



BRIMBANK
CITY COUNCIL

sustainable gardening IN BRIMBANK





BRIMBANK
CITY COUNCIL



This booklet was produced by
Brimbank City Council.
Phone 9249 4000

www.brimbank.vic.gov.au

This booklet was originally produced
for the City of Darebin with kind
permission to modify.

Text by Sustainable
Gardening Australia
www.sgaonline.org.au

Photographs by Helen Moss,
Scott Watson, Sarah Holland Clift,
Charles Grech, Frances Saunders,
Viridans, and Flora.cyberia

Design by Judy Watson, Thumbprint

Printed on Cyclus recycled paper

Printed in 2006

Disclaimer: Although precautions
have been taken to ensure the
accuracy of the information, the
publishers, authors and printers
cannot accept responsibility for
any claim, loss, damage or liability
arising out of the use of the
information published.

LanguageLink

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| 9209 0131 | Arabic | عربي |
| 9209 0132 | Croatian | Hrvatski |
| 9209 0133 | Greek | Ελληνικά |
| 9209 0134 | Italian | Italiano |
| 9209 0135 | Macedonian | Македонски |
| 9209 0136 | Serbian | Српски |
| 9209 0137 | Spanish | Español |
| 9209 0138 | Turkish | Türkçe |
| 9209 0139 | Vietnamese | Việt-ngữ |
| 9209 0140 | All Other Languages | |
| 9209 0141 | English | |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Introduction</i> | 2 |
| <i>Garden Design</i> | 3 |
| <i>Caring for Your Soil</i> | 5 |
| <i>Compost – Easy and Fun.....</i> | 7 |
| <i>Water.....</i> | 12 |
| <i>Greywater.....</i> | 16 |
| <i>Plant Selection</i> | 17 |
| <i>Brimbank Local Plants</i> | 20 |
| <i>Other Plants to Use.....</i> | 26 |
| <i>Traditional Lawn Alternatives.....</i> | 27 |
| <i>Brimbank Weeds.....</i> | 28 |
| <i>Chemicals.....</i> | 34 |
| <i>Children in the Garden.....</i> | 37 |
| <i>SGA Low Environmental Damage Chemicals.....</i> | 38 |
| <i>Produce.....</i> | 40 |
| <i>Products.....</i> | 42 |
| <i>Sustainable Gardening Score Card</i> | 44 |

INTRODUCTION

Gardening is all about creating a beautiful environment. Sustainable gardening is about maximising benefits to our natural environment and reducing some of the negative environmental impacts gardening can have.

Gardening can have a positive benefit to the health of our environment. If we use local plants we provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies. By conserving water in the garden we help maintain water levels in our reservoirs. Reducing the use of chemicals in the garden will result in less chemicals in our creeks and streams. By composting our household and garden organic waste we can reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and therefore reduce the amount of greenhouse gas produced. If we purchase renewable resources for the garden such as recycled plastic sleepers, we can help to protect our old growth forests and river ecosystems.

It is easy to create beautiful gardens that suit our local climate and soil and have a low impact on our natural environment. Sustainable gardens can be introduced gradually, for example as an exotic plant dies replace it with a local plant. Sustainable gardens are low maintenance as they require less watering, lower application of fertilisers and chemicals, and less mowing and pruning.

It is important that we create diverse and interesting gardens for family and friends to come together to work, play and socialise. This booklet has been designed to answer some of your gardening questions and to enable you to conduct a sustainability audit on your garden. Different

topics are addressed and in each section you simply tick a box if it is something you are doing in your garden. Add up each section and get a total score on the Sustainable Gardening Score Card at the back of this booklet. Make a note of what you have to do to score more ticks in six months and 12 months. You can then start working towards making your garden more sustainable.



GARDEN DESIGN

Many gardens still have the traditional layout which came from English gardens many years ago. A paved sitting area, large open lawn and flowerbeds of exotic plants around the outside. These days people tend to be busier working and so have less time for the garden. Gardens are becoming smaller and children tend to spend more time inside.

Interior design, architecture, cars and fashion change to suit new lifestyles. It's time gardens did too. To design a good garden you need to take time to work out how to create a garden you feel comfortable with, that you enjoy and that suits your local soil and climate.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Have a plan of sun/shade, slope and soil variation in your garden
- ☐ Have a rough planting plan that groups plants according to their water, sun and soil needs
- ☐ Have designed your garden for low water use (see p12)
- ☐ Have thought about the amount of garden waste (e.g. lawn clippings and prunings) and ways and space for managing it on site (composting or mulching)
- ☐ Have replaced concrete with gravel to allow more water to soak in (creating a permeable surface)
- ☐ Have designed your garden to have flow and interest to create appeal
- ☐ Have designed your garden to be a place for people to socialise.

Design Score /7

GARDEN DESIGN TIPS

1. List what you need (shed, washing line, kids swings, entertainment area) and what you want (vegie garden, shade area, pond, fruit tree/s).

2. Do a site analysis (sun, shade, slope, privacy – all the problems that need solving), which will tell you what your site will let you do.
3. Do a scaled plan or mark out in the garden what will go where and where it looks best. Be practical. For example, placing a new shed in a shady corner, vegetables where they get full sun, a pond where it can be seen from inside the house, and a shade tree to the north of the house.
4. Find a style you like which suits your garden so all the paving, pots, water features and plants match, especially in a courtyard garden.
5. Make beds bigger and lawns smaller. If you mulch all beds this will reduce your maintenance and enable you to create interesting areas within your garden.
6. If you want to reduce your lawn area to make bigger garden beds, you need to know what type of lawn you have. If you have a fine lawn grass such as rye or fescue you can mow the lawn low, cover with 8–10 sheets of newspaper (overlapping), add 10–15cm of pea straw on top, wait 3–4 months and then plant directly into it. This must be done when the soil is moist and all the grass has died. If you have ‘running’ grasses such as couch or kikuyu they will not be eliminated by newspaper and mulch. They are very tough grasses to remove and you can try one of three methods:
 - Cover the grass with a sheet of clear plastic for several weeks in hot weather so that the grass effectively ‘cooks’
 - Mow the lawn area you wish to remove on the lowest mower setting and then dig out the remaining root system
 - Apply chemical herbicide.

Further Information

The Australian Garden, Diana Snape
Beautiful Gardens with Less Water, John Patrick
Bold Romantic Gardens, Oehme Van Swede
 Browse through the library

CARING FOR YOUR SOIL

Healthy soil = healthy plants. Soil needs organic matter such as mulch, compost, manure and grass clippings. Worms break it down to make food for plants to use and their burrows allow air into the soil so the plant roots can breathe. Organic matter needs to be replaced regularly as the worms eat it all up and plants absorb the nutrients. If organic matter is not added, the soil becomes like concrete in the summer and a sticky mess in the winter. In addition, many people want a low maintenance garden. This is much easier if you look after your soil.

Give yourself a tick if you:

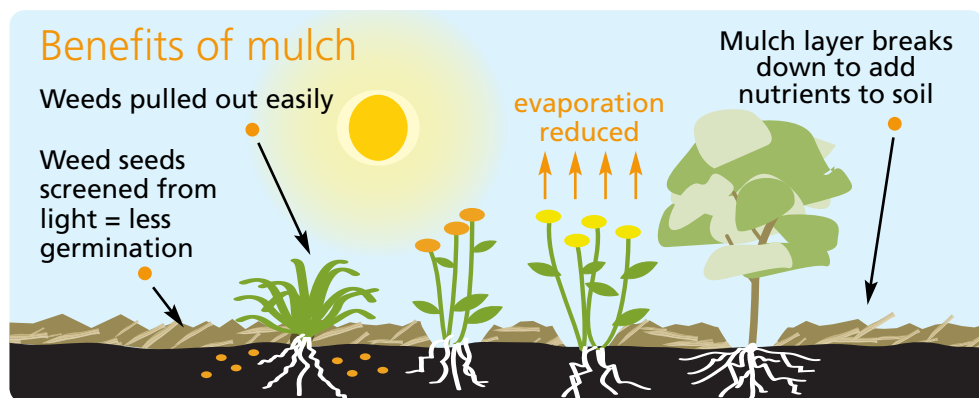
- ☐ Check mulch levels and replace every year to bring back to 8–10cm deep
- ☐ Regularly add organic matter to your soil
- ☐ Know which are the best types of mulch for different types of plants
- ☐ Know at least five good things mulch does to reduce maintenance
- ☐ Have at least three worms in a spadeful of soil wherever you dig in the garden
- ☐ Only dig your soil when you have to.

