



NetWaste School News

NetWaste
A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

A Collaborative Approach

DID YOU KNOW...?

When you recycle the items are reprocessed and made into new products. This reduces the amount of natural resources such as water, coal, oil, sand and metal ore used to manufacture new products. When you recycle 1000 tonnes of recycling you save:



6 Olympic swimming pools of water



Greenhouse gas savings equal to removing **121** cars off the road



Energy savings equal to the annual electricity needs of **71** households

LESS WASTE WITH MINIMAL EFFORT.....and it's fun!

A **no dig garden** is very easy – instead of digging the soil, you build a garden upwards using layers of newspaper, mulch (like straw) and shredded leftovers from the garden. Composted food scraps and more garden waste are added. Worm castings can also be used to add extra nutrients to the garden.

1: BUILDING YOUR GARDEN

Mark out the area where you want to build your garden. Line the bottom with newspaper at least 12 pages thick to suppress any weeds. Water the newspaper well.

2: LAYERING AND MULCHING

Add a layer of lucerne hay or straw on top of the newspaper followed by shredded leftovers from the garden.

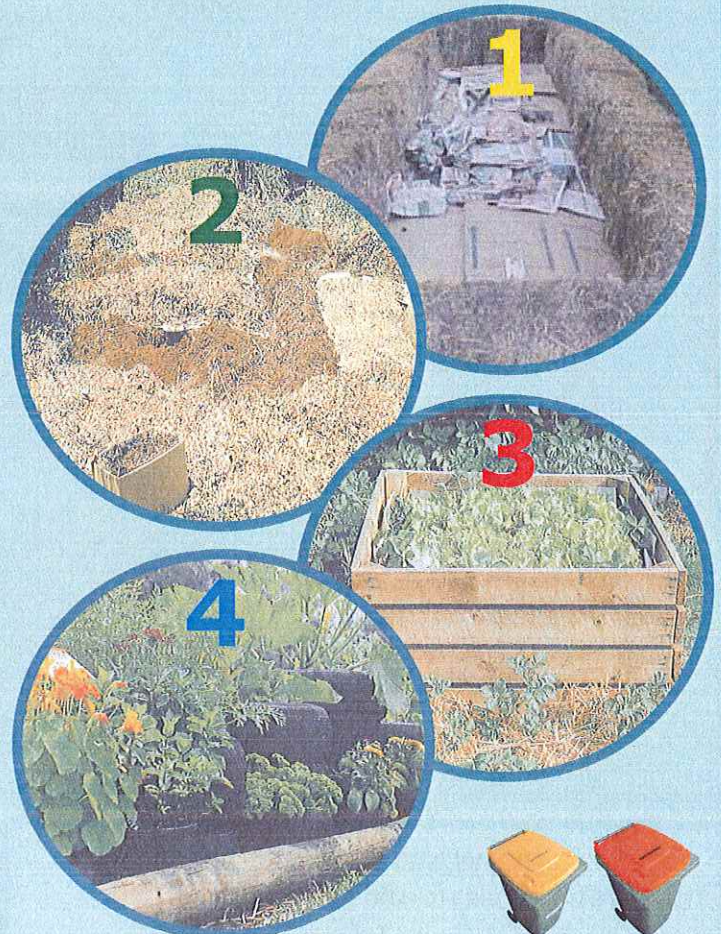
Next add compost and/or worm castings to increase the nutrient level in the garden. Repeat this layering process, including the newspaper until the desired height is reached.

3: PLANTING YOUR GARDEN

Once you have finished the layering and mulching plant out whatever plants you desire. It is best to plant shallow rooted plants in the beginning as the garden continues to settle. Add a 10 - 20cm layer of straw on top to protect the newly planted seedlings and to prevent drying out.

4: FERTILISING

By changing the types of plants grown in the no dig garden from crop to crop, you can minimise the need for excessive fertiliser as each type of plant has a slightly different diet. Adding worm liquid and castings will also help as they have high nutrient level and provide good food for plants.



Waste Hotline 1300 725 415

**Schools Waste Education Program. For enquiries please contact:
Sue Clarke, NetWaste Environmental Learning Advisor, on 6393 8772.**





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Your no dig garden will break down into a nutrient-rich soil, so it will need to be kept topped up with fresh layers of organic matter. Compost and worm castings are perfect for this job. Kitchen food scraps, shredded garden waste, animal manure and basically anything organic can be composted and added to your no dig garden. Worm castings and liquid will also keep your garden healthy and productive by producing a natural pH neutral fertiliser to top up the soils natural fertility.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

Many of the essential ingredients for a healthy and productive garden can be reused from around the house and yard. This not only reduces the amount of waste going to landfill and greenhouse gas, but it helps to replenish lost nutrients in soils.

