



# VERGE TREATMENT GUIDELINES



# Verge Treatments Guidelines

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 What is a Verge?

The verge is the area between the edge of the road and the private property boundary. Verges are owned by the Crown (State Government) and management is vested to the Shire. Verges provide a buffer between the road and private property where essential services and public infrastructure may be located.

### 1.2 Who's Responsible for Maintaining the Verge?

The Shire has management responsibility for verges, however encourages the adjacent resident to take responsibility for the embellishment, maintenance and use of the verge, to improve the environmental value and visual appeal of their property and neighbourhood.

The Shire undertakes annual slashing of unmaintained verges and carries out the following a maximum of twice a year:

- Spraying of weeds on unmaintained verges with suitable chemicals.
- Spraying of weeds in hardstand structures such as footpaths, kerbs and medians as part of our regular asset maintenance weed spraying program.

### 1.3 High level considerations prior to altering your verge include:

1. Vehicular visibility – how your verge treatment impacts vehicle sight lines, both on the road and entering/exiting properties. Plant heights and species should be carefully considered.
2. Access and movement – plants or tree limbs encroaching into footpath areas or loose material such as pebbles could spill into the public realm. Pedestrians, mail delivery or access into your property needs to be considered.
3. Services and public infrastructure – the verge is home to a number of services and public infrastructure. Dial 1100 for Dial Before You Dig or go online prior to any works commencing on site.

## 2 What is allowed on the Verge?

1. No Spray Sign (supplied and installed by the Shire)
2. Shrubs and ground covers
2. Grass
3. Organic mulch
4. Irrigation

## 2.1 NO Spray Sign

Property owners may complete an application form for a NO Spray Sign to be installed on their verge. The following may be installed based on the following conditions:

1. The property owner agrees to have Staff install the yellow Shire of Gingin No Spray sign and will not install their own signage.
2. The property owner responsible gives commitment to maintain their verges and keep them free of noxious weeds.
3. The property owner agrees to keep the area free of hazards and nuisances. Failure to comply may result in removal of the treatment by the Shire at the property owner's expense.
4. The Shire of Gingin reserves the right to remove any nature strip treatment for the purpose of carrying out works, without being liable to compensate any person for such loss.
5. Soft landscaping, such as small ground cover plants to a maximum height of 40cm and mulch, including gravel, pea gravel, limestone, paving, and irrigation may be permitted when landscaping your verge.

## 2.2 Shrubs and Groundcovers

1. Subject to keeping the verge clear for the first 3.5m width from kerb or seal a dry garden style of small vegetation, shrubs and ground covers.
2. Groundcovers or shrubs shall be planted greater than 2m away from a path, driveway, public utilities or any other structural element within the verge.
3. Local native plant species that require minimal water, fertiliser and on-going maintenance are preferred.
4. Whenever possible, planting, even with irrigation, shall be undertaken during the months May to September.
5. All plantings should be mulched to reduce water evaporation.

## 2.3 Grass

1. Pennisetum clandestinum (kikuyu) is recommended for its drought tolerance.

## 2.4 Organic Mulch

1. Mulch shall be placed to a minimum recommended settled depth of 75mm.
2. Suitable mulch includes pinebark, shredded green waste older than 15 months or similar. To reduce the risk of spreading Phytophthora Dieback, mulch should be sourced from reputable suppliers.
3. Peat moss should not be used in any mulch application.

## 2.5 Irrigation

1. Dial 1100 for Dial before You Dig or go online prior to any works commencing on site.
2. Waterwise design principles must be incorporated into irrigation designs for planted and grassed areas.
3. Water usage shall be in accordance with Department of Water legislation, with respect to watering times and hours.
4. Where in-ground irrigation is installed to grassed areas, no part is to protrude above ground level except for pop-up sprinklers during operation.
5. The location and type of spray outlets must be selected to avoid water spray onto roads, crossovers, paths and other paved areas.
6. Irrigation controllers and valves shall be installed within the private property boundary.
7. The Shire of Gingin takes no responsibility for any damaged irrigation.

## 3. Other Permissible Verge Treatments

The use of hardstand treatments other than for paths and crossovers is not normally encouraged within the Shire for safety, drainage, environmental and aesthetic reasons. The following treatments are allowed but require written permission from the Shire:

1. Paving
2. Synthetic Turf
3. Compact aggregate – ferrocement, cracker dust or road base

For these treatments to be considered on any portion of the verge, an Application to Alter Verge Form must be submitted to the Shire. If you are considering installing a vehicle crossover, refer to the Crossover information and Specification for the Construction of Vehicle Crossovers.

### 3.1 Paving, Synthetic Turf and Compact Aggregate

The Applicant is responsible for:

1. Installing the paving, synthetic turf or compact aggregate as per the detailed plan submitted with the Application to Alter Verge Form and approved by the Shire.
2. Maintaining the paving, synthetic turf or compact aggregate in a safe and sound condition.
3. Reinstating the paving, synthetic turf or compact aggregate at the Applicant's cost in the event that any Shire or government utilities have reason to disturb the synthetic turf to work on their infrastructure.
4. Paving, synthetic turf or compact aggregate must be installed with the finished levels, where possible, collecting the water and where possible, directing water flow into the tree well(s) or garden beds.

## 4 What isn't allowed on the Verge?

Verges provide a buffer between the road and private property where essential services and public infrastructure may be located. As access to these services may be required some hardstand treatments are not permissible in the Shire of Gingin.

The following cannot be installed on the verge:

- Nuisance trees (anything with thorns)
- Asphalt
- Bitumen
- Concrete
- Edible Gardens
- All structures including walls, planter boxes and seats
- Loose aggregate – pea gravel, blue metal, crushed brick or stone aggregate
- Large Rocks
- Water features

## 5 Weed Control

*The Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* places an obligation on all landholders to control 'Declared Plants' on their properties. A list of Declared Plants can be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The *Shire of Gingin's Pest Plant Local Law 2015* places an additional requirement on Shire of Gingin landholders to control further pest plants identified in the First Schedule of this Local Law. In addition to the Shires obligations to also control the above Declared Plants and Pest Plants on Shire managed land, the Shire will conduct annual roadside verge management activities addressing weeds and vegetation within the road shoulder, drains and batters (generally covering 3-5m from the trafficable edge or the road).

## 6 Verge development approval process

All proposals for landscape treatment of the verge require approval from the Shire of Gingin. In order for applications to install landscape treatments on the verge to be assessed, property owners are required to submit in writing an outline of the landscape proposal which includes a diagram to illustrate the proposed work including plant species and the layout of any proposed reticulation system(s).

The Shire will then:

- Inspect the location;
- Notify the owner in writing whether the Shire supports or does not support the proposed landscape development;
- On completion of any approved works the Shire will inspect the works;
- Works not carried out in accordance with the relevant approvals will require any noncompliance issues to be rectified; and maintain a register of the site and the approved verge treatment.