



HUME CITY COUNCIL

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

Mulch

General requirements

- Mulch is used to suppress weeds and reduce maintenance
- Organic mulches are preferred
- Thorough weed control must be undertaken prior to mulching
- Mulch is to be free of soil, rock, any other non-organic matter and weed material
- Mulch is to be obtained from sustainable sources
- Mulch finished levels are to match adjacent edges after settlement
- Ensure mulch is kept away from trunks of trees and shrubs to avoid rotting
- Mulch is to be in accordance with AS 4454 Composts, Soil Conditioners and Mulches
- Note that softfall mulch is considered as part of Play Space Design and not covered in this section

Organic mulch

- All mulch materials must be appropriately aged to minimise nitrogen drawdown as they decompose
- Mulch is to have the ability to slowly break down over time. Organic mulches that break down rapidly are not suitable
- Organic mulch should be applied to a depth between 75mm-100mm for garden beds and tree bowls, and to a depth of 50mm around remnant trees (or in accordance with the approved tree or conservation management plan)

Mulch type	Purpose
Fine wood mulch, examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark King Pine Flake Mulch (2-10mm) • Eco Dynamics (Moss Rock) Euca Mulch (2-10mm) 	High profile presentation area garden beds
Medium recycled wood products, examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Dynamics (Moss Rock) MR12 (6-12mm) • Bark King BK12 (average size of 12mm) 	General garden bed use
Medium to course recycled wood products, examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark King BK12 (average size of 12mm) • Eco Dynamics (Moss Rock) MR20 (12-20mm) • Euchil mulch (by-product of Eucalyptus oil production) 	Informal and indigenous garden beds, embankments and steep slopes
Course recycled wood products, examples include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark King BK20 (20-40mm) 	Remnant trees

Inorganic mulch

Inorganic mulches are to be used minimally in highlight garden beds in Activity Centres and in Water Sensitive Urban Designs

- Inorganic mulch is to be applied to a depth between 75mm-100mm for garden beds and tree bowls
- Inorganic mulch is to be sustainably sourced, preferably from local quarries. The use of by-products is encouraged. River pebbles will not be accepted

Jute mat/geotextile fabrics

Jute mat or geotextile fabrics are used in revegetation treatments, or erosion control on steep banks, to mitigate sediment dispersal or in raingardens to separate raingarden media from site soil.

- All jute mat should be a minimum mass of 700 grams/m²
- Use appropriate thickness and permeability of jute mat for the given purpose.
- Use jute mat with pre-slit holes at the required density for planting for ease of installation on revegetation and erosion control sites
- Biodegradable jute mat is more suitable for use in revegetation treatments and in erosion control on steeper banks
- Preference is given for geofabrics made from recycled materials

Refer to the Landscape Standard Drawings for jute mat installation, including overlapping sections of jute mat.

References

Landscape Design Considerations

Standard Drawing:

- Australian Standard AS 4454-2012 Composts, Soil Conditioners and Mulches

