

Feature	Textraw	Pinestraw
Abrasion and Crumble Resistance	Highly resistant to foot traffic and handling	Becomes increasingly brittle with age
Availability	Dependable year-round production	Seasonal; spotty
Bed Preparation / Weeds	Rake out old straw once; pre-emerge once; less weeds	Rake out old straw annually; pre-emerge annually; more weeds
Breathability	Maintains breathability; helps oxygenate soil and deter mold and fungus growth	Mats, thatches and becomes spongy; decomposes and acts like second soil layer, causing roots to grow "up"
Chemical Resistance	Not affected by herbicides or pesticides	Absorbs chemicals
Color	Consistent longleaf pine reddish-brown "spring" needles, the most prized	Inconsistent; depends on season, species, freshness, weather
Color Retention	UV-stabilized; tested; warranted to retain color for 10 years	Decomposes immediately; turns brown; bleached gray in 6-12 months
Contaminants	None, always clean, pure, sterile bales	Even when hand-combed, contains weeds, grass seed, mold spores, pine pollen, insects, fungus, mildew, sticks, twigs, leaves and pine cones
Coverage/Unit	80 sq ft @ 3.5" depth	Depends on bale size
Environment / Harvesting	Post-industrial recycled product; clean product can be recycled at end of useful life	Unregulated; mechanized raking increases tree mortality; over-harvesting negatively affects forest growth and soil productivity, causes erosion and loss of wildlife habitat
Flammability	Requires sustained exposure to flame to burn; will melt	Highly flammable when dry
Insects	Does not attract insects	Damp environment attracts insects, especially ants, roaches and termites
Installation	Clean, easy, quick	Gloves recommended
Maintenance	Turns, fluffs easily; extends life	Crumbles when turned or fluffed; top-dress every 4-6 months
Moisture Retention	Passes moisture to soil and helps prevent evaporation; patented concave needle profile funnels all moisture to soil	Needles absorb and trap moisture
Needle Quality	Consistent mixture of 9-10" strand lengths to simulate highly-desired old, original longleaf pine needles	Highly variable by species on pine; mostly loblolly and slash, with 6-10" needles
Rain / Water Resistance	Will not absorb water; lighter than water and will float; not recommended for low-lying areas subject to flooding or run-off	Will wash-away if used in areas subject to flooding or run-off
Soil Nutrition	Over years, breaks down into harmless carbon, hydrogen, calcium carbonate and iron oxide	Increases acidity
Volume Loss	None; does not decompose	100% loss; most in first six months
Warranty	Yes	No