

Squeeze every drop

The City of Oklahoma City has partnered with Oklahoma State University's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service to help promote outdoor water conservation.

For more information about how you can save water outdoors check out these websites:
squeezeeverydrop.com
thinkwater.okstate.edu
sip.mesonet.org



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

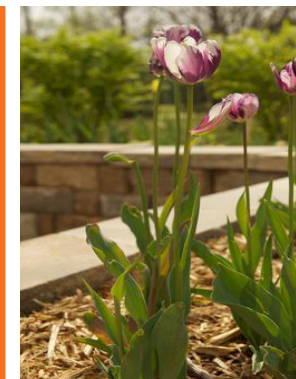
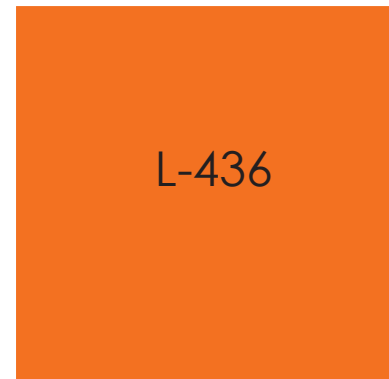
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural Sciences
and Natural Resources
Oklahoma State University

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President, Dean, and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$1.75 per copy. 0713 JS.



All you need
to know about
mulch



Benefits of mulch

- Creates an attractive landscape.
- Reduces soil moisture loss so you can water less.
- Regulates soil temperature, which insulates and protects plants.
- Prevents soil compaction and erosion.
- Protects plants from soil-borne diseases.
- Prevents weed seeds from germinating.
- Prevents trunk damage from weed whackers and lawn mowers.
- Provides a home for beneficial organisms like earthworms.
- Organic mulch increases soil tilth as it decomposes.

Types of mulch

- **Organic mulches** are derived from natural materials such as straw, wood chips or leaves. They are relatively low cost, can deter pests, increase soil quality as they decompose and allow water infiltration. Keep in mind black and dark brown mulches absorb heat.
- **Inorganic mulches** include rubber, recycled glass or rocks. These types of mulches do not need to be replaced as often but may hold heat, which can be tough on plants.

Proper mulching

- Add mulch to a depth of 2 to 3 inches near plants.
- Avoid mounding mulch around plants and trees because it can cause trunk rot.
- Mulch may need to be replaced as it breaks down or washes away.
- Apply coarse texture mulches at a 3-inch depth and fine texture mulches at a 2-inch depth.



Trunk rot due to mounding mulch

