Mulch and pine straw chart

The formula: Cubic yards = square feet x depth in inches / 324. One cubic yard is 27 cubic feet. Aim for 3 inches; use 1 inch around seedlings, small vegetables and herbs.

Mulch

Bed area	2 inches deep	3 inches deep	4 inches deep
25 sq ft	0.15 cu yd 4.2 cu ft: 3 bags of 2 or 2 of 3	0.23 cu yd 6.3 cu ft: 4 bags of 2 or 3 of 3	0.31 cu yd 8.3 cu ft: 5 bags of 2 or 3 of 3
50 sq ft	0.31 cu yd 8.3 cu ft: 5 bags of 2 or 3 of 3	0.46 cu yd 12.5 cu ft: 7 bags of 2 or 5 of 3	0.62 cu yd 16.7 cu ft: 9 bags of 2 or 6 of 3
100 sq ft	0.62 cu yd 16.7 cu ft: 9 bags of 2 or 6 of 3	0.93 cu yd 25 cu ft: 13 bags of 2 or 9 of 3	1.23 cu yd 33.3 cu ft: 17 bags of 2 or 12 of 3
200 sq ft	1.23 cu yd 33.3 cu ft: 17 bags of 2 or 12 of 3	1.85 cu yd 50 cu ft: 25 bags of 2 or 17 of 3	2.47 cu yd 66.7 cu ft: 34 bags of 2 or 23 of 3
500 sq ft	3.09 cu yd 83.3 cu ft: 42 bags of 2 or 28 of 3	4.63 cu yd 125 cu ft: 63 bags of 2 or 42 of 3	6.17 cu yd 166.7 cu ft: 84 bags of 2 or 56 of 3

Bags are rounded up to whole bags.

Pine straw

Bed area	2 inches deep	3 inches deep
100 sq ft	2 × 25 lb bales 1 × 40 lb bales	2 to 3 × 25 lb bales 2 × 40 lb bales
200 sq ft	3 to 4 × 25 lb bales 2 × 40 lb bales	4 to 5 × 25 lb bales 3 × 40 lb bales
500 sq ft	7 to 8 × 25 lb bales 5 × 40 lb bales	10 to 12 × 25 lb bales 7 to 8 × 40 lb bales

Neither source gives a bale volume that works for pine straw (bales are compressed), so the calculator scales by weight. We assume coverage scales in proportion to depth; neither source says so. The two sources give different coverage, so the bale count is a range: LSU AgCenter: half a pound per sq ft gives a 3-inch layer; NC State Extension: a 40-pound bale covers about 100 sq ft at 2 inches. Bale weights vary by seller (25 to 40 lb shown).

Last checked 2026-11-25. Facts come from the sources below; where sources disagree the chart says so.

Sources

- UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: Choosing and Installing Mulches — https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/mulch/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- LSU AgCenter: Pine straw makes excellent mulch (2009) — https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2009/march/news_you_can_use/pine-straw-makes-excellent-mulch (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension, Lee County: Pine Needle Mulch, the Myths and Legends — https://lee.ces.ncsu.edu/news/pine-needle-mulch-the-myths-and-legends/ (checked 2026-11-25)

LINK TO THIS CHART
https://aberdeenflorist.com/downloads/#mulch-pine-straw-chart
Live version with the same data: **https://aberdeenflorist.com/tools/mulch-calculator/**

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