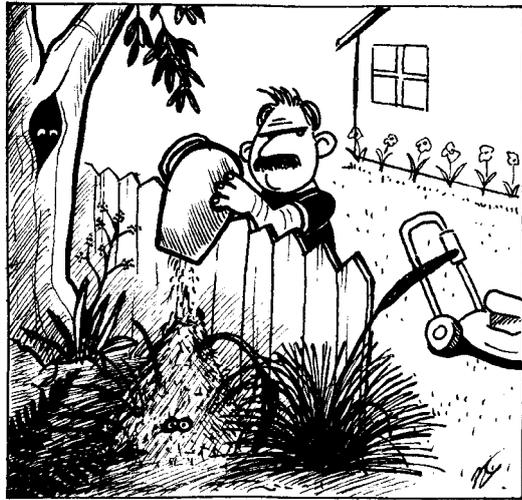


DUMPING GARDEN WASTE

Illustration © Norman Yeend
www.weedsbluemountains.org.au



What is Garden Waste?

Garden waste is any material from your garden including:

- Cuttings
- Lawn clippings
- Branches
- Weeds
- Leaves
- Other unwanted plant materials.

Many people live in the Blue Mountains because they enjoy the natural beauty of the region. Dumping garden waste in natural areas degrades the natural beauty and can affect land values.



Why is it a problem?

- It contains seeds and cuttings that can grow in bushland
- Some of these plants become bushland weeds
- Weeds compete with local native plants
- This affects native animals who rely on native plants for food and/or shelter
- Garden waste poses a fire threat to people, houses and bushland
- It looks unsightly and can even affect land values.

Grass clippings contain many thousands of grass seeds and cuttings that will grow wherever they are dumped, providing conditions are suitable. Most of these grasses are not native and can become bush invaders.



DUMPING GARDEN WASTE



Bushfire Danger

The Establishment and maintenance of a fuel protection zone around your house can reduce the intensity of bushfires. However dumping garden waste has the opposite effect, increasing the impact of radiant heat and burning embers.

SOLUTION: Chip it or compost it.

What YOU can do...

- ✓ Compost your garden waste
- ✓ Use leaf litter, lawn clippings and compost to mulch your garden
- ✓ Take advantage of the Council's Kerbside Chipping program
- ✓ Take your garden waste to the landfill
- ✓ Grow low maintenance native plants in your garden
- ⊘ Don't throw garden waste over your back fence or into bushland

Not sure what to do with garden prunings? Want more mulch for your garden? Use Council's **kerbside chipping service!** It will happen twice a year in autumn and spring.

Legalities of dumping garden waste

In Australia, dumping garden waste on public lands* is illegal and severe penalties may apply under Section 145A of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment Act, 2000 (Littering). This legislation is enforced by Blue Mountains City Council Environmental Rangers.

**Public lands include nature strips, roadsides, parks and bushland reserves.*

- For more information contact the Weeds Coordinator on 4780 5343.
- For more information about the Kerbside Chipping Program, composting or low waste gardens contact Council on 4780 5000.



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