Soil Score /6

SOIL IMPROVEMENT TIPS

1. Pea straw and lucerne are the best if you have not mulched the soil for a long time as they break down quickly so it's easier for the worms to eat. Bark mulch has very few nutrients so it isn't very good for improving the soil, but it does offer better weed protection.
2. Mulches made from recycled organics are an excellent choice as they save water, last well and feed the soil when they break down. Contact Council on 9249 4000 for information on getting a green waste bin.

3. Expansive clay soil in the Keilor and Avondale Heights region would benefit from the addition of gypsum and compost.
4. Spreading compost over your soil (under the mulch layer) will encourage worms in your garden.
5. The soil needs to be damp before you add mulch so late spring (November) is the best time to put on mulch, once the winter rains have soaked in.
6. Soil improvement such as pea straw placed on the soil surface is generally only required for exotic plants, vegetables and fruit trees. Most local and native plants like a relatively infertile soil so they prefer bark mulch on its own without soil improvement.
7. When buying new soil for your garden don't just buy topsoil, buy a soil that includes recycled organics or compost.
8. Don't cultivate your soil unless it is very compacted after building works. Digging destroys the soil structure, therefore destroying the air holes and drainage spaces that allow water to get to the plant roots.



Further Information

The Natural Gardener, Jeffrey Hodges

Gardening Down-Under, Kevin Handreck

The Natural Magic of Mulch, Michael J. Roads

www.sgaonline.org.au www.csiro.au

COMPOST – EASY AND FUN

Composting or worm farming your food scraps, grass and garden clippings (organics) can give you excellent garden food and soil improver that is free. Composting organics, rather than putting them in the rubbish, is one of the best things you can do in your garden. As well as creating great fertiliser, it reduces greenhouse gases, saves water and dramatically reduces your waste. Composting and getting that 'perfect mix' can also be lots of fun. It's not hard and almost half of household rubbish can be turned into compost that's useful for your garden.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Make your own compost
- ☐ Can list 10 things you can put in compost
- ☐ Can list three things you shouldn't put in compost
- ☐ Ensure your garbage bin is less than half full every week
- ☐ Use your compost as a fertiliser under mulch, mix with potting mix in containers, use on top of seed beds in the vegetable garden or stewed in water to make a liquid feed
- ☐ Use a worm farm if you live in an apartment or have a small garden.

Compost Score /6

COMPOSTING TIPS

1. Your compost bin or heap should be on soil, not concrete, so it drains well and the worms and bacteria can enter the bin to decompose the waste.
2. All compost bins or heaps need a balance of materials that:
 - Are high in nitrogen, such as blood and bone, Dynamic Lifter or chicken manure
 - Contain carbon, such as dried leaves or shredded newspapers
 - Contain both carbon and nitrogen, such as kitchen scraps, pea straw and green garden prunings

3. In addition, the compost heap or bin needs:
 - Water, but only enough so that the contents are moist but not wet
 - Oxygen, added by regularly turning over the contents of the heap
 - Warmth, by putting it in a sunny place
 - Easy access
4. **Hot (fast)** compost takes 3–6 months – you need a recipe and to turn the compost every day. **Cold (slow)** compost takes 6–12 months – just keep adding waste, especially kitchen scraps.
5. Compost bins can be purchased by contacting Council on 9249 4000 or Customer Service Centres.

Add to your compost ✓

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Egg shells
- Onions
- Citrus fruit (cut up)
- Sour milk and yogurt
- Pizza and egg cartons
- Vacuum cleaner dust
- Animal fur
- Pure wool jumpers (that are not good enough for the op shop) and socks (cut up)
- Pure cotton articles (cut up)
- Grass clippings (thin layers 3–4cm)
- Cut up prunings
- Weeds without seed heads
- Blood and bone
- Shredded newspaper
- Small amounts of wood ash



Grey Germander (*Teucrium racemosum*)

Keep out of your compost ✗

- Fish
- Meat
- Cat and dog droppings (consider a pet poo worm farm)
- Big woody prunings
- Bulbous weeds (e.g. *oxalis* spp.)
- Weeds with runners (e.g. couch grass)
- Bleached or glossy office paper (harmful chemicals)

Building a layered compost heap

1. Build your compost in thin layers (3–10cm)
2. Alternate kitchen waste (high nitrogen) and garden waste (low nitrogen) layers
3. Aim for a ratio of 30 carbon : 1 nitrogen
4. Use a range of material

This diagram is an example of the different layers of a compost bin or heap. Alternating kitchen and garden waste layers with an occasional layer of manure works well.



SOLVING COMMON COMPOST PROBLEMS

Why is my compost:

Left with half decomposed big lumps?

Adding smaller pieces to the bin/heap should ensure that it all decomposes evenly. Avoid avocado seeds, pineapple tops, twigs and other woody items unless they can be crushed or chopped before adding. Always crush eggshells.

Smelly?

Either: Too much nitrogen containing matter and not enough carbon. Try adding more dry materials such as dried chopped up leaves and newspaper.

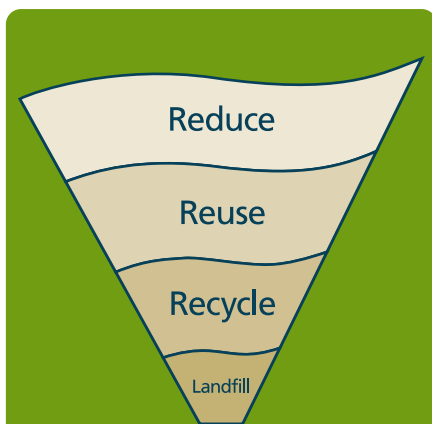
Or: Make sure you aid decomposition by using a garden fork and turning over the bin/heap occasionally (maybe once a week) to introduce more air. This prevents anaerobic bacteria from taking over and producing the smells. In a compost bin you can add lengths of slotted agipipe to increase aeration.

Crawling with ants and slaters?

The heap is too dry. Add a sprinkling of water or less dry matter. Ants and slaters are not harmful at all but they do indicate that your compost will not decompose rapidly enough.

Attracting flies?

If you see tiny flies (drosophila) every time you open the lid, rest assured that they are there because they enjoy the contents of your bin/heap, especially if you have been adding fruit peelings. Add a blanket cover to the contents of your compost, such as hessian sacking or carpet felt underlay.



Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

The waste hierarchy (pictured) teaches us to 'Reduce, Reuse & Recycle'. This means that it is always best to buy less, then reuse, before you recycle, in order to minimise waste. The last and least preferable option is to send material to landfill.

Visited by rats, mice, blowflies or maggots?

Meat scraps or fish bones are best avoided since they do encourage vermin, especially over summer. Rats and mice enter the bin by digging underneath, so fasten a piece of fine mesh wire under the bin before commencing.

