

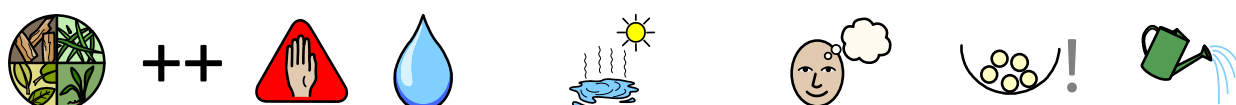
Mulch



Mulch helps keep moisture in the soil, which plants need.



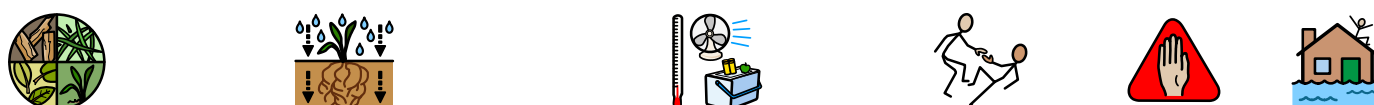
Mulch slows down rain, stopping it bouncing everywhere and running off.



Mulch also stops water evaporating, this means less watering.



Mulch can be used for decoration and to stop weeds growing.



Mulch slows the flow of water, keeping us cool and helping to stop flooding.



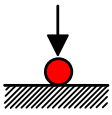
Spreading mulch at home or at school is a great way to take climate action.



It is easy to buy and you can make it.



We spread mulch to cover bare soil. It can be living or dead.



Here are some examples of mulch.



bark chippings



leaf mulch



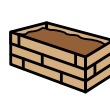
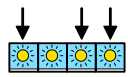
grass cuttings



wood chip



Mulch can also be a living plant, called living mulch.



Normally we sow living mulch in containers. Some examples are:



clover



phacelia



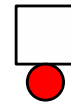
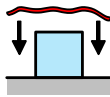
ryegrass



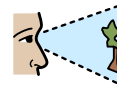
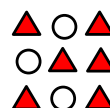
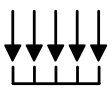
alfalfa



Plants also self-mulch.

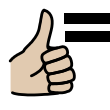
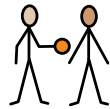


They drop their leaves which covers the ground beneath.



All plants do it differently, but it's common to see in autumn.

Make your own mulch



You can make your own wood chip, just like plants do.



You will need:



gloves



bag

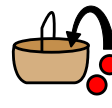
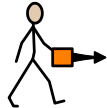


wood chipper



goggles

1



Put on your gloves, take your bag and collect dead leaves.

2



You can also collect twigs and branches.

3

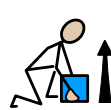
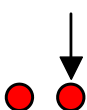


Twigs and branches will need to be chopped smaller.



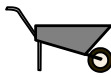
You can use a wood chipper, make sure you wear goggles.

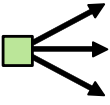
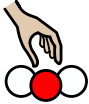
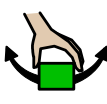
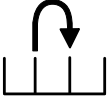
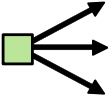
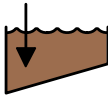
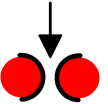
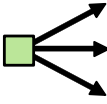
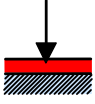
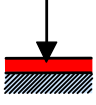
4



Another way to collect mulch is to pick up grass cuttings.

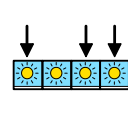
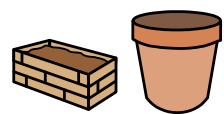
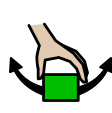
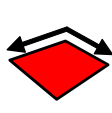
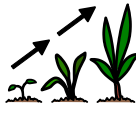
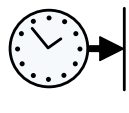
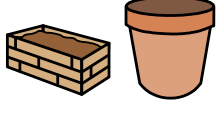
How to mulch

 You will need:	 gloves	 mulch of choice	  wheelbarrow or bucket
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1	     Decide where you want to spread your mulch.
2	       Choose which mulch to use, then buy or collect it.
3	      Spread your mulch thickly, about 10 cm deep.
4	     If a plant is close, leave a gap close to the stem.
5	   Make sure it's spread evenly.
6	      After a while, you might have to top up the mulch layer.

Living mulch

 You will need:	 gloves	 seeds	 spade
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1	     	Decide where to sow your living mulch. Normally in containers.
2	    	Choose which living mulch to use, buy the seed.
3	   	Sprinkle the seed over the area of bare soil.
4	    	Water it. As it grows, if the weather is hot, it will need water.
5	    	Time to plant your containers? Dig in the living mulch.

Mulch: wordsearch

L	M	A	S	L	O	W	T	H	E	F	L	O	W
W	U	M	R	F	G	L	K	Q	X	V	P	O	R
E	L	I	V	I	N	G	M	U	L	C	H	M	A
R	C	E	N	B	A	X	Z	U	A	Q	E	D	C
H	H	E	T	C	X	Y	H	R	L	S	R	T	B
K	E	V	B	H	Y	T	D	Q	H	O	B	E	W
C	O	O	L	E	R	B	V	C	T	I	L	O	A
Y	T	U	E	N	O	F	L	M	S	L	J	P	R
R	J	T	W	A	S	C	T	Q	A	Z	U	O	T
P	B	A	R	K	C	H	I	P	P	I	N	G	S
V	U	D	E	C	B	N	O	I	L	K	A	S	D



bark chippings



slow the flow



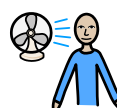
cardboard



soil



straw



cool



mulch



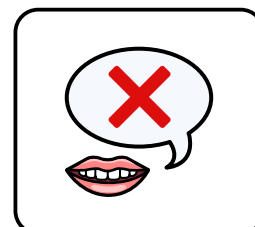
living mulch

Mulch: true or false

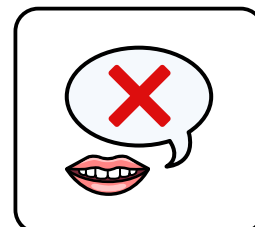


Circle your answer.

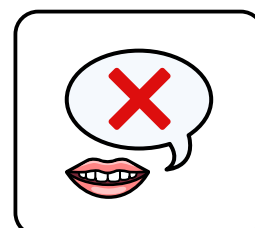
 is a type of  mulch.



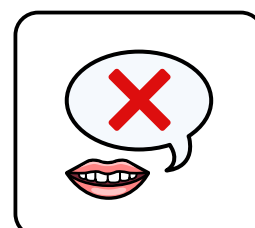
 helps  weeds  to grow.



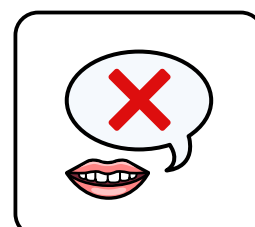
 slows the flow of water.



 is a type of  mulch.



 make mulch  with their leaves.



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