

Scrap Tire Marketing Program

Revised 1/19

RUBBER MULCH FACT SHEET

What is rubber mulch?

Rubber mulch is made from scrap tires processed into 1-2 inch pieces with 99 percent of the wire removed. The rubber is dyed in a variety of colors to meet specific landscaping needs.

What are the advantages of rubber mulch?

- It does not decay
- Acts as an insulator for soil and root systems
- Helps retain soil moisture
- Does not attract insects
- Will not float or blow away easily
- Effectively prevents weeds
- Saves time and money by eliminating the need to reapply mulch annually
- Environmental benefits from use of recycled tire material
- Coloring is long lasting, delaying need for reapplication

Isn't rubber mulch expensive?

Rubber mulch may require a higher initial investment than traditional mulch, but it saves time and money by eliminating the need to reapply mulch for years.

Is rubber mulch safe for plants?

Rubber mulch is non-toxic and will not stain plants. It is actually beneficial in that it promotes drainage around plants and helps the soil retain moisture. Concerns over heat retention are not justified and may affect only the most sensitive of plant types.

Is rubber mulch toxic if ingested?

It has been determined that ingesting rubber mulch does not pose any significant risk, other than the stomach discomfort associated with ingestion of non-digestible material.

Does rubber mulch leach dangerous chemicals into the soil?

The levels of chemicals leached into soil by rubber mulch are extremely low and unlikely to cause any negative effect on local ecology.

Will the rubber mulch smell?

Initially the rubber mulch may smell, but the smell will fade with time similar to that of a new shower curtain.

