The Garden Corner
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Our world is so pretty and green and growing! May is a wonderful time to be living in this part of Missouri – it just doesn't get any better than this. As gardeners we know this month is the busiest (some would say craziest) part of the entire year. With everything going and growing in different directions, we could talk of many things; like, weeding. That's important and we need to be vigilant on our patrols to eliminate the interlopers. Or, we could talk about how to water; but we have no need for water at the moment. However, there is one garden chore all of us should be doing: mulching.

There are all sorts and different types of mulch. Rocks and recycled rubber have their uses - I guess. What we use in all the beds is leaf mulch and shredded wood mulch. Both of these make superior ground/soil amendments. They break down rather quickly thereby speeding the enrichment of the soil. Both types are good with water retention with leaf mold/mulch being the best by far. Again, both types are great at controlling ground temperature with wood mulch being much more efficient.

When applying your mulch, there are a couple of important concepts to keep in mind. How much is enough? The experts say at least two inches. I try to get at least four. Why so much? When you apply mulch, you are creating a mini-universe. Poke around in it, especially after a gentle rain and you'll find a fascinating world plum full of critters – the good kind. So, the more mulch, the more critters. Or, that's my thinking. The second thing to keep in mind is not to cover up the stem or; for trees, the trunk. Why? By spreading your mulch all the way to the plant you create a hiding place for some bad bugs, mice, and voles that can certainly damage anything growing.

Until next month, keeping growing! For your specific questions/comments write to: 370 NW 121 Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093 or email: maandpak@embarqmail.com and I'll get back with you.