



Bulk Soils, Amendments & Mulches

SOILS

Soils in the Pacific Northwest vary in content, quality, and fertility. Because we use native soils and organic amendments in our bulk soil products, no specific claims of soil fertility or performance can be made. **None of Sky's bulk soils have added nutrients, so we recommend using good organic fertilizer with all soil types.** Garden lime is also recommended for lawns, vegetable gardens, and most ornamental plantings except of acid-loving plants (rhododendrons, evergreens, Japanese maples, native plants, and blueberries).

THREE WAY MIX

Three Way Mix is composed of sandy loam, compost and composted manure. It is recommended for grade changes, berms, lawns, and general use. When planting, enrich it by adding additional Fertil-Mulch®, Cedar Grove Compost, or other compost, as well as the appropriate fertilizer.

PLANTING MIX (TOPSOIL)

This is our soil blend for ornamental beds. Planting Mix consists of Three Way combined with Cedar Grove Compost, Fertil-Mulch®, and sand. It is our best soil for general use. It can be incorporated into ornamental planting beds, used for grade changes or to top dress a lawn, and used to fill in general garden beds or berms. Planting Mix is not recommended for filling containers; Sky recommends using bagged commercial potting soil instead.

RAISED BED MIX

Raised Bed Mix is a fifty-fifty mix of soil and Cedar Grove Compost. It is designed for filling raised garden beds and may be used to fill very large containers such as veggie bins, whiskey barrels, or Tartar tanks. It is not recommended for use indoors or in smaller containers. It is suitable for growing both ornamentals and edibles. Add appropriate fertilizer.

SOIL AMENDMENT

CEDAR GROVE COMPOST

Cedar Grove Compost is a screened organic material made from composted green waste and food waste from the urban recycling program. No chemicals or sludge by-products are added. It contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and a wide range of micronutrients. Inert particles and pieces are commonly found in the green waste stream; some level of inert material may still be present after the product is processed. These materials will not harm your plants, vegetables, or landscape.

Use Cedar Grove Compost to improve soil structure and plant health. Additional fertilizer is recommended with all applications of Cedar Grove Compost. For new lawns, till soil to a 6" to 8" depth, apply lawn fertilizer and dolomite lime at the rate recommended on the packages, cover with 2-4" of Cedar Grove Compost, and till thoroughly into the existing soil. As a top dressing for lawns, mix Cedar Grove Compost half-and-half with sand and apply ¼" deep. For new flower or vegetable beds, apply it 3" deep and thoroughly mix with existing soil.

SOIL AMENDMENT/MULCH

FERTIL-MULCH®

Fertil-Mulch® is a screened mixture of sawdust composted with manures. It is recommended for incorporating into the soil for ornamental plantings and is especially good for improving heavy clay soils. As a soil amendment, use similarly to Cedar Grove Compost; additional fertilizer is recommended with all applications of Fertil-Mulch®. As a top dressing for lawns, mix it half-and-half with sand and apply ¼" deep.

Spread 2-3" deep as a mulch, Fertil-Mulch® is good for both moisture retention and weed control in your ornamental beds. It's also good as an overwinter mulch for your vegetable beds if you're not using cover crops; spread 2-3" in the fall to control winter weeds and protect your soil from rain compaction, then in the spring till it in before planting.

MULCHES

BARK/WOOD MULCH

Shredded bark mulch can be an effective and attractive form of weed control. For the most effective suppression of weeds, first eliminate the existing weeds (particularly invasive ones that re-grow from roots or rhizomes) and lay down a fabric weed barrier. A minimum cover of 2-3 inches of bark should be used. Weed seeds that land in the mulch may still germinate but can be easily removed by hand. DO NOT pile mulches against the trunks or stems of your trees and shrubs; leave a several-inch ring clear.

Sky carries shredded mixed fir and hemlock "red" bark in medium fine and extra fine grades. Both are effective in weed control. Remember that all bark mulches will gradually decompose into your soil (improving its texture but temporarily tying up small amounts of nitrogen) and will need to be renewed periodically. Also remember that the bark color can vary from batch to batch and will change over time.

CEDAR PLAY CHIPS

Cedar play chips are used in areas where you wish to suppress plant growth, as the light-colored wood chips are slightly toxic to other plants. They are good in pathways, children's play areas, or dog runs. Sky's play chips are natural, untreated cedar. Because play chips are a natural product, each load may vary. Chips range from 1" to 6" in length. Please note that play chips may be sharp. Check out our current sample before purchasing.