

October  
2010

**ecoCover**<sup>™</sup>  
mulch mat

## *EcoCover and Enviroschools*

Enviroschools is a nationwide network that empowers students to take action to create healthy, vibrant schools and communities. Students in over 700 schools throughout New Zealand are being inspired to investigate, explore ideas, make decisions and take action on their school and community environment. Each school creates a school vision, forms an enviorgroup, works with the community and implements action projects. Trained facilitators work with each Enviroschool to guide, motivate and advise the school along their journey.

Recently EcoCover was approached by the Enviroschools Co-Coordinator in Gisborne to use EcoCover Weed Squares for their Regional Enviroschools event. The students from 8 Enviroschools were involved in a native tree revegetation project on Kaiti Hill. This event was to coincide with Conservation Week and Keep New Zealand Beautiful Cleanup week.

Below are some photos of the children laying EcoCover Weed Squares around the newly planted trees.



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## *EcoCover Weed Squares - Olive trees*

"I have attached a few photos of the process we used in the weekend. We have still a long way to go and we found the product easy to use. We decided that we should use the 600 mats for the larger trees the next time around! and also cut the grass short and spray with 'organic interceptor' which is pine based before mulching. Weeding by hand is slow as we expected. The irrigation line and drippers are under the ecocover mat and chipped mulch.

What we did was pruned the trees, weeded by hand, taking out the weeds and as much roots as possible. We then fertilised and placed the ecocover mats on the ground around the trunks and supporting post and then spread the chipped mulch from the prunings on the ecocover mats.

The grass growing close to the trunks are our main problems for obvious reasons. We use a swing arm mower to cut the grass as close to the trunks as possible. However some of the longer grasses and weeds close to the trunks inevitably escape the cut. With the ecocover mats and mulch we hope to keep this area under the trees clear of weeds and also maintain the moisture through the spring/summer, which traditionally is a difficult time in terms of grass and weed management around the tree trunks.

Thanks again for your help. We have tried a lot of things over the years and we are hoping that this is finally the system that will work for us. I think the use of organic spray around the tree trunks before placing the mats is the way to go to get the process more efficient.

Regards  
Godfrey

