



Composting garden waste or mulching

Mulching involves spreading a material, typically organic, around the base of a plant to act as a protective cover. It is an important tool to enhance the water efficiency in your garden. Mulching minimises soil surface evaporation and enhances infiltration of rainfall and watering. It also suppresses weed competition, reducing the need to manually or chemically remove weeds. Organic mulch provides a protective cover for your garden, minimising evaporation of water from the soil.

Tips for disposal

1. If you are clearing a large area, choose a disposal method before you start your weed work. Consider which weedy plants you will be removing or controlling and ensure the method you choose is environmentally acceptable.
2. Consider how the weeds grow and spread:
 - Does it grow from fragments (e.g. vines and ground covers such as tradescantia, selaginella, blue morning glory)?
 - Does it have enlarged fleshy underground stems such as tubers or corms such as wild ginger, Madeira vine)?
 - Does it have lots of seeds, berries and/or persistent roots?

Weeds that grow from fragments

Once waste is completely dried or rotted, leave material on site to compost or if not, take to a landfill.

Weeds with tubers/corms

Note: Climbing asparagus has tubers for water storage and which do not re-grow. Just check the top crown below the stem is removed and disposed of carefully.

Weeds with lots of seeds and berries

You can bury or compost many weeds, but before doing so, be sure to exclude all parts of the plant that can survive to grow again - seeds, berries and persistent tubers and roots.

3. Finely shredding weeds in a garden mulcher before burying or composting will increase the rate of breakdown. The heat generated during composting helps ensure that no parts of the plant can re-grow.

Tips for transporting

When transporting unused garden waste, do the right thing.

- Take unused garden waste to an approved landfill. Contact your local council for information on green waste disposal sites.
- Use a tarpaulin to cover your load.
- Make compost but be careful as some weeds, and many weed seeds, will survive being composted.
- Be extra careful if you live near a reserve or natural area. Keep your garden free of invasive weeds and never dump garden waste on public land.