BULK SOIL

Bulk quantities of soil are used for large landscaping or gardening projects like filling raised planting beds or improving soil conditions for existing gardens. It's a healthy way to bring nutrients back into the garden while looking fantastic at the same time and it's also more cost effective than buying bags.

CALCULATING SOIL AMOUNT

Figuring out how much soil is needed for a project doesn't have to be complicated. With the right information and tools at hand, calculating the aamount needed requires only a little bit of knowledge and a decent tape measure.

Bulk soils tend to be measured by the cubic yard, or just yard for short, because this measuremeant represents a 3D volume of a hole dug 3 feet length x 3 feet wide x 3 feet deep. Tractor buckets also roughly hold between half to a full yard, which makes it easy for retailers to count quantity.

THE FORMULA:

(L ft x W ft x D ft)/27=cu yd

Written out, the formula is: **length in feet x width in feet x depth (or sometimes called height) in feet equals the cubic foot.** Since bulk soil is sold by the cubic yard, not the foot, **divide total cubic feet by twenty-seven to get the cubic yard.**

Unless the soil is for filling a raised garden bed for the first time, most gardeners don't use depth in feet for their projects. Usually, it's in inches since mulch and other layerings only need between 2-3 inches on top the old soil. The easiest way to plug this into the formula above is to simply convert the inches to feet by dividing the depth desired in inches by twelve, or **D in ÷ 12 = D ft.**

Alternatively, calculating soil amount entirely by inches is also doable. Here is an easy fill-in-the-blank to calculate cubic yards from inch measurements:

LENGTH		WIDTH		TOTAL AREA		DEPTH		TOTAL AREA
inches	X	inches	=	square inches	X	inches	=	cubic inches

Now we have the cubic inches and need to find the cubic yard. This can be done with two converstions, one from inches to feet and another from feet to yards, or one conversion for a quick result.

TOTAL AREA		INCHES IN CUBIC FOOT		TOTAL AREA		FEET IN CUBIC YARD		TOTAL AREA	OR	TOTAL AREA		INCHES IN CUBIC YARD		TOTAL AREA
cubic inches	÷	1,728 inches	=	cubic feet	÷	27 feet	=	cubic yard		cubic inches	÷	46,656 inches	=	cubic yard

With the cubic yard figured out, it'll be easy to order any bulk soil needs. If the cubic yard results in a fraction, most places can sell by the half yard. However, it's always wise to order a little more than the project needs because loosened soil will often settle after the first rain or watering making the overall depth or height of the the area less than intended. That little extra can go a long way to fulfilling a gardener's needs.

BULK SOIL

CALCULATING SOIL AMOUNT CONTINUED

RAISED GARDEN BEDS

Raised garden beds are one of the easiest structures to measure for soil amount since they're above ground and only require a quick tape measure on the square or rectangle box. For first time filling, use the basic formula and add a few inches to the depth of the box. The loose soil will settle and compact over time, lowering the height from the desired amount.

YARD BEDS

Yard beds can be a little more challenging to calculate, especially if there are odd areas, but don't fret! Breaking down the measurements into simple shapes will give the easiest and best estimate possible. Most space in yards aren't exact squares or rectangles, but the soil amount can still be estimated by using these shapes.

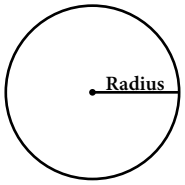
Measure from the widest length and width of the yard bed space. This will give the maximum amount of soil needed for that area with some extra to spare. Don't worry about that extra soil; it can be used to level out uneven spaces within the yard bed, other areas around the yard, or refreshing potted plants.

If there are multiple yard bed areas apart from one another, use the same method as above then add the cubic yards together for the total.

CIRCLE BEDS

At first glance, circle spaces look hard, but don't be intimidated. There's a simple formula for them too!

