

Green Waste Operating Procedure

1. Scope

This policy applies to all the green waste and soil which is generated at the University of Queensland sites (where site-specific EMSs are not in place).

2. Objectives

- To create an environment at The University of Queensland which is aesthetically pleasing;
- To minimise potential fire hazards;
- To promote resource conservation by treating through biological breakdown then re-using and recycling the majority of the green waste generated; and
- To ensure that the green waste generated is managed in an appropriate manner.

3. Procedure

- The majority of green waste generated on UQ sites is managed by Property and Facilities Division - Grounds Section. Other sources include UQ Sport, laboratories and glasshouse services.
- Procedures at some campuses and sites are different. ***Please refer to site specific work instructions for collection times for disposal and other details for your campus or site.***
- Regardless of campus or site, the following measures must be taken for disposal of wastes.

3.1 **Property and Facilities - Green Waste**

3.1.1 Transportation

Any green waste being transported by either Property and Facilities or contractor vehicles must have the load secured and covered where there is the potential to spill the load. The vehicle must also have all necessary equipment to clean up any spill of the transported material.

For ride on mowers, trailers must not be overloaded and wastes shall be transported directly to the place of disposal. Securing and covering is generally not required except if conditions or size mean the load may be spilled.

3.1.2 Mulching

Tree trimming generally yields larger quantities and sized materials. These off cuts are mulched to smaller fractions or wood chipping of branches. This process will only accommodate material smaller than 150mm in diameter.

The mulch produced is naturally biodegradable and is used to cover the garden beds, providing soil conditioning. If additional mulch is required, it may be obtained from external suppliers.

Excess mulch may need to be disposed of as per item 3.1.5 below.

3.1.3 Grass cutting

Grass cuttings are left to breakdown on the site. This process provides a biomass balance of the areas covered by grass. If grass clippings are held in catchers, they may be disposed of as 3.1.5 below.

Thatchings are removed from playing fields at a minimum of once per year and disposed of as per 3.1.5 below.

3.1.4 Collection and storage

Green waste is collected by the Property and Facilities Division - Grounds staff and is stored in a number of areas on campuses and sites before mulching or disposal as appropriate.

3.1.5 Disposal

Disposal occurs only when the biomass accumulated by mulching is in excess of garden bed-covering requirements or where the branches are in excess of 150mm diameter. Excess material than that required is disposed of at the licensed landfills or recycling centres.

3.2 Green waste and soil from Laboratories

Minimal amounts of green waste and soil are produced in laboratories. This waste is disposed of through the general waste stream (refer to [General Waste Operating Procedure](#) in this manual) or in the pathological waste stream (refer to [Clinical and Related Waste Operating Procedure](#) in this manual) as appropriate or forwarded to the University's Central Glasshouse services.

In cases of direct disposal from laboratories to either General Waste, Clinical and Related Waste or the University's Central Glasshouse services, autoclaving may be required before disposal.

3.3 Green waste from Glasshouses

Minimal amounts of Green Waste produced at the Glasshouses are processed through the General Waste stream (refer to the [General Waste Operating Procedure](#) in this manual) or included with used soil product as appropriate. The used soil product is then disposed of by The Property and Facilities Division at licensed landfills.

3.4 Green Waste from UQ Sport

Green Waste from UQ Sport is disposed of in Property and Facilities Division St Lucia Riverside Compound or Gatton biomass facilities, and is then treated as per Property and Facilities Green Waste (Section 3.1).

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4. Responsibilities

The Property and Facilities Division is responsible for the treatment, collection and/or disposal of the green wastes as discussed in section 3 above.

Any enquires with respect to the management of Green Wastes should be addressed to personnel as listed in site specific work instructions.

5. Definitions

5.1 Waste

Under Section 13 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1994* **waste** is defined as “any gas, liquid, solid or energy (or a combination of wastes) that is surplus to, or unwanted from, any industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, whether or not of value.”

5.2 Green Waste

Green waste is any biodegradable, organic waste generated in the garden or during gardening. For example: grass cuttings, tree branches, shrubs, dead foliage, etc.

6. References

- Environmental Protection Act, 1994
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy and Regulation 2000
- Waste Management Strategy for Queensland 1996
- Fire & Rescue Authority Act 1990 and Regulations