

HUNTER'S GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
9456 Highland Oak Drive; Tampa, Florida 33647
(813) 991-4818 Fax (813) 991-5809
hgca@huntersgreen.com

APPROVED MULCH PRODUCT

The approved product to be used for mulch in the community is **medium size (natural color) pine bark**. This memo is to re-emphasize our recommendation that **Grade A mulch** be used and the reasoning behind the selection of product. The mulch must be **natural in color**.

In our Florida Quality Development Order we have agreed not to use cypress mulch. The use of the cypress trees would diminish the natural equilibrium of our sensitive wetland areas. The use of shells, crushed stone, rock, gravel or pebbles is prohibited because these products do not contribute to the soil's nutrient and organic content or water-holding capacity. Limestone and shell both raise soil pH. They also reflect heat, increasing the water needs of plants.

It is often argued that mulches such as pine bark and redwood nuggets have a tendency to "float" in heavy rains, however, once a base is established this is not usually a problem. It is also argued that pine mulch invites insects and termites, however, if "Grade A" pine bark is used there is not live organic nature to this material; therefore, termites do not tend to use this as a haven to propagate. A problem arises when raw wood material is ground up and mixed with the mulch (grade B or C) which reduces the nitrogen content of the soil (to breakdown the organic wood) and perhaps opens the door for subterranean termites. Insects such as palmetto bugs are indigenous to all parts of Florida and use all types of mulches for nesting.

While argument can also be made that pine bark is not the only product friendly to our environment, the Design Review Board has taken the position that uniformity of products would be preferable to an array of types of mulches.

If in the future a homeowner desires to use an environmentally conforming product, the Board would be receptive to discussion of its usage. For obvious reasons materials that present a fire hazard also will not be considered.