

20) Mulch / Mulch Alternative

- Organic bark chips are the preferred mulching material due to benefits to the landscape. Organic mulch helps retain moisture for the soil, decomposes slowly, adding nutrients to the soil, reduces weed growth, and shades the soil from the sun, reducing the need for water. Organic mulch must be naturally colored. Red, black or green mulch is not permitted.
- Spread two (2) – four (4) inches of mulch on plants beds, keeping mulch several inches away from the plant stems to protect the stems from rotting.
- Inorganic mulch may be used, however a physical sample must be provided to the ADC as part of the application. The only inorganic mulch permitted in planting areas are Tan River Rock, Crimson Rock, Eastern Sunrise and one (1) inch Salt and Pepper Gray Granite and each must be designated as such by the supplier. No other inorganic mulch is permitted.
- Plant beds are to be mulched as follows
 - Contiguous plant beds can only contain one type of mulch, either organic or inorganic.
 - Plant beds in the front of the home and adjacent to the structure must contain a single type of mulch or stone/gravel. Those plant beds in the front of the residence, even if separated by an entrance walkway or driveway, are considered as one plant bed including the contiguous portions that wrap around to the side of the home.
 - Plant beds at a residence may use organic mulch, inorganic mulch or both with the following restrictions:
 - Only one type of organic mulch, i.e. large pine bark chips or natural cypress mulch is permitted at a property.
 - Only one type of inorganic mulch, i.e. Tan River Rock, Crimson Rock, Eastern Sunrise, one (1) inch Salt and Pepper Gray Granite is permitted at a property.
 - Using both types of mulch requires plant beds to be physically separated with organic mulch in one bed and inorganic mulch in the other bed
 - Ground cover around street trees is limited to the use of organic mulch only.
 - The banks of detention ponds shall be covered either in Pine Straw or left bare of ground cover. See exhibit #2, Ground Cover.
 - Natural areas on properties that contain trees and natural plants may be mulched with Pine Straw or one of other approved forms of organic mulch. They may also be maintained without ground cover. Natural areas are defined as portions of the original property that has not been altered in any manner.