

Leaf Mulch Quick-Start Guide

Leaves are one of the best mulches you can use in your garden. This guide gives you simple, practical steps to prepare and apply leaf mulch, especially in small suburban gardens. It also includes a reflection prompt and grace note to keep you rooted in the bigger picture.

Best Times to Apply Leaf Mulch

- Fall – Spread freshly shredded leaves over beds before winter.
- Winter – Use as a protective blanket for tender perennials.
- Spring – Pull back mulch to let soil warm, then return around seedlings.
- Summer – Apply 2–3 inches around crops to retain moisture in the heat.

Step-by-Step: Shredding & Spreading

- Collect leaves from your yard or neighborhood (avoid black walnut).
- Shred leaves with a mower or shredder to prevent matting.
- Spread a 2–4 inch layer around plants, leaving space around stems.
- Water lightly to help mulch settle.
- Replenish throughout the year as mulch decomposes.

Zone 9 Seasonal Checklist

- Fall – Stockpile bags of leaves for year-round use.
- Winter – Insulate soil and protect roots during cold snaps.
- Spring – Pull back mulch to warm soil, then replace as needed.
- Summer – Use shredded leaves to keep soil cool and retain moisture.





Journal Prompt

What is God inviting you to “let fall” in your life right now? How might that release become a covering of grace for the next season?



Grace Note

Friend, remember: leaves are not trash. They are treasure. God designed them to fall, to cover, to nourish. When you spread them over your soil, you are practicing abundance—trusting that the small, quiet gifts at your feet are enough. May the rustle of leaves remind you of grace, falling fresh and free, covering every bare place in your life.

