

Supplies You Can Order Through CAC

CAC helps gardens make springtime bulk orders of mulch, row cover, and compost so that gardeners can get wholesale prices. Bales of straw or hay cost \$_____ and will be delivered to your plot this spring. Row cover costs \$2 per 10' x 10' square and is available now for you to take home from Spring Registration. Below are more details.

Mulch

Wondering why some gardeners use mulch on their plots? There are many reasons to use a mulch like straw, marsh hay, or shredded leaves. (Wood chips don't make a good garden mulch.)

- Keeps the weeds down.
- Retains soil moisture and moderate soil temperature.
- Prevents the soil from being compressed.
- Inhibits vegetable rot.
- Winterizes your garden.

Two to three bales are about how much is needed per plot, depending on whether you mulch your paths and how deep you pile it. For more information, see *Why Use Mulch* by Jim Winkle, on the Quann Garden website: www.madison.com/communities/quanngarden

Row Cover

Floating row cover is a fabric made of spun polypropylene fibers that keeps bugs off your plants. It is a very effective and totally organic method of controlling insect problems. The fabric is very lightweight and will sit on top of your plants allowing both light and water to penetrate it but preventing even the smallest insects like flea beetles from getting to your plants. Place row cover over your plants with enough slack for the plants to grow. Anchor all the edges with something heavy (dirt, boards or rebar all work well), so that the wind won't blow the row cover away and the bugs can't get in through cracks. Use large pieces if you can to cover several plants at a time or a whole row of seedlings. Put your row cover on at the same time that you plant. It also works like a mini-greenhouse for heat-loving plants. For more details on organic insect control and details on row cover, see CAC's website at www.cacscw.org/gardens.

Compost

Most gardens get free leaf mold compost delivered as an annual service from the City of Madison and Dane County. If your garden's pile runs out and you want more, or if you want to use compost at your home, you can always go and pick it up yourself. It is free in small quantities (boxes or trash cans) and \$10 for a pickup or trailer load. Hear all the details at the Compost Hotline: 267-1502.