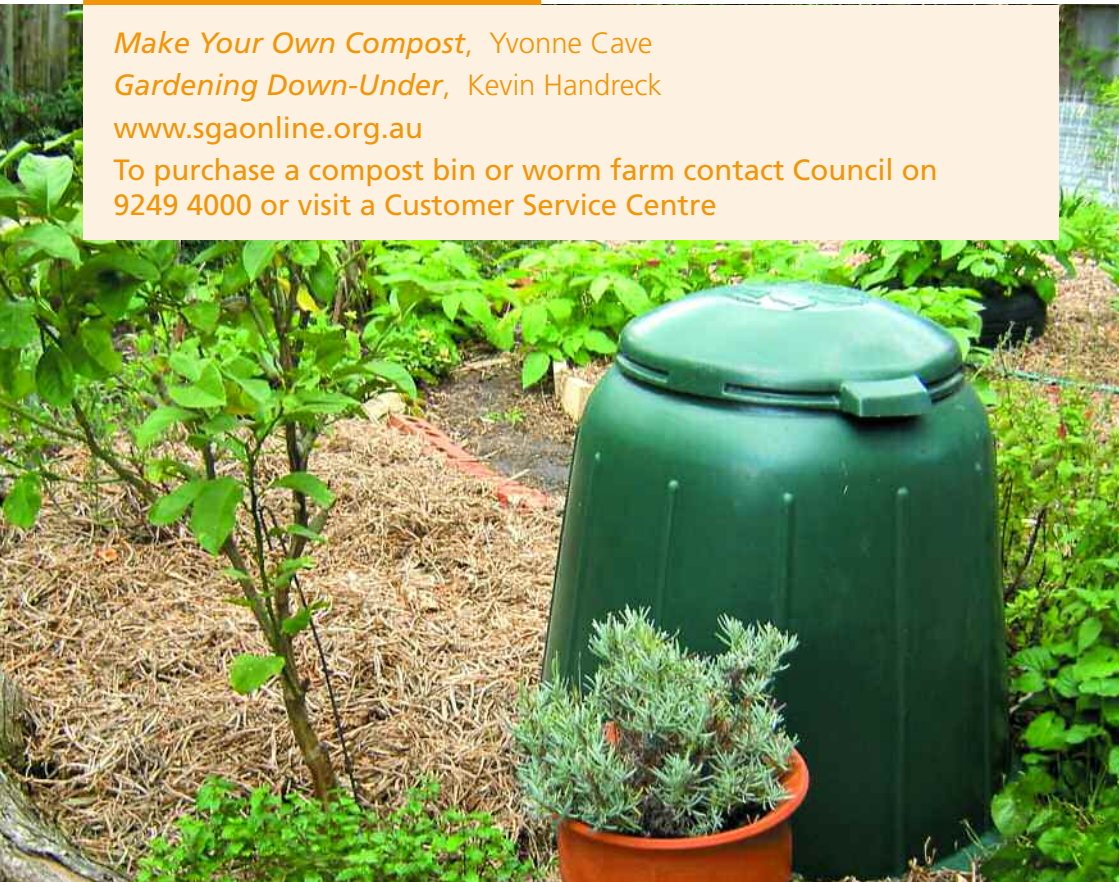
Taking so long to do anything?!!!

The carbon/nitrogen ratio needs to be altered. If your compost is **too wet**, add dry matter, such as newspaper; if it is **too dry**, add water along with something high in nitrogen such as blood and bone, Dynamic Lifter pellets, or chicken manure. And don't forget to regularly turn the heap over!

Further Information

Make Your Own Compost, Yvonne Cave
Gardening Down-Under, Kevin Handreck
www.sgaonline.org.au

To purchase a compost bin or worm farm contact Council on 9249 4000 or visit a Customer Service Centre



WATER

Australia is the driest habitable continent in the world and yet we are also the highest consumers of water per capita. We have been in drought conditions for several years. Even though rain falls in winter it is not enough. We are using more water than gets replaced, and each year our reservoirs have less and less water. Up to 30% of domestic water gets wasted in the garden through things like water not being able to penetrate the soil deeply, not using mulch to stop water evaporating, inefficient irrigation and bad garden design.



Give yourself a tick if you:

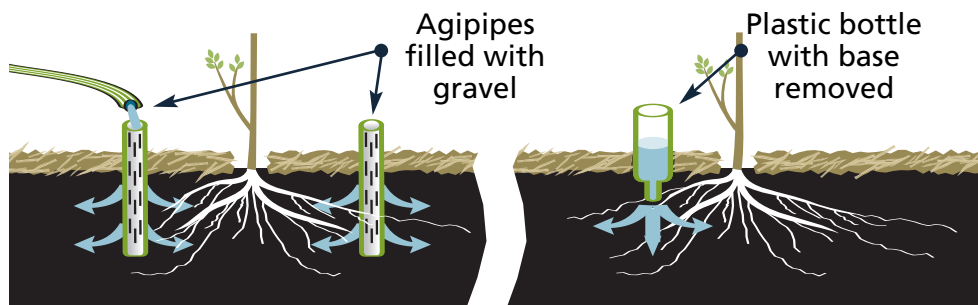
- ☐ Have 30% or more of your garden planted with plants in the Brimbank Local Plants section (p20)
- ☐ Have less than 50% of your garden area taken up by lawn
- ☐ Have mulched all your garden beds and pots
- ☐ Don't have a lawn, or if you do, cut your lawn long (8–10cm) over summer
- ☐ Water in the cool of the day in accordance with permanent water savings rules
- ☐ Water around the plant root zone with long, infrequent watering
- ☐ Use a soaker hose or dripper system instead of sprays
- ☐ Have either a timer on your taps or shut off valves on your hoses
- ☐ Have a water tank
- ☐ Using Environmental Protection Agency approved techniques or systems to recycle greywater from the laundry and bathroom to the garden.

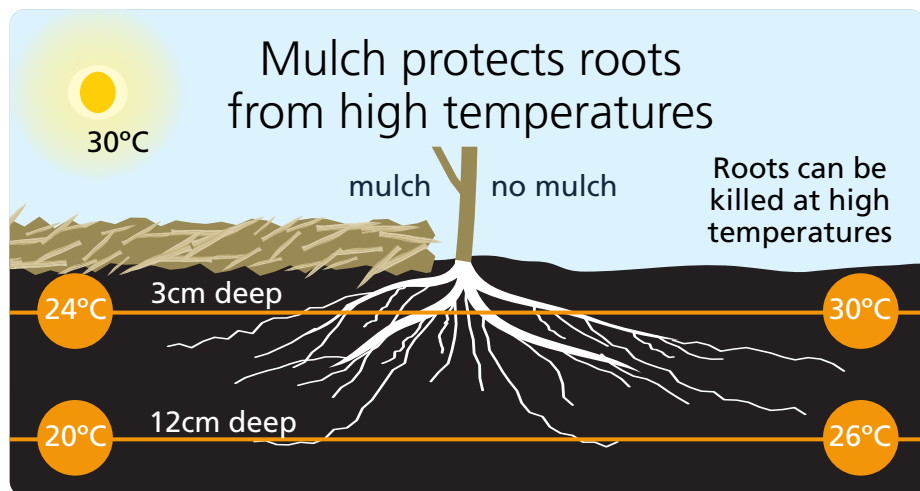
WATER TIPS

1. Have as large a rainwater tank as possible, 3000 litres of water in a tank for summer is ideal.
2. Check and clean your irrigation system every spring. An efficient irrigation system can save up to 46,000 litres of water in your garden each year.
3. Use a drip watering system or porous hose which cuts wastage by ensuring that the water only goes to where it is needed.
4. Avoid micro-sprays. They waste up to 70% water through drift and evaporation and if the soil is mulched, water will not penetrate to the soil.
5. Fit tap timers to make sure you don't over-water.
6. Use a rain sensor in your garden so that watering doesn't occur automatically when it is wet.
7. Use a trigger hose to ensure you don't waste water while moving around the garden. Always turn it off at the tap when you have finished in case the hose springs a leak.
8. If you are using a sprinkler, use one that makes big drops of water rather than a fine mist which can be scattered by the wind.
9. Use an inverted soft drink bottle to give slow constant watering to annuals, ferns and roses.



