



## Frequent Questions About Pine Straw

[www.PineStraw.Com](http://www.PineStraw.Com)  
1-800-PINESTRAW

**WHAT IS PINE STRAW MULCH?** Pine straw is a pine needle that has fallen from a pine tree. Pine needles are used in flowerbeds as a ground cover for landscaping. Pine straw helps insulate the soil from temperature fluctuations and will not move with heavy rains. Pine straw is excellent on hills and slopes because the needles interlock after spreading and keep the pine straw from moving.

**Are all Types of Pine Straw the Same?** There are 3 major types of Pine Straw and they are:

1. Longleaf Pine Straw - ( 14 Inch Pine Needle - a.k.a. - Long Needle Pine Straw, Pinus Palustris ) - The thickest needle with the heaviest wax coating resulting in extreme durability. Very few companies actually carry Longleaf Pine Straw due to the fact that it's scarce. We carry this product in box and pallet form.

2. Slash Pine Straw - ( 9 Inch Pine Needle - a.k.a. - Yellow Slash Pine, Pinus Elliottii ) - The most popular type sold on the market and has a combination of durability, cleanliness, and affordability. We carry this type Pine Straw under the name brand Standard Pine Straw®. If you are having trouble deciding what type of Pine Straw to purchase, this type of Pine Straw is a good place to start.

3. Loblolly Pine Straw - ( 6 Inch Pine Needle - a.k.a. - Short Needle Pine Straw, Pinus Taeda ) - The worst of the three major types of pine needles, we do not carry the Loblolly Pine Straw due to the poor quality of the product and the fact that it does not last very long. If you are looking at purchasing Pine

Straw and the price is too good to be true, there is a reason. A lot of the copy cat web sites sell Loblolly pine straw because its the only type they can get due to their geographical location in the U.S. . If a company or web site does not list the type of Pine Straw they are selling, there is a good chance that its because it is Loblolly. Companies will substitute cheap Loblolly Pine Straw and try to pass it off as Slash Pine Straw, or make a list of reason why its "almost" as good as the other types of Pine Straw. Companies that do this will often try to get the customer to focus on the weight of the product to say you are getting more pine straw and avoid talking about the lifespan and quality of Loblolly Pine Straw. A dirty product loaded with sand, sticks, excessive moisture, and other types of debris will weigh more than a fresh, clean batch of Pine Straw.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LONGLEAF, STANDARD PINE STRAW® AND PREMIUM SHREDDED”?**

All three types are pine straw mulch (pine needles). Longleaf pine straw averages 14 inches in length and is considered a premium pine needle used for landscape projects requiring the highest quality straw. Standard pine straw® is a shorter pine needle, averaging 9 inches in length, and is used for the typical commercial or home landscape project. Shredded pine needles are used for gardens and small flowerbeds to retain the maximum amount of moisture in the soil. We do not sell Loblolly Pine Straw due to the poor quality of the product.

**IS PINE STRAW USED AS A MULCH?** Yes, pine needles are used as mulch for gardens and flowerbeds. The length of pine needle used depends upon the amount of moisture retention desired. Shredded Pine Straw locks in the maximum amount of moisture; slash pine straw retains somewhat less moisture,

allowing the soil to breathe more; and longleaf pine straw allows the maximum amount of air to move between the soil and the surrounding area.

**WHAT TYPE OF SHRUBS, PLANTS, OR FLOWERS GROW WELL WITH PINE STRAW?**

A wide variety of plants thrive with pine straw mulch, including azaleas, camellias, hostas, ferns, hydrangea, magnolias, coleus, rhododendrons, snapdragons, cineraria, bleeding heart, geranium, lily of the valley, rose of sharon, rhodies, hellebores, astilbe, strawberries, blueberries, and choke cherry. Because this is not an exhaustive list, please consult your local professional for answers to questions about specific plants not named here.

**CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT PINE STRAW AND SOIL ACID LEVELS?**

Pine Straw has an acidic level of 6.0 - 6.5. This is perfect for most plants.

