

WEED SUPPRESSION

The 6th Branch (T6B) operates three community farms in Baltimore City. At our farms, we regularly fight bermuda grass in perennial boxed beds and at the perimeters of our in-ground beds. In 2023, we developed a research project to study three passive and chemical-free ways of weed management for the benefit of the community farms T6B operates and other similar farms.



Wood Chips
Wood chips applied 3"-5" thick

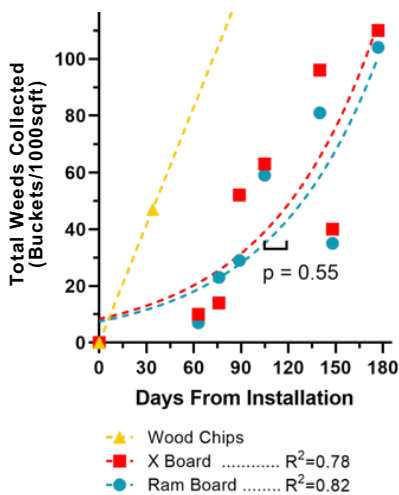


X Board
Wood chips + thin (0.021") cardboard



Ram Board
Wood chips + thick (0.042") cardboard

HOW DID THEY DO?



Placing cardboard roll under your wood chips **significantly reduces weed burden**. The thick and thin cardboard rolls perform similarly at first, but thin rolls disintegrate more quickly and are likely to be less effective long-term.

Though the cardboard rolls create an additional upfront cost of \$150-\$250/1000sqft, **installation is just as fast** as with wood chips alone.

The big savings on weeding labor costs means that the cardboard roll technique **quickly pays off within the first month**.