(R ft x R ft x D ft x π)/27=cu yd

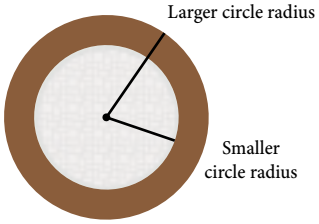


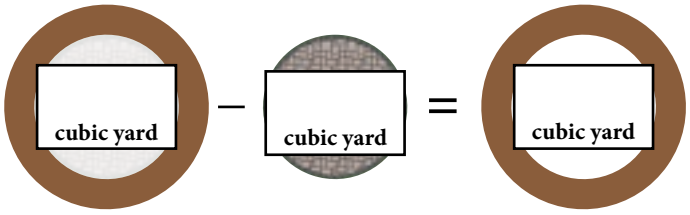
Radius in feet x radius in feet x depth desired in feet x pi (3.14) then take that total and **divide by twenty-seven to get the total cubic yard.**

The radius is found by measuring from the middle of the circle to the outer edge.

RADIUS		RADIUS		TOTAL AREA		DEPTH		TOTAL AREA (SQUARE)		PI		TOTAL AREA (CIRCLE)		FEET IN CUBIC YARD		TOTAL AREA (CIRCLE)
feet	X	feet	=	square feet	X	feet	=	cubic feet	X	3.14	=	cubic feet	÷	27 feet	=	cubic yard

For circle garden beds around a circle patio, use the formula above to calculate the large circle from the center of the circle patio to the outer edge of the circle garden bed then calculate the smaller circle of just the circle patio to the outer edge of the circle patio. Subtract the smaller circle from the larger circle to obtain the soil amount needed for only the circle bed.





BEAVERTON LOCATION
21815 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007
503-649-4568
info@farmingtongardens.com
www.farmingtongardens.com

farmington gardens

DOWNTOWN HILLSBORO LOCATION
466 SE Baseline, Hillsboro, OR 97123
971-470-3764
baseline@farmingtongardens.com
www.farmingtongardens.com/pages/floral-shop

BULK SOIL

CALCULATING SOIL AMOUNT CONTINUED

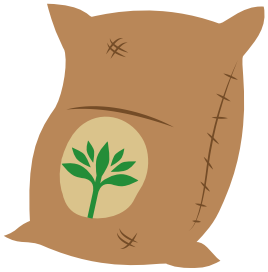
QUICK CALCULATIONS

Sometimes a gardener's project isn't large enough for bulk soil.

Here are some quick calculations to determine if bulk or bagged soil is the best option for the job.

1 bag will cover		
bag size	depth	square feet
1 cu ft	1"	12
1 cu ft	2"	6
1.5 cu ft	1"	18
1.5 cu ft	2"	9
2 cu ft	1"	24
2 cu ft	2"	12

1 cubic yard will cover	
depth	square feet
¼"	1296
½"	648
1"	324
2"	162
3"	108
4"	81
6"	54



FARMINGTON GARDENS BULK SOILS

Garden Mulch

A ground and screened, highly composted bark product, garden mulch is the best mulch for any garden. Garden mulch improves water retention, prevents weeds, and will help amend existing soil.

Hemlock Bark

Made of soft bark fibers from hemlock, this soil is sliver free and typically doesn't stick to the hands, making it perfect for areas where pets and children play. Hemlock bark looks greath with its rich, dark red-brown color, and as a bonus, it controls weeds!

Mint Compost

This dark, finely textured, natural and organic compost works great as mulch. Made from mint straw compost, cow and chicken manure or fish compost, and aged bark fines, it adds organic matter to the root zone of established plants, giving them revitalizing nutrients. Mint compost works best in vegetable or flower gardens, as a soil amendment, or a top dressing. Rose plants especially love this mixture!

Planting Mix

This mix is made of sandy loam, green waste compost, and dairy compost. This blend is perfect for filling ornamental raised beds or as an amendment to existing soil.

2025 BULK SOIL PRICING

PER	GARDEN MULCH	HEMLOCK BARK	MINT COMPOST	PLANTING MIX
½ yard	$37.50	$40	$45	$47.50
1 yard	$75	$80	$90	$95