



Mulching

A mulch is a layer of material applied to the surface of soil. Reasons for applying mulch include conservation of soil moisture, improving fertility and health of the soil, reducing weed growth and enhancing the visual appeal of the area.

Process

Early Spring marks an excellent time to start preparing your home for the upcoming season! One of the quickest and cheapest ways to drastically improve your curb appeal. First, you will want to decide what type of mulch you will want. There are many types to choose from, but hardwood is the most popular. Next, you will want to do a bed cleanup. To do this, trim back any shrubs or small trees back within the bed and remove any weeds from that are still in the bed. Now that the bed is cleaned out, you will want to apply the mulch to the flower beds evenly throughout. A good two-inch layer will work but three inch is ideal. Make sure to keep the mulch off the base of any shrubs or small trees.

Calculation

For this you will need to know how deep you want the mulch to be. We will use 3 inches for this example. First, you will need to figure out the area of your bed. This is simple length x width. Let's say the area of your bed is 600 sq. ft. You will want to take this number and multiply it by the depth you want. In this example, the depth we are using is 3 inches. So, $600 \times 3 = 1800$. Now, take the 1800 and divide by 108 (for a 3-inch depth) and you get 16.7 cu. yards of mulch needed. You will use 216 for 2-inch depth and 324 for a 1-inch depth. This will give you 11.1 cu yards and 5.6 cu yards respectively. Adding to this, one cubic yard of mulch is equal to 13.5 bags of 2 cubic feet of mulch. Those are the most popular size bags at your local hardware store.

Hire a pro vs DIY

The process is rather simple, but it can be taxing labor wise. Obviously, doing this yourself will save you some money. However, this process does take time and a toll on your body. From the constant bending over and lifting the mulch to having to get down and spread it to make sure everything is even can leave even the most fit person feel the pain the next day. Hiring out a pro to handle a job like this could be worth saving the extra time and effort. This way, you can rest assured knowing the job was done correct and you can spend more time with your family and friends.