

CLEAN & GREEN

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Check out **Clean & Green Recycling** website to discover more information about Clean & Green services, news and special offers!

www.cleangreenrecycling.com.au



The Clean & Green team wishes you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY 2023



CLEAN & GREEN ORGANICS

LIFE really put Aussies through the ringer this year—Repetitive floods, wild storms, war crisis overseas affecting resources, fuel and energy prices, and of course, long covid and the back-end of the pandemic lockdowns. We're glad to be through the year!

But one thing the last three years of challenges and hard times has taught us, is to be grateful for small things in our everyday lives:

Family. Friends. Pets. Keeping a job, or having a roof over our heads. A beautiful day of sunshine, or simply watching your plants grow!

This Christmas let us be reminded of all the small things that make us smile, and the people in our lives who bring us joy and happiness.

These are the people we are incredibly grateful for and would love to show our thanks and appreciation.

We are grateful for our wonderful Clean & Green team! Through all the challenges of the year, our team have passionately worked hard together and supported one another with a few laughs along the way! We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

To our customers and suppliers, we thank you for your ongoing support and business over the years and look forward to the future ahead!

We are even more excited to say that our organic soil product is available at specialised landscaping and retailer yards too!

Thank you to the community for their ongoing love for our beautiful soil product we take so much care in creating. We are passionate about participating in the circular economy and repurposing organic wastes into healthy soils!

To our newsletter-reading community, we thank you for your enthusiasm and love towards our newsletters. Celebrating 3 years of editorials that are now printed (on recyclable paper only!) and available at participating retailers is more than exciting and special to us, so thank you!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2023! Be safe, be kind and remember to enjoy the little moments of happiness in life!

On the Road to Achieving a Circular Economy in Australia.

How is Australia meeting the National Food Waste Strategy targets & what can we do to improve this?

In 2016–17, the Australian government & environmental ministers established a unified direction for reducing & recycling waste to create a sustainable circular economy in Australia.

Two of the seven targets are dedicated to solving Australia's food waste crisis. These targets outline:

1. the aim to reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030 (including mostly food waste); and,
2. the aim of halving the amount of organic waste sent to landfills by 2030 (meaning redirecting 2.7 million tonnes of organic waste to productive re-use every year).

TARGET 1: REDUCING WASTE BY 10% PER PERSON BY 2030.

Achieving a reduction of 10%, means reducing the equivalent of 300kg of waste per person each year.

Through increased education about reducing, reusing and repurposing food waste, activities such as composting organic food scraps into soil for the garden are increasing. As of 2021, 55% of Aussies recycle food waste in their home composts or FOGO bins.

Likewise, sustainable gardening, food preservation and home recycling is increasing as well. 78% of Australians separate wastes for appropriate recycling, and 37% of Aussies grow their own veggies. Government policy measures (such as banning single-use plastics) are also assisting with

decreasing consumer waste. As of January 2022, 86% of Australians minimise their use of single-use plastics and 60% use reusable coffee cups.

Industry shift from single-use disposable plastics to durable, reusable and recyclable packaging means less waste per person and less plastic in landfills. 90% of consumers are using reusable shopping bags more often too.

A happy marriage between reducing food waste and sustainable packaging is certified compostable food packaging; sparking new industries and helping Aussie consumers achieve this target.

Currently, 42% of Aussies seek products made from recyclable/ compostable materials. This is something we can increase to achieve this target goal!



TARGET 2: HALVING TOTAL ORGANIC WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS BY 2030.

Organic waste can be repurposed into highly fertile compost soils for our gardening and agricultural industries; achieving circular economy sustainability perfectly!

Businesses & councils have also adopted better organic waste management policies and recycling behaviours.

Across Australia, the organic recycling industry processes 7.5 million tonnes of waste to produce valuable products for further use in the Australian economy.

The NSW government increased its recycling capacity to 3.2 million tonnes and is supporting 40,000 businesses reduce their waste through programs and improved infrastructure.