Watering: Deep watering delivers water slowly to the roots and encourages deep roots.





10. Position irrigation systems so that water isn't wasted on paths, patios, driveways and buildings.
11. Use soil wetting agents to hold water in the soil longer and closer to the plants.
12. Use mulch on your garden beds. You'll save up to 73% of the water that normally evaporates. After mulching don't water your garden as often or you'll drown your plants.
13. Plant wind breaks to reduce the wind's drying effects on your garden and group together plants with similar watering needs.
14. Choose local plants that have lower watering needs and suit dryer conditions for a water wise garden.
15. Remove weeds regularly as they compete for water with your plants and lawns.
16. Check the weather forecast to avoid watering before rain.
17. Stop water evaporating before it reaches your plant roots by watering in the early morning or late evening.
18. Water your garden and lawn less often but more thoroughly. This will encourage your plants to extend their roots deeper into the soil, making them more drought resistant, hardier and less thirsty.

19. Target the root zone when watering your plants. There is no benefit to spraying the leaves and flowers, in fact on hot, sunny days you will cause damage.
20. Put an ice-cream container on your lawn or garden before you turn on your irrigation system. When the water in the container is 10mm deep, you have watered long enough.
21. After you have watered, dig down to see how far it has penetrated. It should be at least 10cm.
22. Never hose down paved surfaces such as driveways and paths. Use a broom and put the sweepings on your compost heap or use them as mulch.
23. Use a pool cover. This can save water by preventing evaporation (especially on windy days) and reduce the need to regularly top up your pool water level. Without a cover, more than half of the water can evaporate in a year.
24. Do not empty your pool during winter. This can waste more than 100,000 litres of water which could be treated without emptying.

Further Information

Waterwise Gardening, Kevin Walsh

Waterwise House and Garden, Allan Windust

Water Efficient Garden, Wendy van Dok

www.citywestwater.com.au

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.savewater.com.au



GREYWATER

Greywater is domestic wastewater, excluding toilet waste. The best quality greywater comes from the rinse water of your washing machine, while toilet and kitchen wastes should always go to sewer. Untreated greywater can be diverted on a temporary basis to sites within your backyard.

Greywater can contain a number of micro-organisms such as bacteria and viruses, as well as chemicals from cleaning agents. The continual discharge of greywater can potentially cause problems for your garden.

A level subsurface trench is one option for applying diverted greywater. Slotted stormwater pipe placed in the trench, and covered with gravel assists in conveying the water along the length of the trench. An alternative is to collect greywater in a bucket and apply the water to areas of greatest need.

Do:

- divert only low risk greywater such as final rinse water from your washing machine
- it is preferable to apply greywater below ground
- only use low phosphorous detergents (powdered detergents also contain large volumes of salts, which can affect the salinity in your garden).

Further information

www.epa.vic.gov.au
www.sgaonline.org.au
Water Efficient Garden,
 Wendy van Dok

Don't:

- divert kitchen wastewater as this has high levels of contaminants
- divert greywater with any blood or faecal contamination, such as water used to wash soiled nappies
- water vegetables for human consumption with greywater
- allow greywater to pool or stagnate as this will cause odours and attract pests
- never store untreated greywater
- never pipe greywater into existing irrigation systems
- never allow people or pets access to areas where greywater is being reused
- never allow greywater to enter the stormwater system or neighbouring properties.

PLANT SELECTION

Local (indigenous) plants are suited to the local soil and climate. They do not require large amounts of nutrients and once established, require little water. There are many beautiful plants local to the Brimbank area. Many of these plants offer shelter and are important food sources for local birds, insects, reptiles and animals. (Refer to the Brimbank Local Plants section p20-25.)

Two thirds of Victoria's environmental weeds are garden escapees. Their seeds are spread from our gardens by birds and animals or by people dumping garden cuttings into our bush and waterways. Weeds compete with local plants for light, nutrients and water. Before too long they will replace local plants, leaving native animals without food or homes. As gardeners we need to know which plants can escape and destroy our unique natural environments. (Refer to the Brimbank Weeds section p28-33.) Please consider removing and replacing garden escapees as there are so many beautiful plants that are excellent alternatives.

Plants need to be grouped together according to their sun/shade, water and fertiliser needs. If you mix your plants you can be forever replacing dead plants. You need to go to a garden centre to find a plant to suit the position you have in mind, not the other way round.



Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Know the difference between native, indigenous and exotic plants
- ☐ Have more than 30% of your garden planted with plants listed in the *Brimbank Local Plants* section (p20–25)
- ☐ Have more than 30% of your garden planted with *Other Plants to Use* listed on p26
- ☐ Do not have any of the plants listed in the *Brimbank Weeds* section (p28–33)
- ☐ Have at least one shade tree of suitable size for your garden
- ☐ Have reduced your lawn area to less than 50% of total garden area
- ☐ Have grouped your plants according to their water, sun and nutrient needs
- ☐ Regularly observe native birds, reptiles, insects and animals in your garden.

Plant Score /8**PLANT TIPS**

1. The ideal time to plant is autumn, followed by spring. Never plant in summer.
2. Fast growing plants (e.g. jasmine, variegated pittosporum) are great at first as screening plants because they very quickly fill a space. However, they keep growing and growing and growing! They then become high maintenance plants and produce large amounts of green waste from regular pruning. It's better to wait for slower growing plants to reach the height you want.
3. There is a tree to fit every size garden. They provide shade, can provide fruit, leaves for mulch, habitat for wildlife, produce oxygen and use up carbon dioxide. If possible, plant a native or indigenous tree.

4. Native, indigenous and exotics can be used together to create successful gardens, but care is needed at the planning stage.
5. Compost weed prunings or put them in the garden waste bin. Cut off the seed heads of any garden escapees and put them in the bin.

Refer to the list of nurseries stocking indigenous plants suitable for the Brimbank City Council on the inside back cover of this booklet

Further Information

Flora of Melbourne, Society for Growing Australian Plants
Environmental Weeds, Kate Blood

Grow What Where, Australian Plant Study Group

Habitat Garden, Peter Grant (ABC shops)

The Australian Garden, Diana Snape

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.weeds.org.au

For more information on indigenous Brimbank plants,
please call Council on 9249 4000 or email
conservation@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*) refer to Brimbank Local Plants section



BRIMBANK LOCAL PLANTS

These plants are great for Brimbank gardens as they grow here naturally and are good for native wildlife.

GROUNDCOVERS and WILDFLOWERS

Black Anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Well-drained soil; ↑60cm ↔ 1.5m

Features: Hardy, easily maintained plant. Ideal for growing close to trees. Butterfly attracting.



Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Dry soil; ↑50cm ↔ 50cm

Features: Very hardy. Prune in winter to rejuvenate. Great in rock gardens, in pots, under trees or in an open position in the garden. Butterfly attracting.



Cut-leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Prefers moist soil; will tolerate dryness once established; ↑30cm ↔ 60cm

Features: Grows well in a pot. Fast growing. Light pruning after flowering. Butterfly attracting.



Kidney Plant (*Dichondra repens*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️🌧️🌧️

Well-drained soils; Prostrate

Features: An excellent lawn substitute in moist shady areas where traffic is light.



