

Soil Covering Quick Guide

Protecting bare soil is one of the simplest, most powerful ways to nourish your garden. Use this quick guide to choose the right covering—mulch, compost, or living cover—through every season.

Covering Options

Mulch

Wood chips, straw, shredded leaves, pine needles.

Apply 2–3 inches to conserve moisture, regulate temperature, and suppress weeds.

Living Cover Crops

Clover, rye, oats, buckwheat, vetch, mustard.

Sow in off-seasons to build soil fertility and prevent erosion.

Low-Growing Plants

Creeping thyme, oregano, alyssum, chamomile. Provides beauty, fragrance, and ground cover while feeding pollinators.

Compost Blanket

A thin layer of compost enriches soil while shielding it from erosion and drying winds.

Seasonal Tips

Spring

- Mulch as you plant to hold moisture.
- Sow quick cover crops like buckwheat or clover.

Summer

- Refresh mulch layers as they break down.
- Use straw or wood chips to protect soil from heat.

Fall

- Sow cover crops to overwinter (rye, clover, vetch).
- Blanket bare beds with shredded leaves or compost.

Winter

- Leave mulch in place to insulate roots.
- Snow acts as a natural protective covering.

Reflection Prompt

Where do you see ‘bare soil’ in your life right now? Pray and write about how God might be inviting you to cover and protect those vulnerable places.

