



MULCHING

Technical guide

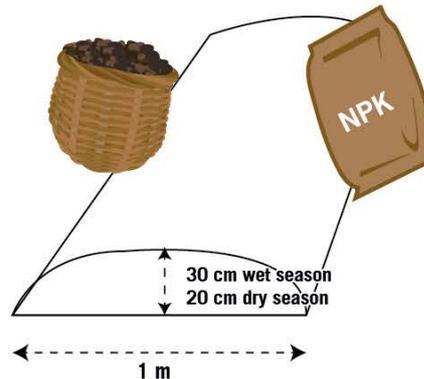
• Land Preparation



ENGLISH



Deep plowing and harrowing
(2-3 times) with tractor or
animal-drawn plow



Prepare raised bed and
mix in basal fertilizer
and manure



Water well



Level the bed



Remove or break any large clods of soil to
prevent hot pockets of air

With a well-prepared land, the mulch can stay in place during 3 consecutive crops.

• Placing plastic mulch



Unroll silver side on top

- » Use the foot for tension
- » Do not over stretch but make sure pockets of air are not created under the plastic
- » Secure the plastic with soaked bamboo staples



**Measure the spacing and make holes.
The bed is ready for transplant the next days.**

Place straw around planting hole to prevent hot air rising past plant



Benefits:

- » Protects from rain/compaction
- » Reduces soil compaction
- » Maintains soil moisture
- » Reduces water logging
- » Reduces fertilizer leaching
- » Reduces erosion
- » Suppresses weed growth
- » Reduces sucking insects
- » Improves plant growth
- » Can be used 3 seasons

Challenges:

- » Initial investment cost
- » May increase problem of soil fungi and bacteria in areas where it already exists
- » Environmental issues (proper disposal)

• Alternative: Straw mulching



Place 10 cm of straw on the well-prepared and watered bed



Make holes for the seedlings.



Benefits:

- » Keeps soil cool in hot season
- » Conserves moisture
- » Prevents rain damage
- » Reduces fertilizer loss
- » Reduces weeds
- » Improves soil structure
- » Reduces soil compaction
- » Improves plant growth
- » Fruit not touching the soil

Challenges:

- » In high humidity, straw too close to stem may cause rot
- » May encourage rats and chickens
- » May encourage insects and diseases

<http://growhow.eastwestseed.com>

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