

How to prepare your verge



Factsheet 1: How to prepare your verge

Getting ready

The first step in preparing for planting will be to remove all the weeds from the verge. To help keep weeds away, cover the area you want to plant with a thick layer of newspaper. Wet it thoroughly to keep it in place and cover with soil or mulch. When you are ready to plant, simply dig through the newspaper to the soil below.

If your verge hasn't been planted for a long time, it may be very compacted which makes it hard for plants to develop a root system. While you are pulling up those weeds, break up the first 20cm layer of soil to allow water, nutrients and plant roots to penetrate.

What you'll need to have when you plant

All plants grow much better if soil improver or compost is added to the planting hole. Before planting out your verge you will need to have:

- Bags of compost or soil conditioner
- Wetting agent – liquid or granular
- Slow release fertiliser like blood and bone or Osmocote for native plants
- A pile of mulch – you can use organic mulch like shredded tree prunings or wood chips, or hard mulch like fine gravel

Planting

The best time to plant is from late April to October as the weather is cooler and winter rain will help plants establish. For successful planting, follow these simple steps:

1. Dig the hole twice the depth of the pot
2. Put in a spade full of compost or soil conditioner in the bottom of the hole
3. Throw in a small handful of fertiliser
4. Add wetting agent and fill the hole up with water, allow to drain
5. Infill the hole after planting with a 50/50 mix of the soil removed and compost
6. Put a 5cm layer of mulch on top, reapply wetting agent and water in thoroughly

If there are no trees on your verge, plant one – or ask the City of Armadale to plant one for you. Trees provide shade and cool down the verge making it better for other plants to grow.

Mulch

Mulch should be applied 5cm thick. Keep mulch several centimetres away from the trunk of all plants. Organic mulch (wood chips) may need to be reapplied once a year in late spring, as it will eventually break down into the soil.

If you need help to get rid of weeds or break up the soil on your verge, get together with at least three of your neighbourhoods and put together a Neighbourhood Verge Plan.

If your application for assistance is successful, the City of Armadale may be able to help you with weed removal, minor earthworks or delivery of mulch.