

# Keep it Clean for Field Vegetables

## Waste management

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### Waste

How much rubbish you collect on your farm and what you do with it is important. Rubbish is now called waste and is described as any solid, liquid or gas that is discarded, unwanted, rejected or abandoned. It also has the potential of being reused or recycled. Waste on the farm can cause land pollution, looks unsightly and can be dangerous.

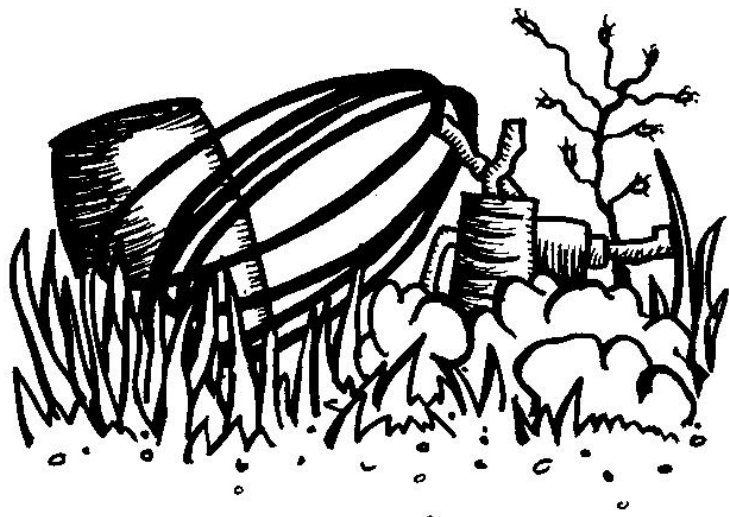
Waste includes crop debris, plastics and packaging, old and broken equipment, chemicals and their containers and used materials such as drip tape and plastic mulch. All types of waste can provide pests such as insects, mites, nematodes, diseases and even weed seeds with refuge from where they can then affect your crop. Not managing waste on the farm also causes a lot of other problems including:

- polluting the land, ground water and other water sources
- being dangerous to work around
- providing a place for dangerous snakes and spiders
- attracting pest animals such as birds, rats and rabbits
- getting in the way of your farm work
- looking untidy and upset neighbours
- prevent you improving your crop production

Piles of rubbish work around the farm cost you time and money. There is a disposal or recycling method for all types of waste.

Remove and dispose of crop debris as soon as possible after rouging, pruning and harvest. Do not

pile plant material near the field. Dispose of crop debris out of and away from the 'clean' zone. Crop debris can be buried if done immediately. Do not stockpile it. If you are composting crop debris on-site, shred the material to reduce the volume and speed up decomposition.



*“Growing area is always cleaned and all crop debris removed or ploughed in before planting new crop”*

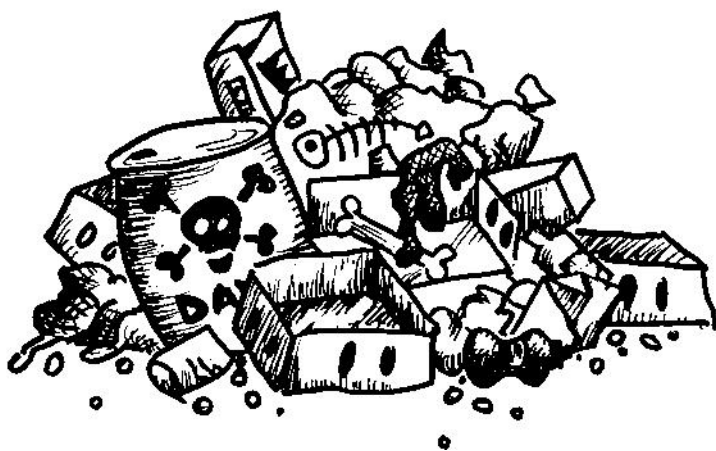
Waste paper and cardboard, some plastics and all glass can be collected for recycling. Minimise the amount of rubbish that is allowed to collect on the property before disposal. Always make sure you have a specific place – well away from the crop – where material can be neatly stored until disposal. A large waste bin (eg skip bin) which is regularly emptied is a good practice.

*“Never leave rubbish and used materials in the buffer zone around the production area”*

Bulk collection services are available from your local government. You can arrange for materials to be collected once they are placed in an accessible place. You can also hire skip bins from companies that will dispose of your waste for a fee.

Used chemical drums can be disposed of through ‘DrumMuster’ which operates in all states. For details on collections call DrumMuster on (02) 6230 6712 or <http://www.drummuster.com.au/>

It is illegal to burn any rubbish in most metropolitan areas. It must be disposed of legally. In some rural areas flammable rubbish can be burnt, this does not include plastics. Check with your local council first. The penalties are high for illegal waste disposal.



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