



Mulching Fact Sheet

MULCHING YOUR GARDEN

Mulching your garden bed improves soil health and prevents water loss through evaporation. Mulching is the number one rule for water conservation in the garden. Adding mulch to your garden can prevent water loss by up to 25 per cent, reducing evaporation rates and improving the water storage capacity of your soil.

Mulching also suppresses weeds, which compete with your plants for nutrients and water and provides a stable soil temperature to promote plant growth.

Five easy steps to follow to help get you started:

STEP 1: Select the right mulch for your garden. Mulch can either be organic (eg. grass clippings, sawdust, straw bark or woodchips) or non-organic (eg. rocks and gravel). Different mulches have different benefits so choose wisely according to your gardening goals.

STEP 2: Remove any weeds. Weeding by hand is best as this will avoid the use of herbicide on your garden. The use of herbicide may kill any weeds but may also kill plants in your garden that you want to keep. Water runoff from a garden can also carry herbicide into nearby waterways causing environmental harm.

STEP 3: Dig in compost or worm castings.





STEP 4: Wet the soil before laying down the mulch. Give the soil a good soak, making sure it is getting wet and that water is not simply running off.

STEP 5: Apply the mulch to the required depth (the more depth the more compost you are going to need). Avoid mulching right up to the trunks or stems of plants as mulch can rot or burn the plants. It could also create a habitat for pests that could harm your plant.

COUNCIL MULCH

Council provides mulched green waste **FREE** to the public for domestic use at most waste facilities. Delivery is available at a cost. Refer "Waste Services" on the Council's website for further information.

How can you contact us?

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