

Watheroo Bentonite clay: Application rates

Watheroo Bentonite is a vital component of a water-wise garden:

- improve water absorption on non-wetting, or water-repellent soils
- increase water and fertiliser retention in sandy soils
- improve the quality of soils for lawns, vegetable gardens, pot-plants and native gardens.
- supply soluble plant nutrients, including calcium, magnesium and potassium.



This natural, unmodified clay is an effective soil conditioner that will improve your soil and is safe for aquatic systems, plants, animals and micro-organisms. Bentonite Products WA source clays from our own mines at Watheroo in Western Australia.

Application rates:

New garden beds for vegetables, flowers, lawns, and native plants.

- 3 - 5 kg per square metre (unimproved sandy soils will benefit from higher application rates)
- add a high quality matured compost as well (5-10 kg per square metre)
- spread clay and compost onto surface of soil and mix into top 15-25 cm manually or using a rotary hoe.

Established gardens, trees, and lawns.

- 1-2 kg per square metre: apply 500 g per square metre, 2-4 times over several weeks
- add a high quality matured compost, 2-5 kg per square metre.

Establishing new vegetable and flower beds, lawns, pot plants and soil mixes:

- spread dry bentonite granules across the soil surface
- apply compost or manure as desired
- work the bentonite and compost through the root zone to a depth of 25 cm.

Establishing a native plant garden:

- spread dry bentonite granules across the soil surface
- work the bentonite and compost through the soil to a depth of 25 cm
- apply mulch.

Existing gardens and flower beds:

- apply dry bentonite to soil surface and work in well – either manually, or by watering in if there is a risk of damage to existing plant roots.
- add manures, composts and fertilisers as required.

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Existing pot plants, shrubs and trees:

- to avoid disturbing roots, add 4 standard cups of clay to a 10-litre watering can (stir well) and apply to the soil
- regular applications, rather than heavy single treatments, allow the clay to gradually incorporate into the soil.

Existing lawns:

- spread dry bentonite over the lawn and water in thoroughly
- regular light applications, rather than heavy single treatments, allow the clay to incorporate into the soil.

Precautions

- Bentonite clay granules are very stable, however keep granules dry to ease handling and distribution.
- Use dust-mask when spreading to avoid inhalation of fine dusts.
- Spilt clay can be slippery and a hazard when wet.