

MYTH

PONDEROSA PINE NEEDLES SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER SOIL PH (INCREASE SOIL ACIDITY)



THE FACTS

Pine needles themselves are acidic but they do not have the capacity to appreciably change the soil pH (make it more acidic).

- Pine needles break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers) in the soil neutralize them.

Pine needles can be used to mulch shrub borders, flower beds and vegetable gardens

- Not just acid-loving plants like Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and blueberries.

REFERENCES

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/myth-vs-reality-whats-truth-behind-some-common-gardening-practices>

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE EXTENSION

<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2019/10/do-pine-trees-pine-needles-make-soil-more-acidic>