

Why fertilise when mulching?



Mulching is a very important part of gardening for a few reasons. Not only does it help with water conservation, it stops the top from drying out and keeps the soil moist. Mulching helps keep the soil temperature consistent. It helps with weed control and can stop weed seeds from germinating.

Mulching helps stop erosion, and most importantly, mulching with organic mulches you are adding organic matter (carbon) to your soil, which then improves soil structure & drainage promoting a better environment for worms & microbes.

But there is a catch!

There is a catch with organic mulches, you need to fertilise with a slow release form of Nitrogen, for the mulch to break down. The microbes need Nitrogen to help break down (or compost) the mulch, if there is no added Nitrogen, microbes pull it from the soil which can then **starve the plant**.

This is called Nitrogen Draw Down. **Carbon Is The Food, Nitrogen Is The Energy!!** To avoid this, mulching should always be seen as a two step process; Fertilise then mulch using Terra Firma's Poultry Manure Pellets or Terra Firma's Blood & Bone Pellets.

Application Guide when Mulching

Category of Organic Mulch*	Application Rate per m2		Range of Carbon : Nitrogen Ratios in Mulches
	Terra Firma Poultry Manure Pellets	Terra Firma Blood & Bone Pellets	
Lucerne Mulch, Garden Waste (weeds, prunings, lawn clippings etc).	200g	150g	< 30: 1
Dry Leaves, Sugar Cane Mulch, Straw, Hay, Course Compost, Fine Ground Green Waste	300g	200g	>30:1 to 100:1
Shredded paper, Tea Tree Mulch	400g	250g	>100:1 to 200:1
Cardboard, Coarse Bark, Cypress, Slash Pine Bark, Wood Shavings, Sawdust	500g	300g	>200:1

*Organic mulches can reduce soil pH over time, add Terra Firma Lime Impact at 200 g/m2, twice yearly.



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