**HOW DEEP SHOULD A PINE STRAW APPLICATION BE?**

Pine straw should be spread 3 inches deep on the ground surface. You will receive the pine straw from us packed in boxes. It should be taken from the boxes in handfuls and shaken over desired area so that it is distributed in a loose, fluffy manner. While this is a bit time consuming, it will achieve two very important objectives, providing a very attractive ground cover and yielding the correct square footage from each box of our product. Applying the straw in a clumpy fashion will result in a much less attractive look and will cover a smaller area.

**DOES PINE STRAW HELP PROTECT AGAINST THE COLD**

**WEATHER?** Yes. Placing pine straw around the base of trees or other plants is very effective in protecting their root systems from the cold. If you are trying to protect a small tree, make a pine straw bed about three inches deep and two feet in diameter around its base. If you live in a cold climate, the depth of the straw bed should be about six inches.

**DOES PINE STRAW HELP CONTROL WEEDS?** Yes. At a depth of about three inches, pine straw ground cover can be an effective method of weed control.

**HOW OFTEN SHOULD PINE STRAW BE APPLIED?** If the straw is being used to protect plants and add to the soil, it should be applied annually. If it is being used for decorative purposes, it should be applied twice a year. Most of our customers put out their straw in the spring and again before the onset of winter.

**CAN MY PINE STRAW BE STORED IN THE GARAGE?** Yes, if you order your pine straw and decide that you want to use it at a later date, just keep the boxes in a dry place and the pine straw will be fine.

**WILL PINE STRAW STAY IN PLACE WITH HIGH WIND?** Yes, pine straw will stay in place very well with high winds. The longer the pine needle, the better the pine needle will stay in place. If you have a place that has very high winds, you need to go with either the Longleaf pine needle or the Slash pine needle. Pine straw also works well on hills and will not wash

away when the rain comes. Pine straw will work very well around the swimming pool. The long needles will stay in place with the winds and foot traffic.

**WHAT TYPE OF PINE STRAW CAN BE WALKED ON?** Any type of pine straw can be walked on. Dogs and other animals can walk on pine straw without any problems. We recommend the 9" Standard Slash Pine Straw if you are putting the pine straw in a high traffic area with pets.

**WILL PINE STRAW ATTRACT TERMITES?** Termites do not like pine straw. You can put pine straw in your yard without the fear of termites that comes with most hard woods.

**WHERE DO YOU DELIVER?** We deliver our pine straw to all 50 States. If FedEx can deliver to your address, we can get our pine straw to your door®. If you have questions about your area, just e-mail us and we will help you out.

**HOW IS THE PINE STRAW DELIVERED?** We ship our pine straw via FedEx Ground, FedEx Home Delivery, and UPS Freight. You will be e-mailed a tracking number. We ship out 3 different size boxes. The "large box is (24"x24"x24") and will cover 200 square feet of ground at 3 inches deep. Our "medium box" is (24"x24"x14") and will cover 120 square feet of ground at 3 inches We ship Standard Pine Straw® and Longleaf Pine Straw on pallets via UPS Freight. Each pallet will cover over 3,000 square feet at 3 inches deep.

### **CAN YOU TELL ME THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF EACH BOX?**

Each large box of pine straw will cover 200 square feet at 3 inches deep. If you place the straw at a depth of 2 inches, you will get over 250 square feet from each large box. If you place the pine straw on the ground at 5 inches deep, you will not get 200 square feet out of each large box. The thicker the straw, the less square footage each box will cover. You can't determine the square footage covered by weight, this is a common misconception that beginners make. It is common knowledge that any Pine Straw that contains an excessive amount of dirt, sticks, and moisture will weigh more than a clean, dry box of Pine Straw. The type of Pine Straw also helps determine the weight. We have taken the hassle out of the process, all of our products clearly state the square footage covered.

