



Urban Harvest

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Mulching Your Garden Pathways



There are many benefits to mulching in your garden bed, but did you know it's also helpful to mulch in the pathways as well? Mulching in your garden pathways help deter weed growth, help keep the pathways drier after a heavy rain, and can beautify your garden.

There are many kinds of materials you can use to mulch that are organic. Some include: wood chips, leaves, pine needles, straw, and hay (make sure the hay is weed and seed free).

Where to find mulch?

- Many gardeners are notorious for grabbing bags of leaves left on the curb for the city.
- [Nature's Way Resources](#) in Conroe has utility mulch available. If you are with a community garden the mulch is free, you will just have to pay for the trucking fee.
- [Chip Drop](#)
- Check with local arborist to see if they would deliver for a small fee.

Tips for laying mulch:

It seems pretty straightforward, but there are some helpful tips that will keep the weeds away more effectively.

- Get lots of cardboard! The cardboard will help suppress the weeds and it will naturally decompose. **Avoid using cardboard with slick finishes.** Also, rip off any tape that is still on the boxes. Big pieces of cardboard are the best. Stores that sell furniture like Sears, Lowe's, Crate and Barrel, etc are great places to ask. Make sure to ask enough in advance of your workday so they can save some for you.



- Weed and cut the grass as much as possible before mulching.
- Lay the cardboard in the pathways prior to mulching. We normally cut the boxes to make a single layer of cardboard before the mulch. Two layers (not cutting the cardboard) would be ideal, but that takes quite a substantial amount of cardboard.
- Overlap the cardboard. Weeds are very sneaky and will grow through any available soil.
- Keep applying mulch every few years or as often as needed.

If you belong to a community garden and need some extra hands putting down mulch please contact our [Community Gardens Coordinator](#).

Happy Mulching!

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