

## Straw Mulching in Onion

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Paddy straw is a commonly used organic mulching material that is applied to the soil surface. They are mostly used for weed control and moisture conservation but these are a good source for the organic control of certain pests like Thrips etc., They contain compounds like silica and Thrips are small insects with soft bodies so when they come into contact with mulch, will lead to damage their bodies at last causes their destruction.



Onion Thrips, *Thrips tabaci*

**Requirements:** Paddy straw

### Procedure

Straws are to be applied when the plant attains certain height. They should be applied for about 3 – 4 inches thickness around the base of onion plant. Most important concern about this mulching is to make sure that the application should be done by leaving a small gap around its base in order to avoid rotting.



### Benefits

- It adds nitrogen to the soil and conserves moisture.
- It destroys the larva and egg-laying atmosphere of the thrips.
- Improves soil fertility.
- Controls Weed and soil erosion.
- High yield.

### References

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