

DEALING WITH TOO MUCH WATER

KEY POINTS

Protect your soil against erosion

Preventing and overcoming waterlogging

Gardeners in much of Australia might wonder what ‘too much’ water is, as there does not seem to be such a thing anymore. But the predictions of climate scientists are that we will have wilder swings in weather, so that there will sometimes be destructively heavy rainfall events, as there were in the Hunter Valley and East Gippsland in June 2007, even though the long-term trend is to increased dryness. In contrast, prolonged heavy rain is predicted to be more frequent in the tropics.



Bare cultivated soil plus rain = massive erosion.

You can do no more than clean up if your area is inundated, but there are a few things you can do to minimise local problems.

‘Too much’ water can cause problems through:

- soil erosion
- waterlogging of the soil.

Soil erosion

Erosion is the process of removal of particles from a soil surface by wind or water.

Erosion by water is prevented or reduced by:

- maintaining a full cover of plants so that the soil is protected from the pounding of raindrops and is held together by a mass of roots
- allowing water to spread in thin sheets rather than being concentrated into narrow streams of destructive force