

Textraw®

“Beauty That Lasts”

Textraw is a patented, premium synthetic ground cover that offers multiple advantages over other natural and synthetic covers on the market today. These advantages are evident in the areas of **Value, Appearance, Plant Health, Human Health, and Environmental Responsibility.**

Human Health

- Made from polypropylene and designed to photo decay into natural elements, the product returns responsibly to the environment. By not biodegrading, Textraw avoids the chemical leaching problems of rubber synthetics.
- Unlike Textraw, rubber mulch is broken down by microbes, with some identified bacteria using rubber as its sole energy source. This means a certain possibility that rubber related toxins leach into the environment. *(L. Chariker Scott, Ph.D., Washington St. University)*
- Rubber leachates contain more than just the organic compounds of rubber. Some of the products used in the vulcanizing process are harmful to human health in high concentration. Health effects may range from skin irritation, organ damage, neurological damage, mutagenesis, and death. *(L. Chariker Scott, Ph.D., Washington St. University)*
- Textraw usage avoids the problems associated with the use of rubber synthetics.
- Unlike Textraw, some recycled wood mulch products may contain arsenic through the use of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA), an insect damage prevention treatment commonly used. *(Mulch & Soil Council, Policy Statement on CCA-Treated Wood in Horticultural Mulches)*
- Converting CCA treated wood into mulch increases the opportunity for arsenic to reach the environment through increased surface area exposure. *(Mulch & Soil Council, Policy Statement on CCA-Treated Wood in Horticultural Mulches)*
- Arsenic content of soil should not exceed 2.1 mg/kg in residential areas. *(Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection)*
- Random samples of wood mulch collected in Florida showed arsenic levels ranging from 3.5-89.9 in Jupiter, 3.6-7.81 in Broward, 3.4-7.81 in Boca Raton, and 7.1- 370 in Boyton Beach. This was reported by WPTV Channel 5 News, West Palm Beach, Fl. *(Tested by Jupiter Environmental Lab for Contact 5 Investigates)*

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- Textraw usage avoids the problem of arsenic associated with some recycled wood mulch.
- Unlike Textraw, natural ground covers create the dark, moist environment attractive to mold, mildew, and fungus growth. Mold, mildew, and fungus is often found already growing in the natural straw and mulches upon delivery, even before the application into the landscape.
- Mold negatively affects people differently, but young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and certainly asthmatics should not be in environments where mold is present. *(CDC spokeswoman Jill Smith to the BBC)*
- Mold interacts with people through skin contact, or the inhalation of spores and mycotoxin. *(Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga.)*
- Fungus is implicated as a cause of almost all chronic sinusitis, which affects 37 million Americans. *(Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga.)*
- Exposure to toxic molds weaken the immune system, making sensitive individuals more susceptible to illness. *(Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga.)*
- Farmers Lung, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, is directly related to exposure to a fungus in natural environments of moldy straw, hay, or grain dust. *(2002 report to Subcommittees on Oversight Investigations and House and Community Opportunity – U.S. House of Representatives)*
- Fungal airborne allergens are associated with the allergic diseases hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergic asthma, and rhinitis/conjunctivitis. *(Institute of Medicine, 1993)*
- Mold exposure exacerbates asthma, supported by sufficient evidence. *(Institute of Medicine, 2000)*
- Mold, not only an outdoor concern, enters homes through open windows, doors, vents, heating and air conditioning units that draw air from the surrounding environment, clothing, shoes, and pets. *(Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Hazards and Health Effects)*
- Textraw usage, by eliminating one of the most fertile environments for mold, mildew, and fungus growth, improves the external and internal environments for American families.

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