☀️ = Full Sun ☀️🌧️ = Part Shade 🌧️ = Shade

🌧️ = Drought Tolerant 🌧️🌧️ = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width



Native Flax (*Linum marginale*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️🌧️

Dry soil and poor drainage;
↑40cm ↔ 15cm

Features: Grows mostly in the cooler months and dies back after flowering. Remove old stems in autumn. Can grow in pots, rock gardens and around ponds.



Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Well-drained soil; vigorous, bushy climber

Features: Useful for providing a light screen. Grows well in pots.



Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Accepts most soils but avoid poor drainage; ↑10cm ↔ 1.5m

Features: Attractive as a groundcover, in tubs, hanging baskets, cascading over rocks, walls and under trees. Insect and bird attracting.



Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️

Well-drained soil.

Features: A fast growing climber useful for drier sites. Attractive fluffy seed heads.



☀️ = Full Sun ☀️🌧️ = Part Shade 🌧️ = Shade

🌧️ = Drought Tolerant 🌧️🌧️ = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width



Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Moist well-drained soil; ↑35cm ↔ 15cm

Features: Looks great in containers or when planted amongst grasses. Butterfly attracting.



GRASSES

Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Adaptable to most soils; ↑30cm ↔ 40cm

Features: Habitat for insects, lizards and birds. Butterfly attracting.



Silky Blue-grass (*Dichanthium sericeum*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Well-drained heavy clay soils; ↑40cm ↔ 80cm

Features: Blue-grey appearance provides great contrast.



Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Well-drained soil; ↑40cm ↔ 80cm

Features: Excellent contrast plant in landscaping. Can make an excellent lawn if mown infrequently.



☀️ = Full Sun ☀️🌧️ = Part Shade 🌧️ = Shade

💧 = Drought Tolerant 💧🌧️ = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width



SHRUBS

Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)

Requirements: ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁
Any position; well-drained soil;
↑ 1-2m ↔ 1-2m

Features: Responds well to regular pruning.
Butterfly attracting.



Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)

Requirements: ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁
Adaptable to most soils;
↑ 50cm-2.5m ↔ 2-4m

Features: A good low screening plant.
Suitable for large pots/tubs. Annual pruning is beneficial.
Bird attracting.



Golden Spray (*Viminaria juncea*)

Requirements: ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁
Well-drained soil; ↑ 3-4m ↔ 2m

Features: Fast-growing attractive shrub.



Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)

Requirements: ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁
Any position; prefers damp soil
↑ 1-2.5m ↔ 1-2.5m

Features: Fast growing.
Responds well to pruning.



☀ = Full Sun ☀ ☁ = Part Shade ☁ ☁ = Shade

☁ = Drought Tolerant ☁ ☁ = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width



River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧💧

Adaptable to many soils;
↑3-10m ↔ 2-6m

Features: Excellent screening shrub. Pruning encourages flowering. Butterfly and bird attracting.



Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Any position; it is easily grown in well-drained soils; ↑1-3m ↔ 1-3m

Features: Ideal as a low screen. Bird attracting.



Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosemarinifolia*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

Well-drained soil;
↑3-10m ↔ 2-3m

Features: Pruning will encourage more compact growth. Grows well in large pots/tubs.



Sticky Boobialla (*Myoporum viscosum*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 💧

well-drained soil; ↑2m ↔ 1m

Features: A tough plant that is drought tolerant once established.



☀️ = Full Sun ☀️🌧️ = Part Shade 🌧️ = Shade

💧 = Drought Tolerant 💧💧 = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width



Tree Violet

(*Hymenanthera dentata*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Well-drained soils; ↓2-4m ↔ 1-2.5m

Features: It has violet coloured berries and provides excellent habitat for birds and possums.



Wedge-leaf Hop Bush

(*Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *spatulata*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Well-drained soil; ↓2-3m ↔ 2m

Features: Very hardy shrub. Responds well to pruning.



TREES

Drooping Sheoak

(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Well-drained soil;

↓4-10m ↔ 3-6m

Features:

Graceful tree. Excellent screening plant.



Lightwood

(*Acacia implexa*)

Requirements: ☀️ ☀️🌧️ 🌧️

Most soils;

↓4-8m ↔ 2-5m

Features:

Small screen or shade tree. Bird attracting.










































































☀️ = Full Sun ☀️🌧️ = Part Shade 🌧️ = Shade



🌧️ = Drought Tolerant 🌧️🌧️ = Needs seasonal water ↓ = Height ↔ = Width

OTHER PLANTS TO USE

✓ These plants aren't indigenous but include great natives and low water users.

| Common name | Botanical name | Form | Conditions | Height, width |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| Bougainvillea | <i>Bougainvillea traillii</i> | Climber |   | |
| Bower Vine | <i>Pandorea jasminoides</i> | Climber |    | |
| Autumn Sage | <i>Salvia gregii</i> | Cottage |    | ↑ 50cm ↔ 50cm |
| Blazing Star | <i>Liatris spicata</i> | Cottage |   | ↑ 30cm ↔ 30cm |
| California Lilac | <i>Ceanothus</i> spp. | Groundcover |    | ↑ 30cm ↔ 1.5m |
| Fan Flower | <i>Scaevola aemula</i> | Groundcover |    | ↑ 50m ↔ 1m |
| Pachysandra | <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> | Groundcover |    | ↑ 10cm ↔ 50cm |
| Prostrate Juniper Grevillea | <i>Grevillea junipera prostrata</i> | Groundcover |   | ↑ 20cm ↔ 1m |
| Snow in Summer | <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i> | Groundcover |    | ↑ 10cm ↔ 1m |
| Chef's Cap Correa | <i>Correa baeuerlenii</i> | Strap foliage |   | ↑ 1m ↔ 1m |
| Lily Turf | <i>Liriope muscari</i> | Strap foliage |    | ↑ 30cm ↔ 20cm |
| NZ Rock Lily | <i>Arthropodium cirrhatum</i> | Strap foliage |    | ↑ 1m ↔ 1m |
| Spanish Bayonet | <i>Yucca filamentosa</i> | Strap foliage |    | ↑ 1m ↔ 1m |
| Bird of Paradise | <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> | Perennial |    | ↑ 1m ↔ 1m |
| Dwarf Willow Myrtle | <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> 'Nana' | Small shrub |   | ↑ 1.5m ↔ 1.5m |
| Enamel Flower | <i>Adenandra uniflora</i> | Small shrub |    | ↑ 30cm ↔ 30cm |
| Gum Rock Rose | <i>Cistus ladaniferus</i> | Small shrub |   | ↑ 1m ↔ 1m |
| Silver Bush | <i>Convolvulus cneorum</i> | Small shrub |   | ↑ 30cm ↔ 60cm |
| Albany Woolly Bush | <i>Adensericia</i> | Medium shrub |   | ↑ 3m ↔ 2m |
| Glossy Abelia | <i>Abelia</i> X <i>grandiflora</i> | Medium shrub |    | ↑ 1.5m ↔ 50cm |
| Mexican Orange Blossom | <i>Choisya ternata</i> | Medium shrub |    | ↑ 2m ↔ 2m |
| Silver Cassia | <i>Senna artimisioides</i> | Medium shrub |    | ↑ 2m ↔ 2m |
| Wax Flower | <i>Philotheca myoporoides</i> | Medium shrub |    | ↑ 2m ↔ 2m |
| Grevillea | <i>Grevillea</i> 'Ivanhoe' | Tall shrub |    | ↑ 3m ↔ 4m |
| River Tea Tree | <i>Melaleuca bracteata</i> 'Revolution Green' | Tall shrub |    | ↑ 4m ↔ 2m |
| Bottle Brush | <i>Callistemon</i> 'Kings Park Special' | Tree |    | ↑ 4m ↔ 3m |
| Coral Gum | <i>Eucalyptus torquata</i> | Tree |    | ↑ 3m ↔ 2m |
| NZ Cabbage Tree | <i>Cordyline australis</i> | Tree |    | ↑ 3m ↔ 1m |
| Willow Myrtle | <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> | Tree |    | ↑ 10m |

 = Full Sun  = Part Shade  = Shade

 = Drought Tolerant  = Needs seasonal water ↑ = Height ↔ = Width

TRADITIONAL LAWN ALTERNATIVES

Traditional turf lawns are often high water users and can look unsightly during water restrictions. If you are looking for an attractive lawn alternative, you may want to consider these options:

Native grasses – one of the most successful native grasses for creating the look of a traditional lawn is the native Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*). It can be mown regularly and will grow well in a wide range of soils. Weeping Grass is drought, frost and shade tolerant, but does not cope with heavy traffic or dog urine. Excellent for a front lawn. Can be grown from seed or plugs.

