



How to Achieve Optimal Color

Achieving the right color mulch is easy: achieving the right shade is a little harder. Producing mulch that is durable, consistent, weather-resistant — and in the shade your customers expect — is the optimal challenge.

How does an operator achieve optimal color? Three factors — water settings, color pump settings, and the machine's output speed — make a big difference.

Water settings matter because water is the catalyst that brings colors to life. Generally, only a minimal amount of water is needed. If too much water is added, the color becomes diluted.

Pump settings refer to the amount of color going through the machine and should be set so that color is neither over- or under-applied. Under-colored mulch will not be marketable, while over-coloring adds to the overall expense and is less efficient.

Output speed should be set in line with what the machine is mechanically suited to produce. Knowing the output of the machine and checking it regularly can help make sure production is on track.

Before use, mix the colorant to proper specifications to ensure a consistent color. After use, completely empty the coloring machine and flush the color pumps and spray tips with water.

Variables that affect color include:

- Grind size: Grind size consistency is key to producing a high-quality finished product.
- Raw material: The age and species of raw material will affect the end product. As wood ages it decomposes naturally and will darken in appearance, affecting how the colorant will react to the mulch fiber. Different wood species will also affect product quality, especially when combining hard wood and soft wood.
- Coloring system: The coloring system has a direct impact on the total cost and quality of the end product.
- Colorant: The quality of the colorant will directly impact the value of the end product.
- Water: The amount of water needed will vary depending on the coloring system you choose. Using less water will produce a better-quality, low-cost product.
- Weather: Weather will affect the moisture content level of the raw material and the amount of water needed during the coloring process.

Support

While there are many variables affecting optimal color, one thing is constant: the level of support you receive from Colorbiotics[®]. Call 888.663.6980 for any questions or concerns you might have.

Additionally, our technical services team is unique in the industry and provides troubleshooting in unusual circumstances. Whatever your situation, Colorbiotics is there to help you achieve the optimal color you need.