

Project

Date

Supplier

Soil, mulch and stone are sold by volume, so the depth matters as much as the area. Measure every bed at the top, pick the depth from the table, and the order falls out of it.

1 · EVERY BED, BORDER AND PATH

AREA	LENGTH FT	WIDTH FT	SQ FT	DEPTH IN.	CUBIC YARDS

2 · DEPTH EACH JOB WANTS

MATERIAL	TYPICAL DEPTH	NOTE
Mulch, beds	3 in.	Enough to stop weeds, not enough to smother roots
Topsoil, new lawn	4–6 in.	2 in. is only for leveling an existing lawn
Topsoil, vegetables	8–12 in.	Beds and borders want the deeper end
Raised bed mix	6–18 in.	6 for salad, 12 most vegetables, 18+ for carrots
Gravel path	2 in.	Over a weed barrier, edged or it walks away
Gravel driveway	8–12 in.	Total, in layers. 4 in. if only re-topping

3 · BULK OR BAGS — WORK IT OUT BEFORE YOU GO

MATERIAL	CUBIC YARDS	BAGS AT 2 CU FT	BULK PRICE / YD	BAG PRICE	CHEAPER

- One cubic yard is 27 cubic feet — 13.5 bags of 2 cu ft, or 14 bags of mulch once you round up.
- Bulk almost always wins past about three yards, but only if a truck can reach where it needs to tip.
- Sod comes on pallets of about 450 sq ft, and wants 4–6 in. of topsoil under it over broken ground.
- Seed is priced per 1,000 sq ft: tall fescue 7 lb for a new lawn, half that for overseeding.