SRM Red Mulch Installation Instructions

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Red plastic mulch maximizes the effect of reflected light on plant growth. In many research studies, red has been demonstrated to enhance the growth and yield of several vegetable crops, including tomatoes, by as much as 20% more than black plastic. Red mulch reflects intensified red light to the developing plants, increasing their photosynthetic capacity and subsequent yields. Results will vary from year to year and with the amount of available sunshine, especially at the beginning of the growing season. There is more reflectivity early in the season when more of the mulch is exposed to light and less is shaded by plant canopy.

Benefits of SRM Red Mulch:

- A soil-warming effect of 4–6°F
- Weed Suppression
- Slows evaporation, reducing fluctuations in soil moisture
- Easily removed from the field after harvest
- Season-long integrity
- Flexible, durable, and stretchable, making it able to conform to flat and raised beds

INSTALLATION:

1. Prepare the soil by cultivating and smoothing the surface so the mulch will lie flat. Make sure the soil is moist.
2. For shorter lengths, cut the SRM Red Mulch to the desired length and secure in shallow furrows along each side of the row, 3–6 inches deep.
3. Bury the edges of the mulch, making sure it is firmly anchored and has good soil contact. It is easier and more efficient to do this with a person positioned on each side of the row, and as you go along, stretch the mulch tight by foot while filling in the furrow. Plastic should be in close contact with the soil for maximum heat transfer and best weed suppression.

Note: The 600- and 3,000-foot roll sizes may also be installed using a standard tractor-mounted mulch layer. Carefully adjust the layer so that it stretches the mulch slightly. Alternatively, if you do not own a tractor, the mulch may also be installed using the Manual Mulch Layer.

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