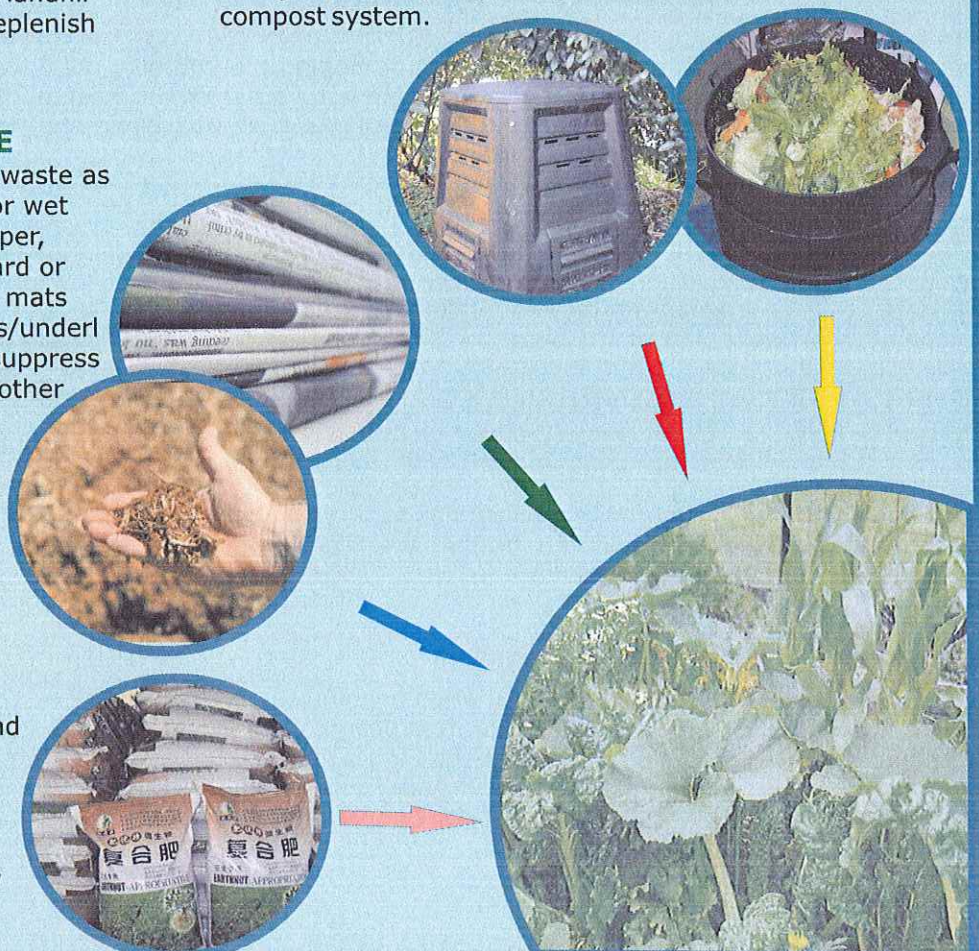
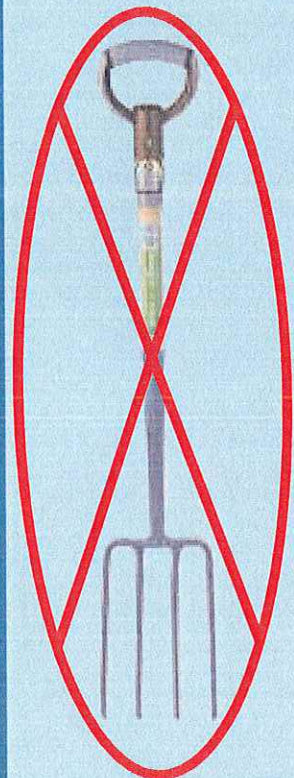
RECYCLE the goodness from your kitchen and garden scraps by using a worm farm or compost system.

REUSE

garden waste as mulch or wet newspaper, cardboard or organic mats (carpets/underlay) to suppress and smother weeds.

REDUCE

fertiliser and water use by using compost and mulch in your low



NO WASTE GARDENS

There are three rules to a no waste garden:

1. Plan a garden that suits your needs and the local environment.
2. Have plants that do not require regular or frequent pruning (such as most native plants).
3. Compost or mulch all prunings, fallen leaves, bark, grass clippings and any other garden waste.

WebLinks

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/downtoearth/garden.htm>

http://www.carlton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Programs_And_Policies.htm#No-Dig

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s1484696.htm>

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