

## Myplex and Groundcover

Due to the prevalence of TV gardeners and DIY makeover programmes, the use of a landscape fabric, ie a rot-proof, permeable, woven or non-woven membrane, between the surface dressing (bark or gravel) and the sub-grade.

The basic premise that landscape fabrics work upon, namely that they prevent the surface dressing disappearing into the sub-grade and suppress weed growth, is fine, but doesn't give the full picture. They were originally developed as weed-control fabrics for commercial planting schemes, the often scruffy assemblage of shrubs, perennials and chip wrappers we see everyday at retail parks and leisure centres. By planting the greenery through holes or slits in the fabric and then covering with a generous mulch of bark, gravel or other surface dressing, the idea was to reduce the amount of maintenance required to keep the planters looking neat, tidy and free of weeds. This principle was soon adopted in the construction of childrens' playgrounds, where a landscape fabric at the base of a bark covered play area prevents the sub-grade mixing with the bark, which could soil childrens' clothes or render the area 'unplayable', and makes replacement of the bark or other safety dressing on a regular basis a good bit easier.