

## Properly Mulched Landscapes

Properly mulched landscapes offer many benefits, such as maintaining soil moisture, controlling weeds, insulates from severe weather, reduces damage from lawn equipment, aerates soil and provides beds with a uniform, well-cared for appearance.



Excessive mulch can lead to moisture in the root zone causing root rot and stress. Piling mulch against the trunk leads to insect, rodent and disease infestations, which result in trunk girdling. Certain types of mulch alter soil PH levels. And, mulch that becomes too deep or matted will become anaerobic (sour); emitting pungent odors and allowing organic acids to build up in the soil (toxic to young plants).

Before obtaining mulch, calculate the correct quantity needed by following the guidelines below:

### For a Square or Rectangular Area

Measure the area to determine the square footage by multiplying the length by the width. For example, an area that is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide (30x20) will be 600 square feet (sq.ft.).

Next, multiply 600 sq. ft. by the anticipated depth of the mulch layer. If the depth is to be 2" deep, the calculation would be  $600 \times 2$  which equals 1,200 sq. ft. Convert 1,200 sq. ft. to cubic yards by dividing by 324 (the number of square feet in a cubic yard). Thus, 1,200 divided by 324 equals 3.7037037, or rounded up results in 4 cubic yards.

### For a Triangular Area

Obtain the square footage of a triangular area, which has one short side and two longer sides. Multiply the base (short side) by the height (the longer of the two other sides), then divide by 2. Thus, if the triangle's base is 9 feet wide and the sides are 12 and 15 feet long, multiply 9 by 15, which is 135. Divide 135 by 2, which equals 67.5 sq. ft.

Next, multiply 67.5 by the anticipated depth of the mulch layer; say 3". Which is 202.5 sq. ft. Convert 202.5 sq. ft. to cubic yards by dividing by 324, which is .623 (point 623) cubic yards.

### For a Circular Area

Determine the square footage by measuring from the center of the circle to the outside of the circle to get the radius and then multiply the radius by itself. For example, if the circle's radius is 9, multiply 9 by 9 to get 81. Now multiply 81 by pi (3.14), which equals 254.34 sq. ft.

Next, multiply 254.34 by the anticipated depth of the mulch layer; say 4". Which equals 1,017.36 sq. ft. Convert 1,017.26 sq. ft. to cubic yards by dividing by 324; which is 3.14 cubic yards.

If the above calculations are still too mind-boggling, visit the following link to have the results calculated automatically for you: <https://www.landscapecalculator.com/calculators/mulch>