In South Australia, 83% of 1.35 million tonnes of organics is annually turned into valuable products & 80% of its total population use FOGO recycling system.



71% of Australians believe that correct disposal of food waste is very important for creating a circular economy.

CHALLENGES AUSSIES HAVE EXPERIENCED ALONG THE WAY.

92% of Australians acknowledge recycling is important, but over a third of all Australians don't trust that their waste is being recycled properly (15% think their waste just goes to landfill anyway).

Information transparency and clarity is important for increased participation in recycling activities. 83% of Aussies are motivated to reduce waste going to landfill, however the biggest barriers to recycling are lack of knowledge of "how" to recycle, or understanding "where" waste goes (46%).

One way we can overcome this barrier includes providing greater education and information about the process of recycling, especially on product recycling labels.

All in all, Australia is well on its way to achieving our National Waste Strategy organic waste targets and a more sustainable circular economy. However, more can be done to improve this process and shift societal participation.



CARING FOR YOUR Summer Blooms

'Tis the season to see the fruits of your spring gardening labour come into full bloom & beauty! Learn how to care for your summer plants so they stay healthy, growing & thriving all summer long.

After a challenging year of La Nina rainfall and floods, prepping your garden for the Aussie summer heat (and storms) is critical to ensure your plants survive and thrive!

1. Keep your plants cool

Water regularly and shade your plants that are less tolerable to full sun. The best time to water is first thing in the morning so your plants have all day to dry out (and avoid diseases or rot).

2. Also keep your pots cool

especially the terracotta pots as they are susceptible to overheating. Instead of adding water to your pot saucers (which can cause root rot and mosquito breeding), use sand and keep the sand moist with regular watering.

3. Feed your plants

Use fertilisers, compost mulches or compost soils to ensure your plants have nutrients to stay strong and healthy. Make sure to read up on your specific plant's preferred tastes first!

4. Keep your lawns luscious and green

with high quality soil conditioners and turf underlays. These help aerate the soil to ensure proper drainage and avoid compaction (which often leads to nasty bindis). Deep soak watering and longer grass turf is great for maintaining that lush look.

Have summer flowers starting to bloom soon?

Check out our garden care guide for 5 of our favourite summer blooms: Frangipanis, Sunflowers, Federation Daisies, Dahlias and Lily Flowers, just over the next page.

Frangipani

GROW: WARM TROPICAL ZONES | PLANT: SPRING ~ SUMMER

These tropical blooms thrive with little maintenance! Frangipanis prefer dry soil - water no more than once a week to maximise flowering and avoid overwatering. Frangipanis respond well to pruning and can grow in pots or in the ground. Keep mulch away from trunk to avoid trunk rot - only feed a small amount of fertiliser.



Sunflower

GROW: TEMPERATE ZONES | PLANT: LATE SPRING ~ SUMMER

Did you know Sunflowers face towards the sun to receive maximum nutrient exposure! Support these top-heavy plants with stakes and keep soil moist with regular watering. Protect plant from snails or weeds. Sunflowers plant best with fruits like cucumbers, sweetcorn and melons, but NOT with beans or potatoes.



Federation Daisy

GROW: TEMPERATE ~ SEMI-ARID ZONES | PLANT: SPRING

Blooming from late-spring and throughout summer, the Federation Daisy is easy maintenance. They need full sun, regular watering, and occasional fertiliser feeding once in bloom. Daisies are great bee-attractors - so position near other plants to encourage pollination. Prune spent blooms to also promote more flower growth.



Dahlia

GROW: WARM TEMPERATE ZONES | PLANT: SPRING

Once these colourful summer flowers start to bloom, they grow quickly! Keep the surrounding area moist and weed-free. Water regularly and feed with seaweed fertiliser to keep healthy. If you're not picking them, deadhead your Dahlias to ensure they stay busy and producing flowers. Protect from snails and caterpillars.



