

Mulch your garden to conserve moisture

Protect your plants, and save water

Why do we need to mulch our garden beds?

- Mulch means less watering
- Mulch is a ground cover to protect the soil surface and plant root system
- Mulch reduces weed growth
- Mulch allows better entry of water and reduces run-off
- Mulch reduces soil temperature
- Mulch keeps soil moist by reducing soil evaporation

Consider this before buying mulch:

- Mulch material should be for the benefit of the plants, not for appearance.
- Mulch should be a combination of coarse and fine material
- Mulch should be dense enough to prevent weed growth, ideally about 75mm deep. Keep away from stems/trunks of plants to prevent collar rot.
- Mulch should allow good water penetration (i.e. rain or hand watering). Some mulch material can be impervious to water.
- Mulch should break down over a period of time to improve soil. This is the result of decomposition and worm activity. Periodically the mulch will need topping up.
- The mulch must be economically viable, especially for large gardens.
- Thoroughly wet the ground before applying mulch
- For small courtyard/townhouse gardens and vegetable gardens lucerne hay is also recommended. However, it is not economically viable for the large garden.

Which mulch should I use?

I recommend *Canberra Organic Mulch*, which I use on all landscaping projects and is specified for my garden designs. It is recycled green waste composted for 6-8 months. The dark colour will suit all gardens and breaks down for the improvement of your garden soil. It fits all the above criteria and is available from Canberra Sand & Gravel at the following depots:

Mitchell	Vicars Street	6241 5945
Hume	Johns Place	6260 1365
Parkwood	Parkwood tip Macgregor	6255 1995

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