and holding onto moisture.
- 3” SAVES 30% - A 3” layer of mulch can reduce water usage by up to 30%. Watering before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m. also prevents water loss by evaporation.
- STRIVE for 5% - Adding 5% nutrient rich organic material to the soil increases water retention by 20%.
- Mulch prevents water run-off during rain or irrigation.

Mulch as Habitat for Beneficial Organisms

- Mulch increases soil-food web health.
- Increases fungal biomass in the soil
- Mulch provides habitat for beneficial predators, including spiders, mites, snakes, toads, salamanders, etc.

Manage Weeds

- Applying a thick layer of mulch is a chemical – free way to keep most weeds from sprouting and growing.
- Mulch acts like a sunblock to help retain moisture and deter weed growth.
- Minimizes weeds overall
- Weeds that do sprout are very easy to pull

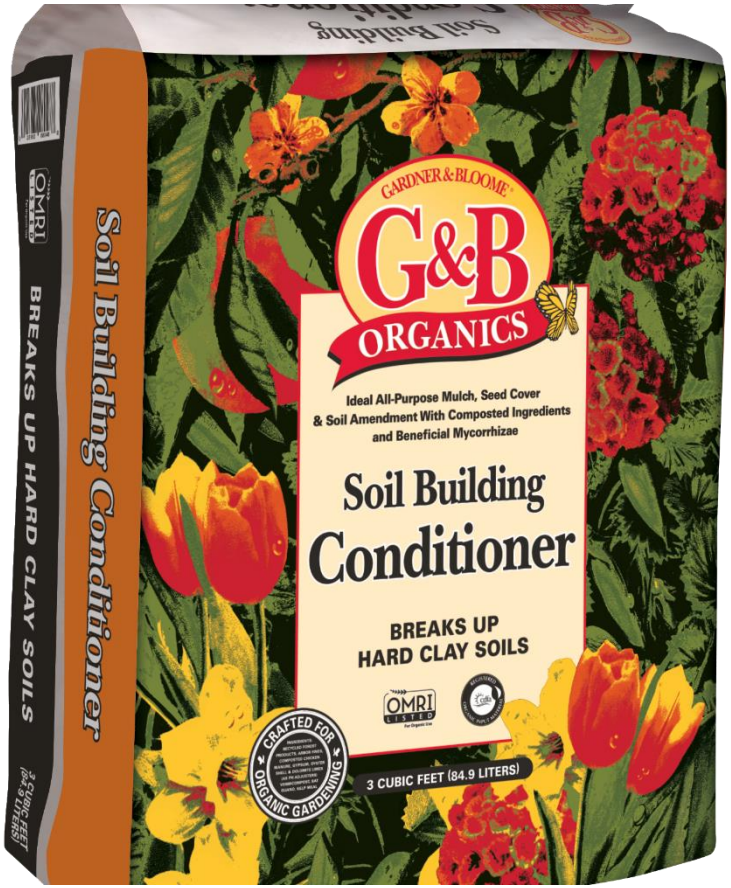
Recap

- **Conserves Soil Moisture**. Reduced evaporation and fewer weeds keep moisture in the soil.
- **Improves Water Infiltration**. Water infiltration is improved due to reduced surface sealing from rain and irrigation impact.
- **Reduces Soil Erosion**. Mulch promotes water infiltration into the soil during irrigation or a storm event, resulting in less soil erosion and reduced overland flow by as much as 85 to 90%.
- **Improves Soil Fertility**. The decomposition and leaching of nutrients from mulch into the soil increases the nutrients available to the plants.
- **Reduces Weeds**. Mulch thickness of 3” will greatly reduce weed populations.

Recap

- **Improves Soil Structure**. Mulch increases soil biological activity, which improves the soil structure.
- **Reduces Soil Compaction**. Less puddling occurs due to increased infiltration, reducing the hardening effect that occurs when the puddles dry. Works like a shock absorber to slow water down so it can penetrate the soil. The mulch also acts to disperse vehicle weight within a landscape.
- **Moderates Soil Temperatures**. Mulch moderates soil temperatures by insulating the soil so that it stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- **Reduces Snail Activity**. Mulched surfaces discourage snail migration.

Why We MULCH



Spring

Nourish hungry plants
Softens hard clay soil
Creates a forest floor or a blanket over the soil
Beautifies

Summer

3” of mulch saves 30% in water evapo-transpiration
Minimizes weeds
Adds nutrients to the soil

Fall

Protect your plant roots through the winter
Reduce erosion
Adds organic matter to enrich the soil for spring