



Improved End-of-Life of Plastic Mulches

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Authors

Shuresh Ghimire¹, Carol Miles², and
Jazmine Mejia-Muñoz³

¹ University of Connecticut

² Washington State University

³ California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

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Storing Soil-biodegradable Plastic Mulch On-Farm

Storing soil-biodegradable plastic mulch at your farm requires a little more planning than storing polyethylene mulch. Order only as much mulch as needed for a given year, and, if rolls are left over, these should be used first the following year. The following guidelines will keep soil-biodegradable mulch in good condition for one year, but after that time, it may lose its quality.

- Store rolls in their original packaging. If packaging has been discarded, wrap rolls in polyethylene or moisture-controlled overwrap.
- Store mulch indoors, in a dark or shaded space with no direct exposure to sun or heat sources. A farm warehouse or supply shed that is climate controlled is ideal.
- Prevent temperature extremes, 65-80 °F is a good range.
- Store in a dry place with low to moderate relative humidity. If too humid, moisture can condense on the mulch.
- Store the rolls horizontally to reduce the risk of deformation. This also makes it easier to unroll the mulch when it is time to use it.
- If not in the original packaging, do not stack rolls, store in a single layer.
- Control rodents or other pests that might damage the rolls.
- Before laying the mulch, discard a few outer layers if it has cracks and rips due to storage, transport or handling, as the damaged mulch will have reduced performance in the field.
- For more information, refer to the user manual for your mulch.



Photo source: Shuresh Ghimire

Figure 1. Soil-biodegradable mulch being stored in its original packaging in the barn.