### **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN A FIRST APPLICATION AND A SECOND APPLICATION?**

If you have an area with no pine straw at all on it, then putting down pine straw on this area is referred to as a "first application". You will get 200 square feet at 2 - 3 inches deep out of each large box on the first application. If you already have pine straw on the ground and need to do a "second application", you will get over 300 square feet out of each box of pine straw. The reason for this is that the pine straw does not have to be applied as deep and you can get a lot more square footage out of each box.

### **CAN I PLACE PINE STRAW OVER THE TOP OF PINE BARK?**

Yes, if you place pine bark on the ground, you can then place pine straw on top of the pine bark. Some of our customers do this because they love the look of the pine straw over the top of the pine bark. You can also place the pine straw at a depth of 2

inches because the bark helps control weeds along with the pine straw. You will get well over 200 square feet per large box if you decide to use this method.

**DOES PINE STRAW HELP PREVENT "SHOTGUN" FUNGUS?**

"Shotgun" fungus (*Sphaerobolus stellatus*) is becoming more common in the US. Pine Straw is great at helping to prevent the spread of shotgun fungus. Because hardwood mulch is the food source of the fungus, completely removing the hardwood mulch is the first step to getting rid of the fungus. The second step is to apply pine straw in a very thick manner to the desired area. We recommend that you use either our Slash pine straw (9" needle) or our Longleaf pine straw (14" needle) and leave a 3 inch gap between the pine straw and any permanent structure. Apply the pine straw on a yearly basis. You do not need to remove the old pine straw, simply cover the older straw with a fresh application of pine straw.

**DO YOU HAVE A MINIMUM AMOUNT THAT I MUST ORDER?**

Our minimum amount is 1 box of pine straw. This works out great for the average homeowner who wants the look and smell of pine straw but does not need to purchase 1000 bales.

**WHAT IF I HAVE TROUBLE PLACING AN ORDER?** If you have any trouble placing your order via our website, e-mail us and we will have one of our agents contact you within 4 hours about your order. You can also call us at 1-800-PINESTRAW.

**WHAT FORMS OF PAYMENT DO YOU TAKE?** We take MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover.

**WHAT ABOUT TAX?** No sales tax will be added to sales outside the State of Georgia. In the State of Georgia, a sales tax of 7% will be added during the checkout process.

**CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT SHIPPING?** For example, if you purchase a large box of Premium Shredded pine straw from us, it will ship at a dimensional weight of 72 pounds, this is due to the size of the box. In 2007, Fedex and UPS adopted the dimensional weight system for their ground services. Our website calculates all shipping rates for our customers, so add the products that you want to your shopping cart and the computers will do the rest.

**CAN PINE STRAW BE EATEN?** Yes, we actually get this question quite often. We have never heard of anyone getting sick from the ingestion of pine straw but we do not recommend that you ingest our products in any way, shape or form. Pets usually won't eat pine straw, unless you have a pet that likes to go around eating large piles of leaves, you should not worry about your pet.

**IF I AM A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, CAN I CHARGE EXTRA TO MY CUSTOMER FOR YOUR PRODUCTS?** Yes, your product markup and installation fees are 100% up to you. Since we sell to all 50 States, the amount of markup that landscape designers apply varies greatly. We do not dictate what you may charge your clients for the product. Once you purchase from us, the product is yours to resell at any rate you feel is obtainable in your area. There is no "retail price" printed on the outside of the box.

**CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT PALLET ORDERS?** All pallet orders are shipped via freight delivery. Delivery trucks can/will come equipped with a lift gate, so no forklifts are needed.

**WHAT IS THE WEIGHT OF EACH PALLET OF PINE STRAW?** Each pallet weighs approximately 700 pounds. Do not confuse pallet orders with the boxes that are delivered via Fedex Home Delivery.

**CAN THE PALLETS BE STORED OUTSIDE?** Yes, our pine straw pallets come wrapped in black plastic shipping wrap that allows for long term outside storage.

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