If you like clumps of tussocky grasses then Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) and Tussock Grass (*Poa* spp.) are great alternatives.

Groundcover plants – use groundcover plants that form dense mats. They don't require mowing and perform well in shade. Examples include: Creeping Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*), Kidney Plant (*Dichondra repens*), Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolia*) Native Mint (*Mentha diemenica*), and Australian Bindweed (*Convolvulus erubescens*).

Native wildflowers – planting out a mass of native wildflowers to create a meadow look can be spectacular, particularly in spring and summer. This works very well as a front lawn alternative. Examples include: Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*), Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) and Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*).



Main image: Wallaby grass lawn (*Austrodanthonia* species) looking spectacular. **Inset:** Creeping Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*) in fruit. This local species thrives in Brimbank even in extreme drought.

Further information:

www.nativeseeds.com.au

www.sgaonline.org.au

BRIMBANK WEEDS

All the plants in this section are serious weeds in Brimbank. Please do not plant these species, and if you have them in your garden, please remove them and replace them with one of the suggested similar non-invasive indigenous plants.

CLIMBERS and CREEPERS

Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

Forms thick carpets.

Leaves broad and glossy.

Replace with: Purple Coral-pea
(*Hardenbergia violacea*)



English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Fast climber can grow to 30m up trees or creeping along the ground and forming carpets. Shiny, triangular, dark green leaves with pale veins.

Poisonous if eaten and can cause skin and eye irritation.

Replace with:

Small-leafed Clematis
(*Clematis microphylla*)



Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)

A fast climber that can cover trees up to 30m tall. Fleshy, egg-shaped leaves with a heart-shaped base to 12cm long.

Replace with:

Small-leafed Clematis
(*Clematis microphylla*)



Morning Glory
(*Ipomoea indica*)

Fast growing climber.
Spear shaped leaves,
bright green.

Replace with:

Large Bindweed
(*Calystegia sepium*)



Gazania
(*Gazania* spp.)

Dark green leaves with
silver underside.

Replace with:

Cut-leaf Daisy
(*Brachyscome multifida*)



Wandering Tradescantia
(*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

Forms thick carpets. Glossy
green leaves, oval to 4cm.
Can cause allergic reaction
to dogs with skin irritation
particularly on the stomach.

Replace with: Kidney Plant
(*Dichondra repens*)



GRASSES and HERBS

Arum Lily
(*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Highly poisonous.

Replace with:

Pale Flax-lily
(*Dianella longifolia*)



Chilean Needle-grass (*Nassella nessiana*)

A Weed of National Significance.
Commonly confused with native
grasses and grown in many gardens
as an ornamental grass.

Replace with:

Feather Spear Grass
(*Austrostipa elegantissima*)



Charles Grech

Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Up to 1m tall, distinctive
flowerheads from January-April.

Replace with:

Wallaby Grass
(*Austrodanthonia* spp.)



Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia* spp.)

Leaves easily cut the skin and
cause irritation when handled.

Replace with:

Thatch Saw-sedge
(*Gahnia radula*)



Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

A Weed of National Significance.
Commonly confused with native
grasses and grown in many gardens,
especially rockeries.

Replace with:

Common Tussock Grass
(*Poa Labillardieri*)



SHRUBS

Boneseed

(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)

A Weed of National Significance.

Replace with:

Hop Goodenia

(*Goodenia ovata*)



Broad-leaf Privet

(*Ligustrum lucidum*)

Leaves and fruit are poisonous

Replace with:

Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)



Cootamundra Wattle

(*Acacia baileyana*)

Fine, fern-like silvery-blue leaf,

flowers June to September

Replace with:

Black Wattle

(*Acacia mearnsii*)



English Broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

Seeds poisonous if eaten in quantity

Replace with:

Slender Bitter-pea (*Daviesia*

leptophylla) and Golden

Spray (*Viminaria juncea*)



Flax Leaf Broom

(*Genista linifolia*)

Seeds highly poisonous

Replace with:

Slender Bitter-pea (*Daviesia leptophylla*)

and Golden Spray (*Viminaria juncea*)



Mirror Bush**(*Coprosma repens*)**

Shiny, oval shaped leaves.
Used by children to make whistles.

**Replace with:**

Prickly Currant-bush
(*Coprosma quadrifida*) and
Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*)

Montpellier Broom**(*Genista monspessulana*)**

Seeds highly poisonous.

Replace with:

Gold-dust Wattle
(*Acacia acinacea*)

**Prickly Pears****(*Opuntia* spp.)**

Succulent up to 5m tall.
Large spines. Edible fruit.

Replace with: Kangaroo Apple
(*Solanum laciniatum*).

Warning: the fruit of the
Kangaroo Apple is poisonous if
eaten when green.

**Sweet Briar****(*Rosa rubiginosa*)**

Scrambling shrub with prickly
stems and leaves.

Replace with:

Sweet Bursaria
(*Bursaria spinosa*)



TREES

Desert Ash

(*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Glossy bright green leaves with serrated edges.
Distinctive winged seed capsules.

Replace with:

Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)



Olive (*Olea europaea* spp.)

Glossy dark green leaves with silver underside. Clusters of small white flowers.
Distinctive oveal shaped fruit.

Replace with:

Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*)



Pine Tree (*Pinus* spp.)

Aromatic tree with needle leaf, often available as a Christmas tree.

Replace with:

Drooping Sheoke

(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)



Sweet Pittosporum

(*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Dark green leaves, small creamy-white flowers.
Distinctive, yellow fleshy fruit.

Replace with:

Muttonwood (*Rapanea howittiana*)



Willow (*Salix* spp.)

A Weed of National Significance.

Replace with:

Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*)



CHEMICALS

Pesticides and fertilisers can move from our garden to the natural environment. Sprays can drift in the wind and powders can wash into waterways. Strong chemicals can kill native insects, plants and animals. Too much fertiliser can put extra nutrients in our waterways and result in blue-green algae growing out of control and harming animals and sometimes people.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Check your garden regularly for pest outbreaks
- ☐ Know exactly what pest or disease you are trying to control
- ☐ Use chemicals that have a low toxic level (Refer to the SGA Low Environmental Impact Chemicals p38)
- ☐ Avoid using chemicals before it rains or on windy days
- ☐ Use chemical alternatives (e.g. garlic sprays) or if you do spray, you target-spray only the affected plant/s
- ☐ Use organic fertilisers (compost, manure, seaweed and fish emulsions)
- ☐ Don't over-fertilise your plants as it produces excessive plant growth and excess green waste from additional pruning

Chemical Score /7

CHEMICAL TIPS

1. Many insects in the garden such as ladybirds are 'good guys' that will hunt and eat pests such as aphids. If you spray lots of chemicals in your garden you will also kill these beneficial insects and make your pest problem harder to control. Multi-sprays in particular kill anything they touch.

