

## **Organic mulch is a soil conditioner cum nutrient supplier —A review**

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**ABSTRACT:** Mulching is very important practice in fruits and vegetables production. Various mulches materials can be used for different agricultural and horticultural species in different climatic conditions. The organic mulches are to protect the soil surface from the influence of unfavorable factors and to improve the rising conditions for the crop plants. Organic mulch also reduces wind and water erosion through protection the soil surface and reduces nutrient loss by runoff and leaching. Mulches conserve soil moisture, optimum soil temperature, improving water holding capacity, improve aggregate stability, increase in soil microbial activity and soil organic carbon. The main benefits of organic mulches are enhancing the organic matter status and nutrient supply to the plants. It contains plant nutrient like N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn which has a positive effect on the plant growth, yield, improving soil fertility status and soil microbial activity. Organic mulch improves physical, chemical and biological properties of soil and ultimately enhances the growth and crop yield of fruits and vegetables crop production.

**Key Words:** Organic mulch, soil aeration, soil structure and sustainable agriculture