

**Editor's Comment:**

Corresponding to reviewers' comments, the manuscript has been revised and improved.

I have a few comments as follows.

Comment:

1. Field experiments in multiple years and locations are required to confirm the data obtained in a single year and location.

In Discussion, the authors describe that "This difference can be attributed to moisture conservation, higher soil temperature, weed control and increased mineral nutrient uptake in the mulched plot through improved root temperatures as reported by Orozco et al. (1994)." In this study, did you measure moisture, soil temperature, weed and mineral nutrient uptake? It is possible for you to measure these parameters. Please indicate the data on these parameters.

**Editor's Details:**

Dr. Kazutoshi Okuno  
Former Professor, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan.