



Ag Choice is a **NATIONAL COCOA SHELL** distributor.



National Cocoa Shell is the largest distributor of cocoa shell in the United States. Made from the shell of cocoa beans during the roasting process, cocoa shell mulch is excellent for retaining water, forming vital nutrients.

Although it has been used for many years with traditional rose growers, aromatic cocoa shell can be used anywhere in your landscaping, garden, or flower beds.

Please contact us to find out more about National Cocoa Shell and the great benefits of cocoa shell mulch.

## Cocoa Bean Mulch FAQ

**Q:** What is the nature of this mulch?

**A:** Cocoa shell mulch, also called cocoa mulch, cocoa bean mulch, cocoa bean shell mulch, or cocoa bean hull mulch is simply the shell of the cocoa bean. These shells come off the bean during the roasting process and are separated from the beans by strong air action, thus insuring a dry weed-free product.

**Q:** Why is this mulch better than other types?

**A:** It lasts longer, smells better, gets darker with age, and provides various nutrients beneficial to plants and the soil. It retains moisture better than regular mulch and is an excellent insulator for root systems in winter and summer.

**Q:** What is the coverage per bag?

**A:** One bag covers approximately 22-24 square feet at 1 inch thick.

**Q:** Will the cocoa shell mulch bleach out in the sun?

**A:** No! Cocoa shell mulch actually gets darker with age.

**Q:** How long does the aroma last?

**A:** The aroma usually dissipates after 2 to 3 weeks.

**Q:** Does it add nutrients to the soil?

**A:** Yes! Because of its slow decomposition process, it adds nutrients to the soil rather than draws from the soil. Cocoa shell mulch contains 2.5% Nitrogen, 1% Phosphate, and 3% Potash. It has a pH factor of 5.8. No supplemental nitrogen is needed when cocoa shell mulch is applied.

**Q:** It feels so light. Is there a problem with the wind blowing it away?

**A:** No. Provided you spray it down thoroughly with water after spreading. The shells will curl and interlock, creating a honeycomb effect, making for a carpetlike bed of mulch.

**Q:** Are insects attracted to the mulch.

**A:** No more than any other mulch. As is true with any organic product, there could be isolated instances where insects might lay eggs.

**Q:** Does this mulch tend to mold?

**A:** In some cases when the weather is very hot and humid, a harmless mold may appear. The cocoa shell contains protein which aids in decomposition to produce humu which stimulates beneficial soil bacteria. This is a sign of the protein at work. Rain or watering will wash away this natural mold formation. If desired, your gardening consultant can recommend an organic fungicide to prevent formation of mold spores.

**Q:** Is this mulch good for all types of plants?

**A:** Yes! Cocoa shell mulch has been used on all types of plant materials including annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs, narrow-leaf evergreens, broad-leaf evergreens, trees, vines, ground covers, roses, and many vegetables.



**WARNING:** Not for human or animal consumption. Cocoa Shell Mulch contains trace amounts of theobromine, a compound that dogs can be allergic to, so use caution when using around dogs. Think carefully about where you choose to apply Cocoa Shell Mulch and supervise household pets. These measures can effectively eliminate the possibility of animal consumption in a quantity sufficient to cause adverse effects.