

Green waste



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 outcompete native plant species, smothering them and overtaking natural areas
- infesting and blocking watercourses, contaminating waterways and smothering surfaces
- introducing pest animals or diseases into new areas, (fire ants, 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 can you 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 greenhouse gas emissions
- composting produces useful materials that improve soil health of your garden
- using green waste as a mulch protects soils from erosion, reduce weeds and plant stress, and helps 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 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

\$2,500 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND UP TO \$161,300 IN COURT

\$8,000 FOR A CORPORATION AND UP TO \$806,500 IN COURT.

Report dumping

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

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