



green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING

Serving Beaufort, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Jasper, Liberty, McIntosh, Nassau, & Wayne Counties



Pine Straw vs. Mulch: Which Should You Choose?

When it comes to landscaping, one of the most common questions property owners face is whether to use pine straw or mulch as ground cover. Both options have their advantages and drawbacks, making the decision a matter of priorities, aesthetics, and practical requirements.

Pine Straw: Pros and Cons

- **Appearance:** Pine straw offers a natural, rustic look that many find attractive, especially in wooded or Southern landscapes.
- **Cost:** It is often more affordable in regions where pine trees are abundant.
- **Lightweight and Easy to Spread:** Pine straw is lighter than mulch, making it easier to handle and install.
- **Soil Health:** As pine straw decomposes, it adds organic matter to the soil, but it can make the soil slightly more acidic. This is beneficial for acid-loving plants like azaleas and hydrangeas.
- **Weed Suppression:** Pine straw does a decent job suppressing weeds, though it may not be as effective as mulch at blocking sunlight.

Properties of the Month: OCTOBER

BWK SGHS Fall Flower Install *Golden Isles*



Coffee Pointe *Savannah*



Settlers Hammock *South*



*Each Property of the Month
is selected by the Branch
Manager according to
the crew's monthly
Quality Control report.*

- **Durability:** Pine straw tends to break down faster than mulch and may require more frequent replenishing.



Mulch: Pros and Cons

- **Appearance:** Mulch comes in various colors and materials (hardwood, cedar, cypress), allowing for more customization to match your landscape design.
- **Moisture Retention:** Mulch excels at retaining moisture in the soil, which can reduce watering needs and benefit plant health.
- **Weed Control:** Mulch provides a thicker barrier against weeds compared to pine straw.
- **Soil Health:** Like pine straw, mulch decomposes and enriches the soil, but it has a neutral effect on soil acidity.
- **Temperature Regulation:** Mulch helps insulate plant roots from extreme temperatures.
- **Cost and Weight:** Mulch can be heavier and more expensive, especially if you choose premium varieties.

The decision between pine straw and mulch depends on your landscape needs, your budget, and your personal preferences. If you want a lightweight, natural look and have acid-loving plants, pine straw is ideal. If you prefer more color options, longer-lasting coverage, and superior weed suppression, mulch may be better. Consider your local climate and plant types. For example, pine straw is especially popular in the Southeast, while mulch is common in a variety of climates.

Both pine straw and mulch offer unique benefits for your landscape. Evaluate your priorities such as cost, maintenance, plant type, and desired appearance—to make the best choice for your property.



Team Members of the Month: OCTOBER

Eleazar Ramirez Garcia
Golden Isles



William Robbins
Savannah



Carlos Sacor Osorio
South



These team members display our core values (Responsive, Ownership, Observant, Trusted, Skillful) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.

Pine Straw & Mulch Facts

Cedar, cypress, & pinewood chips contain oils that repel ticks, gnats & fleas.

Dark colored mulches even widen the pupil of the eye, making bright plants stand out even more.

Pine Straw brightens after rain.

Termites do not like pine straw.

Long-leaf needles are thicker, longer, and last longer than short-needles but short-needles stay fluffier and are less expensive.



Side-by-Side Comparison

	Pine Straw	Mulch
Appearance	Natural, rustic look, attractive in wooded or Southern landscapes	Various colors and materials (hardwood, cedar, cypress), more customization
Cost	More affordable in regions with abundant pine trees	Heavier and more expensive, especially premium varieties
Weight/Ease of Use	Lighter than mulch, easier to handle and install	Heavier
Soil Health	Adds organic matter, can make soil slightly more acidic, beneficial for acid-loving plants	Decomposes and enriches soil, neutral effect on acidity
Weed Suppression/Control	Decent at suppressing weeds, may not block sunlight as well as mulch	Thicker barrier against weeds compared to pine straw
Durability	Breaks down faster, may require more frequent replenishing	Wood mulch can last a year +, replenishing less often than pine straw
Moisture Retention	Retains moisture by absorbing and holding water to keep the soil consistently moist.	Excels at retaining moisture in soil
Temperature Regulation	Is an insulator keeping soil cool in summer and warm in winters, benefiting plant roots.	Helps insulate plant roots from extreme temperatures



A Note from JJ: Be Observant to Your Landscape

As we enter the Fall season, it's an important time for our landscapes – and for us to **stay observant**. Fall is a time to restore balance and prepare your landscape for the cooler months ahead. It's also a season when we enjoy connecting with our clients..

One of the ways we build these relationships is through **consistent site walks**. During these visits, we walk your property with you to share insights, identify opportunities for improvement, and ensure your landscape is performing at its best.



At Coastal Greenery, one of our Core Values is **Observant**. Being **observant** means:

- We listen carefully to your needs.
- We pay attention to the small details that make a big difference.
- We notice changes in the landscape before they become problems.
- We continually seek ways to improve your property's health and beauty.

This time of year, our teams are especially observant for:

- **Turf Fungus:** A common issue as cooler weather sets in.
- **Wet Areas:** Poor drainage can lead to long-term damage if not addressed.
- **Overgrown Plants:** Blocking views or creating safety concerns.
- **Traffic Patterns:** Foot or vehicle traffic that may impact turf or cause wear.

By being **observant** now, we can proactively address these issues before they grow into larger concerns – keeping your landscape healthy, safe, and beautiful all season long.

With Thankfulness, *Jeffrey Johns*



Your Licensed Professionals Deliver Value.

As in any profession, it's important that we know our job. With hundreds of plant varieties, insects and diseases, professional knowledge means more professional results. You OCTOBER not realize that most professional lawn technicians and applicators must meet special training and testing requirements from the EPA and state in order to be licensed or certified to work with your lawn or landscape. Then, for certification to be maintained, on-going education and training must continue every year.

Before we work on your lawn, you can be sure we not only know what we're doing, but how to do it best.

This means better results and fewer problems for you when you employ only carefully trained and certified professionals to work on your lawn and landscape.

Count on us for care that's our professional best... for you and for the

Our team
appreciates
your
feedback
and
support!

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Have a question or concern? We're here to help.
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