



Green waste

Help keep Queensland clean

Green waste refers to general garden waste such as plants, palm fronds, tree and lawn clippings.

The illegal dumping of green waste, organic waste such as food scraps, or soil in natural areas, waterways and other land can have devastating environmental impacts and cost millions of dollars to clean up.

Dumping green waste is not OK

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

Some impacts include:

- introducing pest plants that can out-compete native plant species, 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 they will be hit by cars.

What you can do with your green waste

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

- recycling your green waste by composting reduces waste to landfill and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- composting produces useful materials that can be put back into your garden to improve soil health
- using green 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 green waste

Dispose of your green waste correctly:

- take your green waste to your local waste transfer station
- some councils provide free green waste disposal, free green waste days or may have vouchers for green waste disposal
- request a green waste recycling bin from your local council (where applicable) or local garden waste removal company
- rental tenants should approach their rental manager, local councillor or Department of Housing office to request dumping vouchers, or enquire about what services are available.

To find out more, including the location of your closest waste transfer station, contact your local council.

Fines for illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is an offence and penalties apply.

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

FINES FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING ARE MORE THAN

\$2,000 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND UP TO \$133,450 IN COURT

\$6,500 FOR A CORPORATION AND UP TO \$667,250 IN COURT.

Report dumping

You can report illegal dumping at www.qld.gov.au/litter.

Pin the location and add photos of the waste to the report.

Make sure you get 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 making the offence (including location in vehicle, clothing, gender).

If it is safe, take photos, but for your own safety don't approach the person depositing the waste.



- ▶ see it
- ▶ report it
- ▶ stop it

www.qld.gov.au/litter



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