



FREE MULCH & WOOD CHIPS!

Available to SDUSD Schools!

Schools in San Diego Unified School District can receive FREE mulch ("course" or "fine") and wood chips as part of the District's contract with Republic Services, our waste and recycling hauler.

Minimum order of any material is five (5) cubic yards



Photo credit: homedepot.com

Deliveries can be made on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Request deadlines are Mondays by noon. A site contact person with a cell phone must be available to direct where to unload the material. A minimum gate width of ten (10) feet is needed for deliveries.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Janet Whited,

Environmental Specialist, at jwhited@sandi.net





Got Mulch?

Tips for Using Mulch & Wood Chips in School Gardens

If you're looking to get free mulch or wood chips delivered to your site through the District's contract with Republic Services, you might have a few questions:

What type of mulch is available? Two types of mulch are available: "Course" with particle sizes generally over two inches or more and "fine," with particle sizes under one inch and most under 1/4 inch or less. Mulch is not the same as compost and should not be mixed in with garden soil.

How should mulch be used in and around our garden? Course/larger size mulch is best used on the ground several inches thick to inhibit weeds or used along pathways.

Fine mulch can be placed ON TOP of the soil, NOT DUG INTO the soil. It can be used around the garden several inches thick to inhibit weeds, enhance water absorption, enrich soil, moderate soil temperature, and to conserve moisture. It would also be an excellent material to load in compost bins (with leftover fresh fruits or vegetables from the school's salad bar, optimally buried in the middle) to make fast compost for future use in the garden. It's estimated that the fine mulch would take another two months to fully compost.

For more information on mulch and the best application uses and methods, please refer to http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Sonoma_Gardener_Articles/Mulch--a_Gardeners_Best_Friend/.

What's the difference between mulch and compost? Remember, compost and mulch are NOT the same. Compost is made up of *fully* decomposed plant material and is an asset when added to your soil. It should look and feel more like soil and less like sticks and leaves.

How can wood chips be used in the garden area? Wood chips are often used along pathways and dirt areas in the garden to help suppress weeds, reduce dust and/or mud, and beautify the area. Wood chips can cause splinters when handled or when wearing open-toed shoes, so use with caution in student areas. Be aware that wood chips and mulch can "wash away" easily during rains or when watering the garden areas.