

FACT SHEET



Landscape Treatments on Nature Strips

Nature Strips

Nature strips are an integral part of the urban landscape of towns within Moira Shire, contributing to the character of our neighborhoods and streetscapes.

Traditionally, grass or turf is the most common treatment on urban nature strips. However, this treatment requires high amounts of water especially during the summer months.

Council recognises the importance of creating landscapes that use water resources efficiently and a range of alternative nature strip treatments has now been developed.

Acceptable Nature Strip Treatments

- Alternative water-wise grasses such as kikuyu, buffalo, couch or lippia which can be easily propagated by runners.
- Granitic sand (compacted layer) 5-10mm below the kerb level may be used in the nature strip, in conjunction with suitable plantings.
- A mulch layer, 25-50mm below the kerb level may be used in the nature strip with suitable plantings.
- Plantings of water-wise ground covers and shrubs no taller than 500mm; a list of suitable plants is available from Council.

Organic mulches

Covering the nature strip with mulch provides a low maintenance option that greatly reduces water and maintenance costs. Organic mulch is available at no cost from all landfills and transfer stations within Moira Shire except Yabba.

Gravel

Gravel surfaces are seen as requiring no water; however, Council discourages gravel-only treatments as this is not in line with the function of a nature strip. Gravel only treatments can encourage parking behind the kerb, which is illegal.

Low water use plantings

Plantings of water-wise ground covers and shrubs no larger than 500mm reduces maintenance and improves the amenity value of the streetscape.

Trees

The planting and maintenance of trees in the nature strip is the responsibility of Council.

Unacceptable Nature Strip Treatments

The following items are not to be used as part of private landscaping on nature strips:

- woody plants;
- plants with spikes or prickles;
- species considered to be weeds;
- landscaping elements such as rocks,
- bollards or sleepers;
- stones or rocks greater than 10mm in size;
- compacted areas without suitable vegetation;
- landscaping that encourages parking between the property boundary and the kerb;
- landscaping that does not allow a passage of one metre wide (minimum) suitable for use by a parent with a child stroller along the roadside boundary of any property;
- letter boxes on nature strips;
- irrigation systems on nature strips;
- trees or large bushes over 500mm high on nature strips (these will be planted as required by Council).

Within the drip line of any existing street trees, only excavation by hand is allowed; compaction of this area is not permitted.

Plants must be chosen and placed so that foliage does not overhang the footpaths or kerbs.

Preparing Your Nature Strip

1. Prepare a sketch plan showing the outline of the works proposed, including plantings names, property boundaries, driveways, kerb, street trees, service and sign poles.
2. Obtain Consent for Works within Road Reserve from Council.
3. Spray existing plant material using commercial herbicide.
4. If the excavation depth is greater than 100mm contact Dial Before you Dig - phone 1100 to obtain service plans.
5. Excavate turf/topsoil up to 200mm. Take care not to cultivate under dripline of the existing street tree.

Option 1 - Gravel

After following the above steps, place gravel/crushed rock/recycled concrete, maximum of 10mm particle size.

Maintain gravel 5-10mm below kerb level.

Use a roller to compact the crushed rock.

Option 2 – Organic Mulch

After following the above steps, add a mulch layer 25-50mm below kerb level.

Plant your nature strip using approved water-wise plants.

Maintain a level surface and compact, allowing a gentle slope.

A list of suitable vegetation is available from Council.

Conditions of Approval

All costs of establishment, renewal and maintenance, is to be borne by landowner.

Council and service authorities reserve the right to access pre-existing assets and future assets.

Disturbance resulting from Council or utilities works will only be reinstated to a neat finish, plants will not be reinstated.

Council reserves the right to remove any unsuitable or poorly maintained plantings in any nature strip.

Landscaping must not interfere with the urban drainage infrastructure or its working.

Consent for Work within the Road Reserve will need to be obtained from Council; standard fees will apply for mechanised excavations, however no fee will be charged for manual works.



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