

GARDEN WASTE



Garden waste includes plants, palm fronds, tree and lawn clippings. The illegal dumping of garden waste and organic waste such as food scraps, or soil in natural areas, waterways and other land can have devastating environmental impacts and costs millions of dollars to clean up.

DUMPING GARDEN WASTE IS NOT OK

Illegal dumping of garden waste, organic waste and soils can seriously threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihoods.

Some impacts include:

- Introducing pest plants that out-compete native plant species by smothering them and overtaking natural areas
- Infesting and blocking watercourses, contaminating waterways and smothering surfaces of creeks and lakes
- Introducing pest animals or diseases into new areas, such as yellow crazy ants, fire ants, and myrtle rust
- Blocking forest tracks and fire trails in natural areas that risk the lives of firefighters and members of the public
- Creating increased bush fire fuel loads or ignition sources
- Attracting wildlife to roadsides to feed on organic waste, and increasing the likelihood of them being hit by cars
- Detracting from the visual amenity of the region
- Imposing substantial cost on local government. Council spends a significant amount of time and money cleaning up and disposing of illegally dumped garden waste which impacts on rate payers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR GARDEN WASTE

There are many benefits to using garden or organic wastes at home:

- Composting your garden waste reduces waste to landfill resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Composting produces useful materials that can be put back into your garden to improve soil health
- Using garden waste as a mulch around your garden can protect soils from erosion, reduce weeds and plant stress, and can help to prevent water evaporation from the soil.



HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR GARDEN WASTE

- Take your garden waste to one of Council's waste facilities
- Lawn clippings may be put in a garbage bag and placed in the general waste bin. **It is not permitted to place lawn clippings around trees on footpaths or in parks.**

Note: Placing lawn/grass clippings around the base of trees, may have a negative impact on the tree's general health and condition. Compacted and decomposing grass clippings at the base of trees affects the pH of the soil, disrupts the soil temperature, decreases the level of oxygen available to trees, and reduces the water filtration to the tree's root system, which may result in the death of the tree.

FINES FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is an offence and penalties apply. Council has delegation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to issue Penalty Infringement Notices to people guilty of dumping garden waste and rubbish in urban waterways and Council Parkland.

The cost of taking garden waste to the local waste facility is much less than the penalty.

REPORT DUMPING

You can report illegal dumping by phoning Customer Service on 07 4932 9000 or visiting www.qld.gov.au/litter. Alternatively you can submit a request through the Snap Send Solve app.

Ensure you record and provide as many details as you can, including:

- Time, date, place and description of litter
- Registration number, make/model, colours, or distinguishing features of vehicle
- Description of the person committing the offence (including location in vehicle, clothing and gender).

If it is safe to do so, take photos and/or videos, but for your own safety do not confront the person dumping the waste.