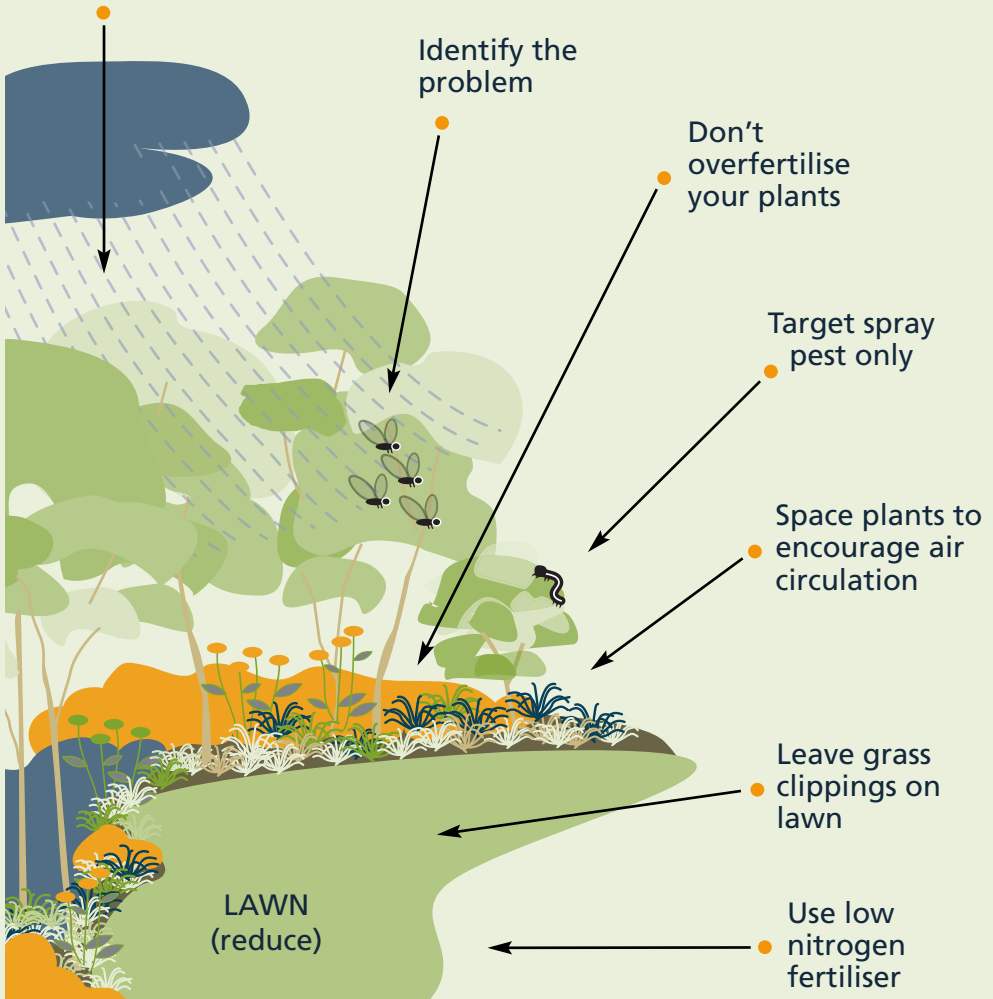


Reducing chemical usage

Don't spray/sprinkle chemicals on a windy day or before rain



Above: Copperwire Daisy (*Podolepis jaceoides*) with native bees



2. Use natural alternatives such as pyrethrum and garlic spray to control pests.
3. Too much fertiliser makes plants produce a lot of leafy growth that often becomes a target for pests.
4. Organic fertilisers such as compost, manures, seaweed and fish emulsion break down more slowly than synthetic (chemical) fertilisers and generally match the rate at which plants need the nutrients. Synthetic fertilisers break down quickly and can 'burn' plant roots.
5. Organic fertilisers improve the soil structure meaning the soil is better able to hold water and make it available to plants. Synthetic fertilisers add nothing to the soil structure and tend to move easily from the soil after heavy rain or watering.
6. When a plant looks sick the worst thing you can do is feed it!
7. Sterilise your secateurs between pruning plants to prevent the spread of disease.

Further Information:

Natural Gardening in Australia, Jeffrey Hodges

Natural Control of Garden Pests, Jackie French

Plant Protection, Ruth M Kerruish

What Garden Pest or Disease is That?, Judy McMaugh

www.sgaonline.org.au



Main Image: Native Flax, (*Linum marginale*) refer to Brimbank Local Plants. Inset: *Yucca gloriosa* flower. (Common names include: Spanish Dagger, Palm Lily, Mound-lily *Yucca*.)

CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN

Most children enjoy being outdoors and love digging in the soil, getting dirty, creating things and watching plants grow. When planning a garden for children it is important to use plants that are safe and allow children to experience a range of textures and smells.

A mix of native and exotic plants can include: firm and soft foliage (Lamb's Ears), scented flowers (Boronia), varying foliage (Silky Blue-grass), butterfly attracting (Cut-leaf Daisy), bird attracting (Kangaroo Grass) and edible plants (herbs and vegetables).

EXPERIENCES CAN BE ENHANCED THROUGH INCORPORATING:

1. Involving children in gardening activities
2. Sand pits
3. Sculptures and murals
4. Varied materials (trellis, pavers, stepping stones)
5. Creating secret gardens

Warning: Remember some plants are poisonous and pose a particular danger to children. Also avoid sharp, prickly and cutting plants around children.



Further information

Royal Botanical Gardens – Ian Potter Children's Garden:
www.rbg.vic.gov.au

Poison Information Help Line – 131 126

LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHEMICALS

Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) in conjunction with the University of Melbourne (Burnley) has rated all horticultural chemicals into three categories: low, medium and high environmental damage. SGA advocates non-chemical prevention such as monitoring for early outbreaks, good air circulation between plants and alternative home remedies, such as garlic sprays. If you must use a chemical please consider the products listed below that have minimum environmental impact.

INSECTICIDES

Beat-A-Bug Happy Roses Spray
 Beat-A-Bug Insect Spray
 Confidor Hose On Lawn Grub Killer
 Confidor Insecticide Aerosol
 Confidor Insecticide RTU spray
 Garden King White Oil Aerosol
 Hortico Derris Vegetable Dust
 Manutec Dusting Sulphur
 Multicrop Pyrethrum + Eucalyptus
 Multicrop Pyrethrum Plus Garlic
 NG Wasp and Nest Killer
 Pest Oil RTU
 Pyrethrum Time Release Spray
 Sharpshooter Pyrethrin RTU
 Success Naturalyte Insecticide
 TacGel Formula3 Insect Trap
 Tropico Organic Bug Gun spray
 Yates Dipel Bio-insecticide
 Yates Green Earth Insect Spray
 Yates Pest Oil
 Yates Rose Blackspot and Insect Killer
 Yates Scale Gun
 Yates Slay-Afe Insecticide
 Yates Surrender RTU
 Yates White Oil Aerosol
 Yates White Oil concentrate



Above: White Correa (*Correa alba*) growing well as part of a hedging trial.

