

## RAMIAL CHIPPED WOOD ORGANIC FARMING TO REDUCE WATERING AND PROTECT SOILS

The *Ramial Chipped Wood* (*Bois Rameal Fragmenté* BRF in French) is an innovative technique originated in Canada, which is spreading in many countries thanks to its many benefits. With the use of this technique it is possible to diminish the watering, to increase quantity and quality of crops, to contrast weeds and sicknesses, to improve the fertility of soils. With the RCW the production increases whilst environment is protected and enhanced; this the reason why RCW was rapidly diffusing among a wide network of farmers in France, Canada, Belgium, England and Italy.

The [Ramial Chipped Wood](#) (RCW) stimulates biological activity in the soil and is very effective as mulch, if applied to the soil surface for protection or improvement of the area covered. RCW is used in agriculture or horticulture. By composting the forest material, the RCW is transformed into humus through a natural process and is used by organic farming for soil amendment and soil nutrient.

Fragments of branches mixed with decaying leaves are spread over the soil as a coat or even mixed with it. The mushrooms and micro-organisms do their job very well, (digesting lignin and providing natural antibiotics). The biological activity create by the fragmentation will allow regeneration and soil enrichment.

The organic mulch is made of natural substances such as bark, wood chips, leaves, pine needles, or grass clippings. They decompose over time and need to be replaced after several years. The decomposition of the material creates a lot of heat in the middle of the heap.

The Ramial Chipped Wood gives nutrients to the soil, to maintain the right mineral structure and its humidity, avoiding evaporation; it has also a thermo-regulation effect: mulches keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, thus maintaining a more even soil temperature.

The benefits are very significant: a great reduction of watering and energy, less time spent on gardening, no use of chemicals, recycling of vegetal wastes, superior quality of products. Dissemination of its applications varies in many cultures, private gardens, market gardening, new establishments, grass and forestry.





*Ramial Chipped Woods* are a cost-efficient mean to rebuild an eco-system at the soil level. Mulched plants have more roots than plants that are not composted, because mulched plants will produce additional roots in the bark that surrounds them, giving an environmental engineering contribution (protection from erosion), and keeping down annual weeds, especially where natural environment is more vulnerable.

The Laval University of Quebec is a scientific international point of reference for *Ramial Chipped Wood's* research. In particular, research into forest soils and ecosystems at Laval University led to the recognition of the value of this material and to research into its uses. The addition of *Ramial Chipped Wood* can be viewed as a mean to return the soil to its former forest origin condition and to recover, in three years, a long-life humus content.

Results from many experiments in both forestry and agriculture in Quebec, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean's have provided that this important biotechnological contribution is especially useful in drought areas and where is even more important that plants are well nourished and hydrated.

Feeding soil micro fauna and microflora is more likely to bring mid and long-term benefits to both agricultural and forest ecosystems in redeeming costs and increasing benefits: better soil conservation due to the water retention capacity of humus; a yield increase up to 1000% for tomatoes in Senegal, and 300% on strawberries in Quebec; a 400% increase in dry matter for corn in both Côte d'Ivoire and the Dominican Republic; a noticeable increase in frost and drought resistance; more developed root systems; fewer and less diversified weeds; a decrease or complete elimination of pests (under tropical conditions, a complete control of root nematodes); enhanced flavour in fruit production; higher dry matter, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium content in potato tubers; selective natural germination of tree seeds.

### To know more

[Ramial Chipped Wood in Wikipedia](#)

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Coltivare bio con il cippato  
per risparmiare acqua, petrolio e lavoro.