Lilium

GROW: COOL TROPICAL ZONES | PLANT: WINTER ~ SPRING

Glamorous, sweet-scented Lily Flowers (Liliums) bloom from late spring to early autumn. Apply compost mulch around your lilies once bloomed to ensure plant stays healthy and strong. Water twice weekly during summer and keep them shaded on hot days. Protect your Lilies from snails, and note that Lily Flowers are toxic to cats!



HOW TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE THIS SUMMER



DITCH SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Use reusable tupperware & drink bottles when picnicking. Shop using reusable bags. Bring your own cutlery (camping equipment is easy to pack).



ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

Use solar powered lights (& save electricity costs). Wrap presents with reusable bags, stockings or cloth materials instead of wrapping paper.



MINIMISE FOOD WASTE

Plan meals before shopping. Freeze perishables to last longer. Save leftovers for the next day. Regularly check use-by-dates. Compost organic food waste only.



HAVE A PARTY, SUSTAINABLY!

Confetti and glitter leave microplastic debris, use biodegradable materials instead. Separate waste into correct bins to be recycled whenever possible.



SAVE ENERGY COSTS

Have windows shaded to keep the heat out. Make use of natural light and summer breezes instead of switching on the lights or air-con. Let your clothes dry out in the sun instead of using the dryer.

Passionfruit

The Perfect Dessert Garnish

These tiny vine-climbing fruits are the perfect summer garnish for your favourite desserts and drinks! Passionfruits grow best in full sun with protection from strong winds. They need lots of space to grow (so avoid planting near other plants) and to climb (include a mesh fence to tame the climbing vines). Passionfruits need highly fertile compost soil that is slightly acidic. Plant during spring or autumn seasons, these fruits can take 6 months before the first harvest. Note: the sweetest crop usually comes 18 months after planting! Water regularly, especially when the vine is young.



Mango

Ultimate Summer Sweetness

When we think of summer fruits, we think of yummy mangoes! Eaten fresh or cooked, on its own or mixed into desserts, drinks or light salads - these fruits are a divine sweet treat! Growing these sweet fruits in your garden takes a lot of work, patience and time though (so best to start now)! A mango from seed can take 8 years to grow, whereas from grafted stapling takes only 3-5 years. Mangoes love tropical climates, with humid, hot summers and cool, dry winters. Mango trees will grow in any soil (sandy, clay or compost) as long as it has good drainage and depth. Best to plant in Autumn and water three times a week for the first year. Note mango trees attract fruit flies - so make sure to cover your fruits!

Avocado

A Super Tasty Superfood

Whether eaten fresh, spread on toast or smashed into a tasty guacamole dip, avocados are a super-healthy superfood! They have a range of health benefits, including improving digestion, decreasing depression symptoms and protecting against cancer.

They are also one of the easiest fruits to grow from a seed! Just pierce the seed with three toothpicks and place over a jar of water (with the bottom of the seed submerged). Change the water every 2-4 weeks and soon you should see roots sprouting. Avocados are grown best in tropical climates, with full sun and fertile compost soil. Plant during spring and harvest in summer.





Give your plants its essential nutrients to *thrive* this Summer!



Premium Clean & Green Organics Garden Mix soil now available at Waratah Supplies Garden Centre & Narellan Sand & Soil.



Made from 100% recycled organic materials at Clean & Green Organics composting facility. Premium Garden Mix soils are perfect for your summer gardening maintenance needs.

Rich in organic minerals and nutrients, Premium Garden Mix aids strong root development, naturally aerates soil particles and allows for optimal moisture retention to give your plants the best conditions for healthy growth.

Visit Waratah Supplies & Landscaping centre or Narellan Sand & Soil yard to purchase Premium Garden Mix soils for your gardening!

- **Rich in Organic Matter**
 - **Moisture Retention**
 - **Soil Aeration**
 - **Well-Draining**
 - **pH Balanced**
- Perfect for new or existing garden beds, pot plants, planting natives, turfing & lawn management.



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