



The Woodchip Handbook

A Complete Guide for Farmers, Gardeners and Landscapers



Ben Raskin

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Gardening / Farming / Homesteading

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The first and only complete guide to sourcing and using woodchip—an abundant, inexpensive, and ecologically sustainable material—for savvy growers and landscapers at any scale, from farm to garden to greenhouse.

The Woodchip Handbook is the essential guide to the many uses of woodchip both in horticulture and in organic farming. Author Ben Raskin, Head of Horticulture and Agroforestry at the Soil Association, draws on his extensive practical experience using woodchip, providing the latest research and science from around the world, plus inspiring case studies from a range of innovative farmers.

Ben explores and unlocks the tremendous potential of woodchip to enhance soil health and plant growth in many ways, while also clarifying for readers how to source and apply woodchip for a variety of needs. Some of these uses include:

- As a natural mulch for weed suppression, temperature buffering and water conservation
- As a fantastic growing medium for propagating plants
- As a decomposing source of warmth for hotbeds in greenhouses or hoop houses
- As a carbon-rich compost ingredient that supports beneficial fungi & microorganisms
- As a powerful soil health booster
- As an ideal substrate for growing both edible and medicinal mushrooms
- As a sustainable, versatile and durable material for foot paths and landscaping

Some of these techniques, like mulching, have been around forever, yet there is always new science to be discovered, such as the role that salicylic acid from willow woodchip can play in preventing tree diseases or promoting livestock health when used as a bedding material. Whether you are a commercial grower or farmer, a permaculture practitioner or a serious home gardener, *The Woodchip Handbook* will show you how to get the most out of this readily available and renewable material.

About the Author



Ben Raskin has worked in horticulture for more than 25 years, developing a wide range of experience both in practical commercial growing and wider policy and advocacy work. He is the Soil Association's Head of Horticulture and Agroforestry and co-chairs the Defra Edibles Horticulture Roundtable and sits on the boards of the Organic Growers Alliance and Community Supported Agriculture Network UK. Ben is currently implementing a 200-acre silvopastoral agroforestry planting in Wiltshire.