

MEDIA RELEASE

SPRING IS HERE, bringing with it warmer weather, blooming flowers and more green waste.

Here are a few helpful tips and reminders to ensure your green waste is collected and processed into high quality organic products.

The Green Waste Bin Pilot Program has been operating in selected suburbs (Kambah and Weston Creek) since April. In this time, participating households have recovered 415 tonnes of green waste for conversion into valuable soil and compost products.

To keep this excellent waste reduction initiative working effectively, we must remember to keep contamination out of the services. The service can only accept clean green waste materials such as garden prunings, grass clippings, flowers, branches, leaves and weeds.

Plastic bags, newspaper and other waste, can contaminate the green waste and must not be placed into the green waste bin.

With the warming weather and blooming flowers, there will be more time spent in our gardens. Sometimes this can result in an accumulation of green waste. To help manage this green waste in a convenient and cost effective way, with environmental benefits. Consider participating in the Green Waste Bin Pilot Program (selected suburbs), a fortnightly bin service to collect your green waste. If you have already opted into the service, here are a few key points suggested by Regina Johar, the Education Officer for the Kerbside Green Waste.

If your bin is too heavy (more than 50kg) the collection truck cannot safely service the bin. To avoid issues with your service, here are a few helpful tips:

- Keep branches pruned to less than 45cm in length and 10cm diameter, larger materials can become heavy quickly.
- Shake off any soil before placing it in the bin. It can add weight and contaminate your load.
- Wet materials may become stuck at the bottom of the bin, use some loose dry materials, like sticks and twigs, at the base of the bin to avoid this.
- Wet materials can also become heavy and dense. A garden fork, spade, or even a stick, can be used to loosen the green waste before your collection.
- Do not overfill your bin and ensure the bin lid can close. If you have too much material for one collection, you can put it aside for your next collection day. Alternatively, you can still self-haul your excess green waste to Corkhill Bros at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, or to Canberra Sand and Gravel at West Belconnen Resource Management Centre.

Please remember to place your bin out before 7:00am on your collection day, or the night before to avoid a missed service.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative. To sign up for the service or to find out more about the acceptable and not acceptable materials, visit the website www.actgreenwaste.jjrichards.com.au, or contact JJ Richards on **02 6270 5000**.