Mulching

What is Mulch?

**Mulch** is loose organic materials such as rice straw, cut grass, leaves, sawdust and the like used to cover the soil around the plants or between the rows.

Benefits of Mulching:

- For protection (i.e. from soil erosion) and improvement of the area covered.
- Minimizes growth of weeds.
- Aids in maintaining favorable condition of the soil underneath, i.e. uniform soil temperature.
- Increases air circulation and water holding capacity of the soil.
- Upon decomposition, it promotes granulation or clinging together of the soil and serves as fertilizer to the plants.

With mulch:
- Mulch protects valuable surface soil from erosion during rainfall.
- Mulch nurtures the soil and helps prevent growth of weeds.
- Mulch helps preserve soil moisture.

Without mulch:
- Poor rain-water infiltration due to capping and resulting to heavy runoff.
- Lack of mulch may result to sprouting of unwanted weeds.
- Too much heat exposure may lead to high dryness of soil and plants.

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