

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

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.