

Soil & Mulch



Right Practice: Soils

Amend the soil with inorganic material sized ¼" and smaller

SQUEEGEE is ¼" rock and smaller

- Inorganic material creates pockets of air and results in increased porosity, which allows water to penetrate and get to roots quickly.
- Many plants that thrive in our climate prefer lean soil and good drainage as opposed to rich organic soils.
- Organic matter and wood mulch are not ideal for many xeric, native and other plants that thrive on the Front Range.

These recommendations are for xeric and low-water landscapes. Does not apply to vegetables, annuals, etc.



How to Remove Turf



Remove sod with sodcutter (rented) or by hand (next to trees). Compost at local dump.

How to Amend with Squeegee



Topdress with 2-3" squeegee

How to Plant in Squeegee



Layout plants



Move squeegee aside



Dig hole to accommodate container size



Mix squeegee with existing soil



Place plant and fill in with mix



Plant installed



Rock mulch is what we use in many areas at Denver Botanic Gardens



Using inorganic material follows nature's cue.

Use a Fine Organic Mulch

- Organic mulch should be 1" and smaller
- Amend backfill with 50% squeegee rock/ inorganic material
- Compost may be amended into soil
- Mulch with fine organic mulch



Very fine mulch is what we use in shady areas and for traditional, non-native plants.

Avoid Using Large Wood Mulch

- Large wood mulch takes a long time to break down due to lack of soil microbiota and limited moisture
- Large wood mulch absorbs/hold water away from plant roots
- Can lead to crown rot
- Being dark in color, water may evaporate prior to reaching roots





DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

horticulture@botanicgardens.org

Scan QR code for water-wise resources
for residential landscapes.

