



Guidance note

Using wool-waste to grow better crops

The benefits of using wool-waste

Wool-waste is the discarded wool from shearing sheep.

Wool-waste decomposes slowly under field or covered production conditions, and acts as a slow release N, P, and K fertilizer. Wool-waste is especially useful in gardening, as it has the ability to retain water while releasing nutrients to feed plants. It also improves soil biological and chemical characteristics.

How to use wool-waste

- As a mulch to keep down weeds and help retain moisture.
- As a water reservoir for container-grown plants

Idea! Use two nested 5-gallon pots with the inner one having a hole in the bottom. The wool-waste is placed at the bottom of the outer pot and tomato plants are planted in the inner pot, in a soil mixture of potting mix and fertilizer. The plants root draw moisture from the wool-waste.

- Potatoes: put 4 handfuls of wool-waste at one side of the planting hole, place the seed potato at the other side (it should not touch the wool). Cover with soil.
- Pumpkin and squash crops: dig a 20cm deep furrow and place wool-waste along the bottom. Cover over with soil and plant the seeds along the furrow as normal.
- Mix with other manures

Idea! Place a layer of wool under the roost in a chicken coop to collect the droppings; it is then easy to remove wool + chicken manure together.

- You can also compost wool-waste, add between 25% and 50% to your compost bin.

For further advice and information please contact Pest Control Services or Farmer Support at ANRD on 24724.