

CALCULATING HOW MUCH MULCH, COMPOST, OR TOPSOIL IS NEEDED

Toledo GROWs Best Practices– Tending a Garden

Contact Toledo GROWs at any time for technical assistance in garden planning

To fill garden beds with topsoil, add mulch to pathways, or add compost to garden beds, you must know how many cubic yards of material are needed. Follow these steps to calculate your needs:

1. Decide how deep your topsoil, compost, or mulch needs to be. If measured in inches, convert that to feet
 - # inches divided by 12 = # of feet
 - Example - 2 inch depth needed: 2" divided by 12" = 0.167 feet depth
2. Calculate the cubic feet of the bed or area to cover
 - Length (in feet) x width (in feet) x depth (in feet) = cubic feet
 - Example – a bed or path that is 12' long and 4' wide and you need 0.167 feet of depth = 8.016 cubic feet
3. Convert the cubic feet to cubic yards
 - # cubic feet divided by 27 = # cubic yards
(1 yard = 3 feet: 3 ft. H x 3 ft. W x 3 ft. D = 27 cubic feet)
 - Example – using calculations above: 8.016 cubic feet divided by 27 = 0.297 cubic yards
4. If covering multiple areas or beds that are the same size
 - Calculate one and multiply by the number of areas or beds to cover
 - Round up to the nearest tenth of a cubic yard
 - Example – 0.297 cubic yards x 5 beds = 1.485 cubic yards. Round up to 1.5 cubic yard
5. If covering multiple areas of different sizes, repeat steps 1-3 for each area and add all the totals together.

If you are picking up the materials be aware that an average size pick up truck bed (6ft long) holds about 1.5 cubic yards



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

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