

## 484\_IL\_GD\_Mulching\_Tables\_2022

**TABLE 1 – GUIDE TO MULCH MATERIALS, RATES, & USES**

Mulch Material	Quality Standards	Application Rates			Anchoring Methods	Remarks
Grass hay  Cereal grain straw	Air-dried, free of undesirable seeds, course material and moldy chunks. Grass hay should be 2/3 grass species	Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mulch Anchoring Tool or Disk,</li><li>• Wood Cellulose Fiber,</li><li>• Asphalt Spray Tackifier,</li><li>• Polypropylene Plastic Netting,</li><li>• Peg &amp; Twine</li></ul>	Good to use where mulch is needed for up to 3 months. Subject to blowing unless kept moist or anchored. Most common mulching material. Good for erosion control
		70	2600	60		
Cornstalks (shredded or chopped)	Air dried, 8-12" lengths	Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>		
		70	4000	92		
Sawdust (442 lbs/yd <sup>3</sup> ) or  Ground corn cobs  (557 lbs/yd <sup>3</sup> )	Green or composted. Free of objectionable material. Hardwood sawdust is preferred. Corncobs should be free of grain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit trees – 5-7"</li><li>• Vegetables and flowers 2-3"</li><li>• Black &amp; Raspberries 4-7"</li><li>• Strawberries 3"</li></ul>			Most effective as mulch around ornamentals, small fruits and other nursery stock. Requires 30-35 lbs. of N/ton to prevent N deficiency. Walnut sawdust is not recommended	

Mulch Material	Quality Standards	Application Rates			Anchoring Methods	Remarks
Manure		Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>		Manure with bedding is preferred. Manure may be a source of weeds. Resistant to blowing.
		70	2300	53		
Wood Excelsior	Green or air-dried burred wood fibers 4" long.	Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polypropylene Plastic Netting,</li> <li>• Peg &amp; Twine,</li> <li>• Slit</li> </ul>	Effective for erosion control. Anchoring required only on critical areas or sites subject to high winds. Decomposes slowly.
		70	2600	60		
<u>Hydromulch</u> Wood fiber cellulose (partly digested wood fiber) or wood fiber/paper blend	Cellulose made from natural wood fiber, usually with green dye and dispersing agent added; blend is of natural wood fibers and paper.	Use maximum rate specified according to manufacturer's instructions.				Apply with hydromulching equipment.
Wood chips (445-620 lbs/yd <sup>3</sup> )  Or  Bark shavings	Green or air-dried. Free of objectionable material. Chips or shavings from hardwood species are preferred. Note: Walnut chips or shavings are not recommended.	Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>		Same use and application as sawdust and ground corncobs. Requires 20-25 lbs. N/ton to prevent N deficiency during decay. Resists blowing.
		70	6500	150		
Excelsior wood fiber blanket	Interlocking web of excelsior wood fibers. Netting on one or both sides. 80% of the fibers 6 inches or longer. <b>2 lbs. fiber per 1000 in<sup>2</sup></b>	Calculate based on the size of the rolls plus the manufacturer specified overlap.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staples</li> </ul>	Use without additional mulch. Effective for erosion control on steep slopes. Use around tree and shrub plantings to suppress weed growth.

**TABLE 2 – GUIDE TO AREA COVERED BY COMMON MULCH MATERIALS**

<b>Cereal grain straw</b>		
Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>
70	2600	60
90	3900	90
<b>Wood chips</b>		
Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>
70	6500	150
90	9000	207
<b>Manure, solid, significant bedding</b>		
Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>
70	2300	53
90	3400	80
<b>Corn stalks</b>		
Area Covered (%)	lb./ac	lb./1000 ft <sup>2</sup>
70	4000	92
90	6100	140