



Mulch - Mulch - Mulch!

“**Mulch every spring and every autumn**” should be all gardeners’ (and non-gardeners’) mantra. Follow this and a few other simple tips and you will have much happier plants and a **smaller water account!** The weather is warming up and you want to protect your plants and the surrounding soil.

So, here’s what to do:

- Dig into the soil all the old mulch – this will help improve the soil structure
- Scatter a generous amount of a general purpose organic fertilizer
- Then apply some soil wetting agent. **SaturAid made by Debco** is an excellent product. Use it freely. This product ‘draws’ the water deep down into the soil and prevents ‘run-off.’ It really works and will save you heaps on your water bill. It is made out of coir so is very safe to use on the garden
- Now you can cover it all up with a thick layer of **mulch** – at least 5 cm deep. Don’t smother small plants or stems. **Use Sugar Cane, Lucerne or Tea Tree**

Now your garden beds are ready for the summer months. Repeat again in autumn.

Organic or Non-Organic? – That is the Question

With an ever-increasing awareness of fragility of our environment, it is now becoming very much mainstream to be considering what fertilizers and sprays you use on your garden. This is particularly important if you garden with kids; are ‘growing your own fruit and veggies’ and if you live near the bush, creeks etc. In actual fact, it is important for every one of us ‘backyarders!’

When growing fruit and vegetables, it is particularly important to use low or non-toxic sprays to control pests and diseases. This is where **Yates Nature’s Way** products are so handy. Grab a **Nature’s Way Insect & Mite Killer Natrasoap Gun** – it will do the trick; and be perfectly safe. With these sprays you will control just about all the bugs on the veggies.

If you are unsure about any products, always ask a qualified horticulturalist at your local garden centre. They will know the answers and give you sound advice.

When using fertilizers, try to be as organic as possible. You may need to use these a little more often, but the earth worms will love you! Fewer chemicals in your garden have got to be good for your family and ultimately the neighborhood and beyond.

Harvest is a great organic liquid fertilizer under the **Amgrow** label and you can use it with confidence on all your garden plants. It’s full of fish fertilizer, seaweed and other goodies to provide excellent nutrition for all plants, as well as improving the microorganisms in the soil.

Life’s a garden – dig it!

