

Manures and Mulch

"This is hungry country and you have to feed it and use lots of litter (mulch)".



Broome gardening needs heavy organic feeding and mulching.

Manures:

Local manures - cow, horse, chicken, camel are great.

Lawn clippings and leaf litter are better if mixed into other manures. Fresh is fine in Broome but bury under mulch as dry manure loses nutrient or if applying fresh on surface don't allow it to touch plants directly.

Using manure. It's okay to add manure directly to garden soil (farmers do it all the time), but all are best if composted first. Fresh - below the surface or compost it. Dry – soak in water till it puffs up or add it to damp soil. Dry use it as mulch.

NOTE: Dogs/cats faeces - don't use -can contain pathogens harmful to humans

in order of quality:

Worm Castings – A great source of macro and micro-nutrients, odorless, doesn't burn plants even if applied fresh. Best uses as a worm 'tea' (water run off from worm farm) dilute and water on.

Rabbit manure scores high in nitrogen. Similar to sheep, easy to use and an impressive 3.5% in nitrogen. The other elements are slightly higher than in manure from sheep so you can use less and get more

Manure from sheep and goats is easy to handle. Sheep and goats produce better manure than cows and horses. It's pelletized so can go straight into the garden. Also it is virtually odorless.

Bird manure is premium stuff for vegetable manure high in N. Pigeon poo has been prized in Europe as a super-manure since the Middle Ages. Chicken is the closest we have but use it old, as it can burn if fresh.

Pig ^[1]_[SEP] The 'coldest' manure of all with the shortest composting time, use straight on the garden.

Horse & Cow Because they are grazers produce a bulky, humus-rich manure great for mulch, but with low levels of N-P-K. Horse manure usually has an OK N-P-K rating and a shorter composting time than cow and breaks down faster. Find it at the rodeo, race track and stables. Cow manure is available from the Roebuck cattle yards.

Camel - in Broome access to camel poo is easy. A good stable manure with plenty of urine in the straw to help add nitrogen. Phone camel tour companies, weekday morning pickups best.

How Much Poop?

As a soil conditioner, 40% manure to 60% soil is good mix. If applying composted manures to existing beds that are already very fertile, a 1- to 2-inch thick layer is probably sufficient.

Manure soils

Mushroom compost is usually based on horse manure, can be a bit limey. It is sometimes still hot and may need to be heaped up under cover for a couple of weeks, then plant straight into it as a soil.

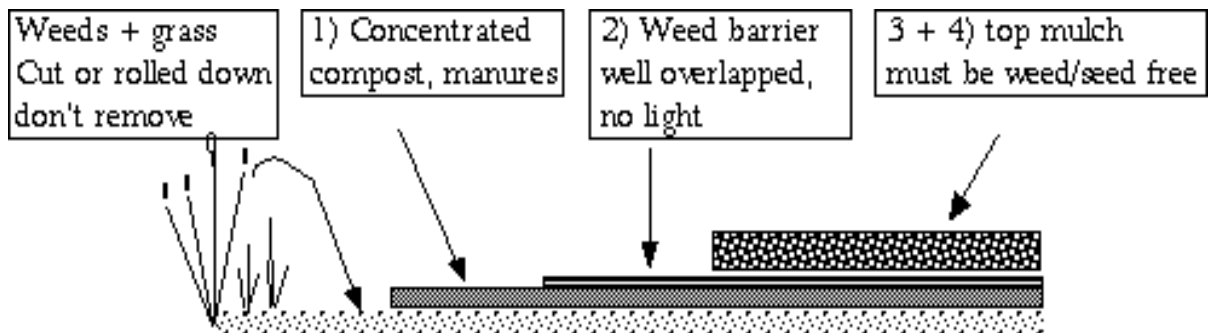
Mixed manure and soils- McQuorry have a variety of mixes to start your garden

Mulch

Local Mulches:

- native trees or the council tip mulch - ornamentals and pathways
- palm mulch or dried manure - fruiting trees
- dry manures, palm fibre mulch, lucerne/pea straw - vegies.

Mulch with thick layers. Sheet mulch mimics natural forest mulch: layer weeds, compost or fresh manure, weed barrier- cardboard/paper, partly decayed compost / organic matter and mulch with dry manure or straw based mulch.



Council tip mulch- free – good all rounder for paths, fruit trees, vegies (remove the chunks)

Tree mulch – from Tree loppers usually per truck load (from \$15-\$35 perCM) could be too chunky, sometimes comes with diseases or moulds, compost or use on paths only

Palm mulch – cheap moisture retainer for the surface only, or add to sand for potting mix

Bark chip mulch – pathways only – too chunky for vegies

Various baled mulches- pea/ lucerne straw from – add food and mulch at the same time
Lupin Mulch (replaces sugar cane mulch which is banned for sale in WA)

Compressed coconut fibre for adding to potting mix

Retailers: Landmark, Bunnings, Mitre 10, McQuorrie and Broome Nursery and Pets
Various bagged manures – high nutrients, good to boost the soils growing capacity
Mushroom compost
Mulch

Incredible Edible is a community initiative that aims to increase access to locally grown food, share knowledge and skills and bring people together
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