



Don't put meat, dairy products, or animal poop in your compost. They will make it 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 pesty 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

**G**

fr \_ \_ t  
c \_ r \_ 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.