

Disposing of your garden organics

WHAT ARE GARDEN ORGANICS?

Garden organics are any materials that grow in your garden.

You can dispose of grass clippings, prunings, weeds, leaves, flowers, bark, sticks and small branches with a maximum diameter of 10cm, palm fronds and roots with a maximum diameter of 10cm in your kerbside garden organics bin.

For full information, visit yourorganicsbin.com.au/your-bin

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR GARDEN ORGANICS?

- Collect and dispose of garden organics using your lime lid garden organics bin.
- Establish a compost bin or compost area on your property to make your own mulch and compost.
- Mulch grass clippings from your mower straight back onto the lawn.
- Do not dispose of garden organics over the back fence or into local bushland.



WHAT IF I AM CONSTANTLY FILLING MY GARDEN ORGANICS BIN?

If you fill your lime lid garden organics bin before your scheduled collection day, any additional garden organics material can be dropped off and processed at Mount Vincent Waste Management Centre (109 Mount Vincent Rd, East Maitland).

Additional garden only waste can also be disposed of at the landfill for a fee \$200 per tonne for 2022/2023 financial year. Garden waste mixed with general waste will be charged at \$447 per tonne for the 2022/2023 financial year.

You can also sign up to have additional garden organics bins for a one off \$35 connection fee and an annual charge of \$70 per annum for the 2022/23 financial year per additional bin. Find out how by visiting mait.city/order-a-bin

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL REMNANT VEGETATION

Remnant vegetation can be found in small pockets across Maitland. Remnant vegetation:

- Provides protection for native vegetation species.
- Provides shelter and a source of food for native birds and animals.
- Reduces the impact of urban heat islands.

WHY CAN DISPOSING OF GARDEN ORGANICS IN BUSHLAND BE A PROBLEM?

Grass clippings, prunings and weeds can all contain seeds that may germinate if they are disposed of in bushland.

If they establish, these plants will compete with native vegetation species for water, nutrients and space. They can carry diseases and pests which can impact native vegetation, create a breeding ground for rats, mice or snakes, and also prohibit native wildlife from finding suitable shelter and places to feed.

In some instances, climbing garden species can tangle themselves around and kill native vegetation. Eventually, this can result in a reduction in the diversity of species in bushland and remnant vegetation, altering the long term soil characteristics or posing an increased fire risk.

It also requires Council officers to investigate and clean up sites where garden organics have been dumped in local bushland, a cost which is passed onto the community through rates.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE DUMPING THEIR GARDEN ORGANICS IN AN AREA OF BUSHLAND?

If you see anyone dumping garden organics or other materials in local bushland, please report the details to:

- RIDonline via ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au
- The EPA's environment line on **131 555**
- Maitland City Council on **02 4934 9700** or maitland.nsw.gov.au/report-it



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