

GREEN WASTE

Green Waste Benefits

Green waste is the waste that arises from landscaping or gardening work and generally consists of leaves, twigs, small branches, bushes and grass. The waste is biodegradable which means that it can be broken down by natural processes.

There are many benefits to reusing and recycling green waste:

- 🔄 Composting provides you with a valuable soil fertiliser;
- 🔄 It reduces disposal costs while also creating a valuable usable product;
- 🔄 It is a natural method of processing material which would otherwise be landfilled.

Biodegradable waste can be defined as any waste consisting of organic materials, which can be broken down by natural processes. This waste can be broken down naturally by bacteria, which feed on the organic material i.e. material that was once living, and the end product is compost.

There are a number of materials that can be composted. They include the following:

- 🔄 Garden prunings;
- 🔄 Leaves;
- 🔄 Grass clippings;
- 🔄 Weeds;
- 🔄 Plants and flowers;
- 🔄 Hedge trimmings.

Items that **cannot** be composted are as follows:

- 🔄 Stones or gravel;
- 🔄 Concrete, dirt or rocks;
- 🔄 Animal waste;
- 🔄 Treated or painted wood;
- 🔄 Glass;
- 🔄 Metal;
- 🔄 Soil.

How to Reduce Green Waste

There are a number of ways in which to reduce, reuse and recycle green waste. These can easily be implemented into landscaping and gardening practices.

1. A landscape design that requires little or no maintenance can help to reduce waste and water usage.
2. Only purchase as much soil as you need for the job in hand. This helps to prevent excess material from accumulating.
3. When expecting deliveries of soil/sand and other such materials, ask the driver(s) to tip the material away from drains. This is to avoid wastage from the material running off to storm water drains and sewers.
4. Careful planning can also help to reduce green waste e.g. planning of what planting is to take place will help to reduce the excess plants being leftover.

How to Reuse Green Waste

1. Grass clippings and leaves can be used as compost, a valuable soil conditioner.
2. After rain, wet leaves can be collected together and left to decay. This forms a mulch which can be dug into the soil and help to fertilise it.
3. "Grass cycling" is another option for reuse. This involves leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. This quickly decomposes and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.
4. Woody shrubs and cuttings can be passed through a shredder and made into wood chips, which can be used around trees and flowerbeds.
5. Trees can be shredded and the wood shavings/chips can be used in landscaping.

How to Recycle Green Waste

Green waste can be used as composting material, which is a good soil fertiliser. This can be collected by a contractor, who sends the waste to a centralised composting plant where it is processed for use.