

POSTER

## USING ORGANIC MULCHES IN MANAGED LANDSCAPES: A KUCHING CITY EXPERIENCE (Preliminary Results)

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(Poster)

### ABSTRACT

The use of mulch in managed landscapes is increasing rapidly. Mulches are commonly used to enhance the beauty of landscapes, suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture, and buffer plants from the damaging effects of traffic and lawn equipment. Organic mulches also can improve the soil structure and increase the fertility of landscape soils, which often are compacted and lacking in organic matter, especially around newly constructed buildings. In Kuching city, organic mulch from wood chips generated from pruning and removal of trees has been widely used in around the city. The advantage of using wood chips, as organic mulch is that they decompose faster than bark and they contain higher levels of nitrogen, especially if foliage is present. When properly used, mulches provide a practical way to help woody plants survive and thrive in urban landscapes. The usage of organic mulches in the city of Kuching is rather a new experience and this paper describes the many benefits of using mulches in the landscape and provides some guidelines for their usage.

### INTRODUCTION

Urban forestry and in particular landscaping has been recognized as one of the important agenda in the development of Kuching city as a Garden City by the year 2005. Both of the municipal namely Kuching North City Council and Kuching South Municipal Council paid greater attention and budget to the design and types of landscaping in and around Kuching city. Greater emphasis has been focus on the importance of plant selection, the types of plant species planted and site suitability. For example the use of organic mulches in managed landscapes such as in Kuching North is rather a new experience and is