

# Use of Plastic Mulch and Row Covers in Vegetable Production - HLA-6034

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct words using the fact sheet.**

1. Growing vegetables commercially requires intensive \_\_\_\_\_ and involves \_\_\_\_\_ whether in a market garden, a \_\_\_\_\_ or a larger commercial farm.
2. Price is generally the \_\_\_\_\_ when supply is the lowest.
3. Mulching is a technique, which has been used by \_\_\_\_\_ growers for many years.
4. Mulches are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ mulches are those derived from plant and animal materials.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ mulches include plastic mulch and accounts for the greatest volume of mulch use in vegetable production.
7. Black or clear mulch intercepts sunlight which \_\_\_\_\_ the soil.
8. White or aluminum mulch \_\_\_\_\_ the sun's heat and keeps the soil.
9. Plastic mulch helps prevent soil \_\_\_\_\_ loss during dry years and sheds \_\_\_\_\_ water away from the crop root zone during periods of excessive rainfall.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ plastic mulch prevents weeds from growing.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ mulch does not prevent weeds from growing.
12. Fruit tends to be smoother with fewer \_\_\_\_\_ when plastic mulch is used because it keeps fruits such as tomatoes from \_\_\_\_\_ the ground.

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13. Plastic mulch costs about \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ per acre including installation and removal.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ plastic mulch must be removed from the field before more plastic mulch can be laid.
15. Plastic mulch can be anywhere between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ inches wide.
16. Most agricultural mulch is \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Plastic mulch is not a \_\_\_\_\_ for thorough soil preparation.
18. The soil should be free of \_\_\_\_\_, sticks, \_\_\_\_\_ clods and other material which could puncture the plastic.
19. The simplest planter (for planting after mulch has been laid) is a \_\_\_\_\_ planter which punches a hole through the mulch and fills it with water/starter solution.
20. Crops should be observed regularly for \_\_\_\_\_ build up under the plastic around plant openings.
21. Plastic should be removed after it has produced \_\_\_\_\_ or more crops.
22. Two major benefits of row covers are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ is generally attributed to warming beneath the cover.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ reduces stress on plants particularly during early growth stages.
25. Plastic mulches and row covers used alone or in combination offer the grower a \_\_\_\_\_ tool which can increase \_\_\_\_\_, yield, \_\_\_\_\_ and return per acre in exchange for an additional input.