

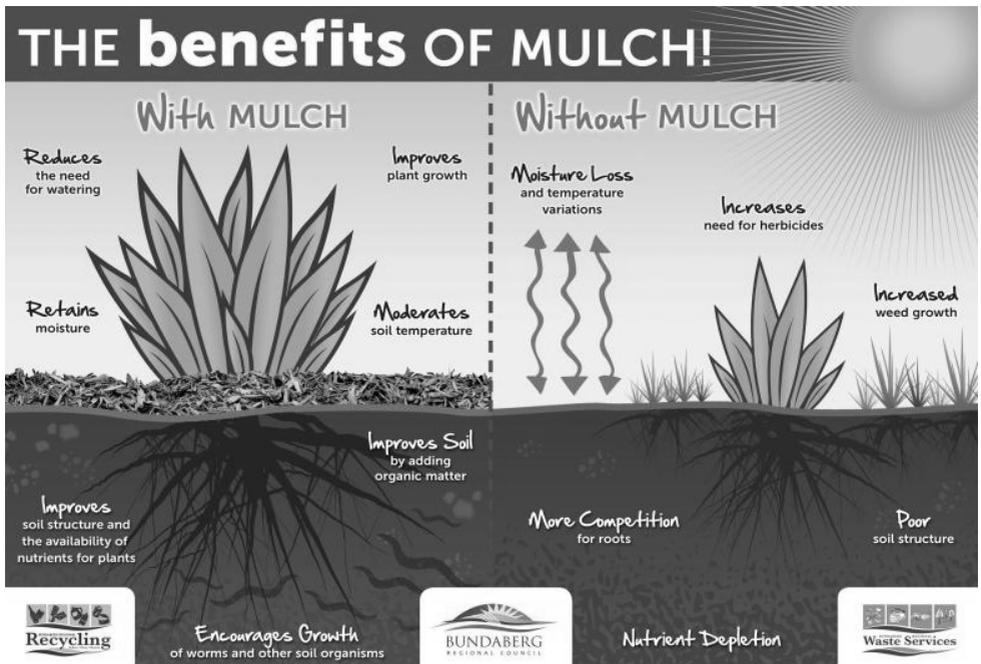
## *Mulch Information*

*To save lots of time in the garden, Mulching is well worth the effort.*

Mulching your garden beds will drastically reduce the time spent weeding, watering and fighting pests. Mulch also improves the appearance of your garden and prevents mud from splashing up on plants or onto walls or paths when it rains.

Mulching reduces the water lost through evaporation by up to 50%. The mulch layer also prevents excessive water run off and erosion. Organic mulch will slowly break down adding nutrients as it decomposes and encourage earthworm activity. Root systems will also benefit as mulch provides insulation and maintains an even ground temperature during winter months.

# THE benefits OF MULCH!



With MULCH	Without MULCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces the need for watering</li> <li>Retains moisture</li> <li>Moderates soil temperature</li> <li>Improves plant growth</li> <li>Improves soil structure and the availability of nutrients for plants</li> <li>Improves soil by adding organic matter</li> <li>Encourages Growth of worms and other soil organisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moisture Loss and temperature variations</li> <li>Increases need for herbicides</li> <li>Increased weed growth</li> <li>More Competition for roots</li> <li>Poor soil structure</li> <li>Nutrient Depletion</li> </ul>



**Recycling**



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## **DIRECTIONS:**

Spread the mulch around the garden to a thickness of 5-10 centimeters. For extra weed control, old newspapers may be laid on the ground prior to adding mulch. Pull the mulch away from the stems of trees to prevent rotting. Water the mulch and plants well.

Ensure mulch is not in contact with structures and is kept below ant capping to prevent subterranean termites breaching barriers. Mulch or other materials against structures could conceal termite/insect activity which otherwise would be detected by visual inspection. Although mulch will never come with termites in it, they may appear after placement.

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

The mulch is best handled with a pitchfork and spread with a solid metal rake. As with all mulch, care must be taken to avoid splinters. Also, due to the recycled nature of the mulch there may be small amounts of unwanted material such as shredded rubbish. This product may contain microorganisms, avoid breathing dust – wear particulate mask if dusty.

While handling the mulch, it is recommended you:-

- Wear covered shoes or boots,
- Wear leather gardening gloves
- Bend your knees rather than your back when lifting



*Provided by  
Bundaberg Regional Council  
Waste & Recycling Services*