

Aussie Rice Straw ...Mulch Better

MORNING STAR ESTATE



ST GEORGES ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Morning Star Estate is amongst the Mornington Peninsula's premier restaurant, function and conference venues. Set amidst 22 acres of sweeping vineyards and 850 exquisite roses, showcasing the breathtaking benefits of mulching with Rice Straw.

Environmentally friendly Rice Straw Mulch is formulated completely out of recycled rice stalks. It is a fantastic way to give fabulous and long lasting weed suppression and will give your garden a natural look and feel. Aussie Rice Straw takes up to two years to break down, is water efficient and qualifies for a Government Water Smart Rebate.

Aussie Rice Straw comes straight from the farmer to you. It's ideal for plants and veggies, and the decision to bundle it into smaller packages makes it readily available for domestic gardeners.

Rice Straw works exceptionally well in both commercial orchards to the home garden. Commercial growers, using the products have seen improvements in fruit size. Shepparton's St Georges Road Primary School has used it to great effect on their school gardens. The product is also excellent for use in chook pens, as well as rabbit and guinea pig hutches. Rice straw's fibrous structure stays springy and has worked well in piggeries due to its capacity to draw water away from the top layer.

As a demonstration of the superior quality of rice straw, Ashley at Aussie Rice Straw is pleased to donate his product to the first 100 schools who respond to this editorial on 0448778729*

*Conditions Apply



TAMBOORA GARDENS



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IT'S A STRAW THING!

BY LEANNE DOWNING

FOLLOWING EIGHT YEARS OF SUCCESS IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, AUSSIE RICE STRAW PROPRIETOR ASHLEY DEMPSTER IS PIONEERING THE USE OF AUSTRALIAN RICE STRAW AS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR VICTORIA'S DROUGHT AFFECTED GARDENS AND ORCHARDS.

As a natural bi-product of rice cultivation practices, rice straw is a clean and green alternative to traditional straw mulches. Unlike conventional mulch, rice straw doesn't thatch or form a crust, which means that water is able to easily penetrate through. This has been a great advantage to orchardists who have found that traditional straw products pose problems with water runoff and weeds.

Not only does rice straw offer a superior rate of water absorption, it also takes two to three years to break down (depending on layer thickness), and virtually eliminates ground weeds. What's more, its dense structure performs well in windy areas, where lighter products are prone to blowing away. Ashley says that home gardening enthusiasts have had "great success with it around Mornington and Ballarat, both of which are notoriously windy areas." In instances where pea straw and sugar cane are used, Aussie Rice Straw provides an ideal top coat by protecting the lighter products from the elements.

The straw also comes with a number of environmental advantages. Given the quantity and quality of straw produced from a standard rice harvest, rice straw has been typically burned in the field. By utilising the product as mulch, farmers are able to reduce burning and thereby ease the planting of the next crop.

As an all-Australian product, Aussie Rice Straw has been put to excellent use in some of Victoria's most demanding environments. The Department of Sustainability and Environment have extensively utilised the product throughout the Marysville State Forest



TAMBOORA GARDENS



after the "Black Saturday" fires and the snowfields. Whilst horticulturalists at Flemington Racecourse (home of the Melbourne Cup), and Morning Star Estate in Mornington have found it ideal for rose gardens. Local rose specialist, Bernie Ryan from Tamboora Gardens believes "his roses are thriving, with the Rice Straw helping maintain moisture and decreasing the amount of watering required".

Rice straw is available from nurseries, hardware stores and landscape gardeners throughout the Goulburn Valley region. Further details can be found on the Aussie Rice Straw website at www.ricestraw.net.

In addition to being a member of Nursery and Gardening Industry Australia, Ashley is currently awaiting confirmation on Aussie Rice Straw's acceptance as an accredited Australian water saving product.