



## SMART WATER ADVICE

# Saving Water with Mulch

- ◆ Keeping your garden mulched is essential for creating healthy soil and maintaining a water efficient garden.
- ◆ Mulch keeps your soil cool, suppresses weeds, adds nutrients and reduces run off and soil movement.
- ◆ Mulch can reduce evaporation from soil by up to 70%.
- ◆ Any mulch is better than no mulch



### Coarse Mulch

Pine bark, pebbles and even recycled concrete and bricks makes a long lasting mulch and is excellent for preventing weeds. It also is very good for keeping the soil cool, particularly if it is lightly coloured. This sort of mulch can be 5-7cm deep.



### Medium Mulch

Wood chips are also excellent for reducing weeds. This sort of mulch is usually laid 2.5cm - 5cm deep.

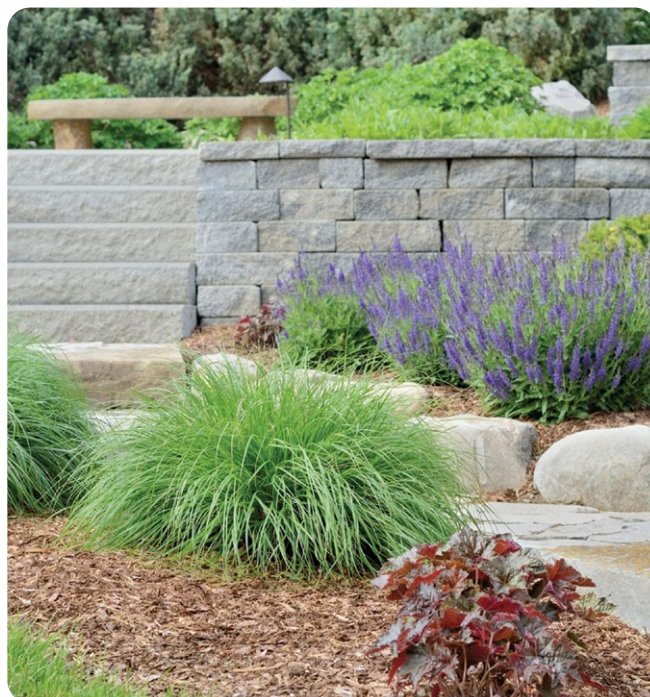


## Fine Mulch

Sawdust and euca can stop water getting into the soil, so don't make it too thick - about 2.5cm deep. Don't forget to top it up each year when the ground is starting to dry out.

## 6 steps to Marvellous Mulching

- 1** Remove weeds.
- 2** Moisten the soil thoroughly.
- 3** If water is running off the surface fork through some compost.
- 4** Lay your mulch depending on the type you have selected.
- 5** Don't mulch right up to the stems of your plants as this can cause fungal disease... no one wants that! Leave a gap of at least 4cm.
- 6** Top up your organic mulch every year or more frequently if your mulch has broken down a lot.



Watch the 'How to' video guides on  
The Water Conservancy YouTube channel

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Find out more at  
[www.smartwateradvice.org](http://www.smartwateradvice.org)

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