

FARMER TO FARMER - PRACTICES FOR RESILIENCE SERIES

MULCHING



Mulching is the process of covering the topsoil with leaves, grass, little pieces of wood etc. In organic farming, only organic materials are used.

During a nine-month drought in Marshall Islands, organic farmers who mulched their crops found they fared better than those that did not.

Mulching has many benefits. It protects the soil from wind and water erosion, earthworms work under the mulch maintaining a good soil structure, for good water absorption and irrigation. Mulches also keep soil moist by reducing evaporation, suppresses weed growth, and shades the soil keeping it cool. When mulches decompose, they provide nutrients and increases soil organic matter.

Step 1 Organic Material

Gather organic material. They can be found under trees, just about anywhere.





Step 2

Mulch

Cover the base of the plant with the organic material and you are done.

This info sheet has been produced with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific Project and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) Youth Leading Learning in Resilient Agriculture Practices project in partnership with the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Marshall Islands Organic Farming Association (MIOFA).

