



Garden Series MULCH LAYER

Simplified field equipment
for HOMESTEADS
or HOBBY FARMS



1023

Model **For 15-25 HP sub-compact tractors**

1023-36	54" toolbar width	max 36" mulch width
1023-42	54" toolbar width	max 42" mulch width

- Use on flat-land or raised beds
- 1023-42 can be adjusted to use 36" mulch width

Multi-Tool Kits:

Install planter frame on front toolbar - pages 16 and 17
Also use front toolbar and disks as a hiller - page 5

GARDEN EQUIPMENT PRIMER

MULCH LAYERS

Plastic mulch can be used with raised beds or on-the-flat, which should be well-drained. It provides a greenhouse effect to warm the soil and tends to balance moisture between rains but most choose it for weed control. The steps to apply and remove plastic mulch requires a fraction of the time and energy otherwise spent for mechanical (or manual) cultivation to achieve the same results. Another benefit is protection of fruit that sits on the ground like cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and some tomatoes. Possible benefits from colored mulch is solar reflection and pest control.

Plastic mulch leads to drip irrigation since it tends to act as a barrier to rain. However, enough rain still tends to moisten the bed through the furrows and plant holes. Matting or woven materials are designed to let water penetrate, which works as long as pointed weeds do not also penetrate. The cost of these materials may limit the scale of use.



Mulch Layer and Bed Shaper widths are coordinated. The 1023 Mulch Layer for 36" mulch rolls is used with the 24" bed top and the 42" model is used with a 30" bed top. Either width can be used on flat land and feature opening disks to form trenches, tuck wheels to hold down mulch edges and covering disks to cover mulch edges. Minimum mulch or bed row spacing (center-to-center) for 36" mulch is 42" and minimum spacing for 42" mulch is 48".

PLASTICULTURE

Growers more interested in sustainable agriculture may frown on having to remove and dispose of plastic, but the massive improvement over weed control with plastic mulch is not easy to dismiss. Man may be plagued with bulging landfills but before that man wasand continues to be plagued with weeds and pests.

Reusable ground cover is becoming more of an interest. Straw, cover crops and other natural mulches are solutions, which tend to be most efficient when done on a small scale.



PRIMER CONTINUES NEXT PAGE...