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## COLORED MULCH

Landscape architects, landscapers, nurserymen, garden centers and homeowners can choose colored mulches that will coordinate with the colors in their landscape designs. Instead of mulch dictating colors in the design, the design can dictate the color of the mulch.

Today's colorants have transformed the mulch industry. The colors retain their hue and fresh appearance year round because they are not affected by sunlight, rain or irrigation. The colorants are natural, biodegradable ingredients that have been tested and found to have a high tolerance by plant material and are nontoxic to animals.

Please call for a price quote to your area. Load size will be up to 80 cubic yards, depending on moisture content, permitting significant savings on freight cost.

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Are the colorants safe for my plants and animals?

- Yes, the raw materials used to make mulch colorants are made from naturally occurring colors in the earth's surface. These colorants, as well as the other ingredients in colored mulch, are specially formulated to be nontoxic to plants and animals.

2. How much mulch should I apply?

- As a general rule of thumb, you should apply mulch at a depth of 2-3 inches. Use less mulch for heavy, clay soils and more for lighter, sandy soils.

3. Will termites interact with mulch?

- Termites tend to interact with most forms of cellulose wood fiber regardless of the source or type. However, mulch is typically a less attractive source of food because of its small, loose particle size (termites tend to prefer larger, solid masses of wood). If homeowners have problems with termites in their area, the best course of action is preventive care. When placing mulch around a home, common recommendations include keeping a six-inch trench between the top of the mulch and the base of the house. An additional preventive measure includes dusting the trench with a termiticide on a yearly basis.

4. Is mulch detrimental to plant growth?

- No. Using mulch will actually help your plants grow better by inhibiting weed growth and preventing weeds from breaking through the soil. Mulch also keeps the soil surface cool, which protects the plants roots, and helps it retain moisture. Another added bonus is the beauty and variety that mulch brings to your landscape.

5. Does the mulch deplete nitrogen levels in the soil?

- As the mulch wood breaks down initially, it will use up some of the nitrogen in the soil. However, after the fiber decomposes, it will restore the nitrogen back to the soil. The best way to maintain good plant growth is to implement and follow recommended fertilizer programs - a good horticultural practice regardless of whether or not mulch is used. For example, you may want to gently work a specially formulated fertilizer (like 16-9-12, 18-11-12, or 20-10-10) into the soil before mulching. Another alternative is to use landscape fabric as a barrier to cut down on potential depletion.

6. How long does the mulch maintain its color?

- Weather, including the amount of sun vs. shade, rain vs. drought, and other variables, play a big role in how long your mulch will retain its color. The mulch will typically maintain its color for more than one year.

7. Do the colors ever wash off the mulch?

- They can during the installation process. Please read the downloadable PDF entitled "Color Wash Prevention".

8. How often is remulching required?

- Raking the mulch at 4-6 month intervals will rejuvenate the beds and allow additional aeration to plant roots, which is beneficial for plant growth. After about a year (and on a yearly basis thereafter), rake the mulch bed, then top dress it with 1-2" of new mulch. Use care not to overmulch.