HERBICIDES

Brunnings Lawn Food Plus Moss Kill

FUNGICIDES

Baycor Garden Fungicide

Chemspray Copper Oxychloride

SharpShooter Lime Sulphur

Sharpshooter Rid a Rot Fungicide

Yates Anti Rot

Yates Fungus Fighter

Yates Leaf Curl Copper Fungicide

Yates Lime Sulphur Fungicide

REPELLENTS

Beat-A-Bug Goodbye Snail

Beat-A-Bug Poss-Off Spray

D-Ter

Multicrop Keep Off Spray

Multicrop Keep-Off Granules

Multicrop Scat Animal Repellent

Multicrop Skedaddle Granules

Possom Shot Gel

Quassia Chips

Skunk Shot Gel Animal Repellent

Slug It

Stay Off Animal Repellent

ALGICIDES

Oase Crystal Clear

Stephen Bros Barley algae control

MOLLUSCICIDES

(SNAIL KILLERS)

Amgrow Enviroguard Snail Bait

Multicrop Snail Killer Pellets



Top image: *Austroanthonia* species as a lawn. **Second image:** *Melaleuca lanceolata* clipped. **Third image:** *Austroanthonia* species lawn, tussocks of *Austrostipa stipoides* and *Leucophyta brownii* (Cushion Bushes). **Bottom image:** *Diets grandiflora*

PRODUCE

Commercially growing fruit and vegetables uses a lot of energy and chemicals in heating, cooling, spraying weeds and pest killers and transporting produce. Fruit and vegetables begin to lose their vitamins as soon as they're picked. After five days some have lost 40–50% of vitamins. Growing your own vegetables is so easy, and even easier if you've improved your soil. They're healthier, convenient and children love to watch them grow. Even if you only grow tomatoes, herbs and lettuce in a pot, it's a start!

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Grow any herbs, fruit or vegetables
- ☐ Grow lots of produce!

Produce Score /2

ORGANIC PRODUCE TIPS

1. Fruit and vegetables generally like to grow in the full sun with plenty of water, organic fertiliser and compost. On the other hand, local plants and native plants do not need a lot of water and fertiliser. It is therefore best to grow them in separate parts of the garden.
2. You can grow vegetables in no-dig beds on concrete and in big pots.
3. Don't use treated pine in vegetable gardens as the chemicals can leach into the soil.
4. Use recycled plastic sleepers to make raised beds. These will not rot after 10 years.
5. Rotate the position of vegetables every year to stop diseases spreading.



6. Use natural alternatives such as pyrethrum and garlic sprays to control pests.
7. Check for bugs, especially snails on new seedlings. Go out at night and drown snails in a bucket of salt water or a beer trap!
8. Try heritage seeds. You can plant early, mid and late season tomatoes.
9. Involve children in picking caterpillars off broccoli.

Further Information

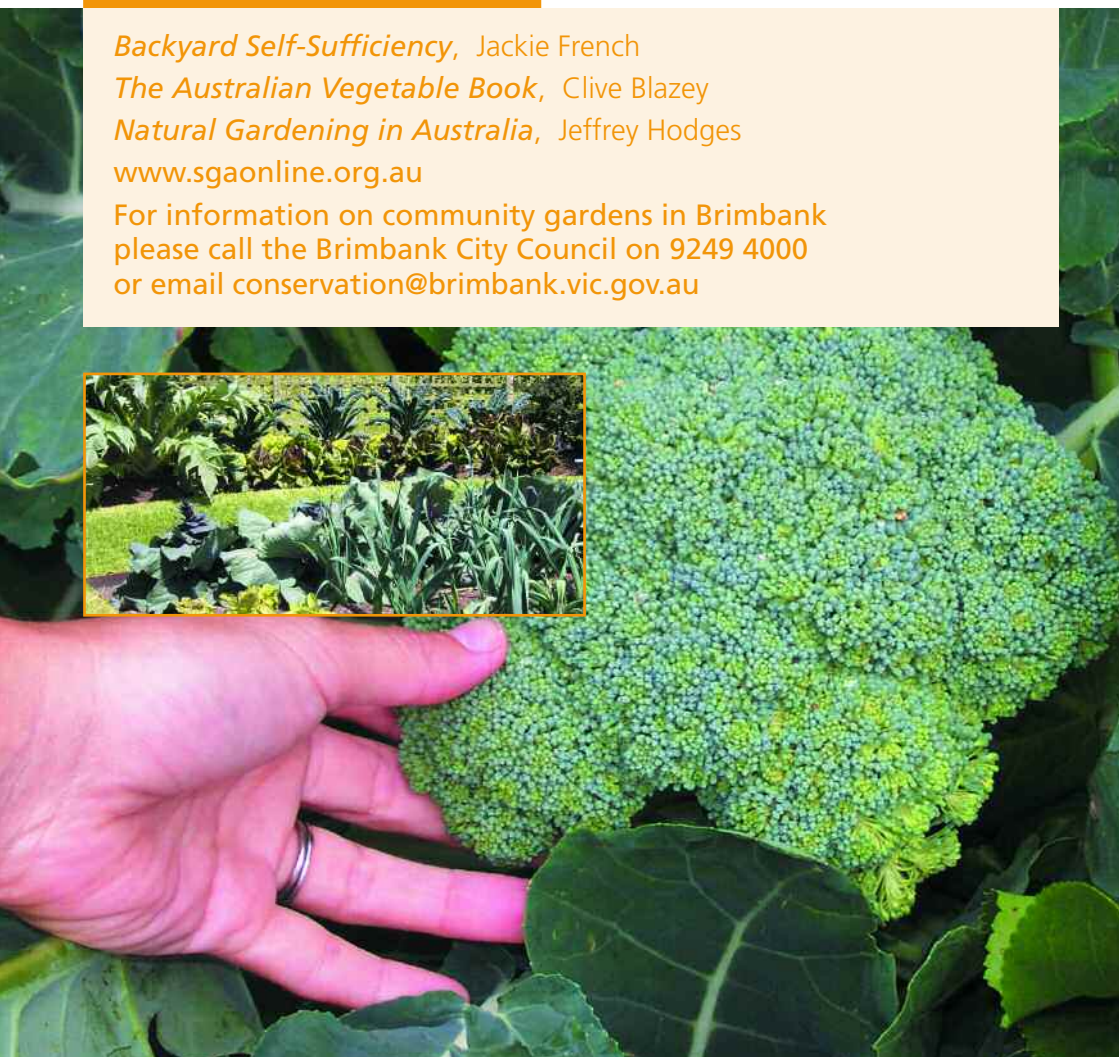
Backyard Self-Sufficiency, Jackie French

The Australian Vegetable Book, Clive Blazey

Natural Gardening in Australia, Jeffrey Hodges

www.sgaonline.org.au

For information on community gardens in Brimbank please call the Brimbank City Council on 9249 4000 or email conservation@brimbank.vic.gov.au



PRODUCTS

When we buy products for the garden we often don't think about where they have come from. Red gum trees come from woodlands and are part of a system which supports thousands of creatures. When the trees are chopped down all the creatures have nowhere else to go and die out. Many are in serious danger of extinction. We use red gum wood to make things like bark chips, tomato stakes and railway sleepers. Huge amounts of shiny river pebbles are dug out of active rivers in Asia. Whole river systems have been destroyed so we can create a garden feature of river stones.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ Ask where a product comes from and avoid buying unsustainable products
- ☐ Use recycled products, like bricks, timbers, plastic sleepers
- ☐ Take your own plastic bag or canvas bag to a Garden Centre to carry home products and plants
- ☐ Sort your garbage so that you use your recycle bins



Product Score /4

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT TIPS

1. There are usually alternatives available. Pebbles that are quarried in Victoria from inactive streambeds are acceptable because at least they are not destroying living habitats.
2. Look up **www.timbershop.org** to find out which timbers are acceptable. While many outdoor furniture companies claim that teak is plantation harvested in Asia, this magnificent tree is a rainforest plant that cannot be grown under plantation.

3. Plants such as grass trees, tree ferns and native orchids may have been sourced illegally from the forest. Plants should be sold with a government tag stating that they have been legally collected.
4. Use renewable mulches such as mulches made from recycled organics, pea straw or plantation sourced mulch. Recycled organic mulches are good to buy, as not only are they great products, but you are ensuring that garden waste is recycled rather than going to landfill.

Further information

Forest Friendly Building Timbers, The Wilderness Society

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.timbershop.org

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au – for a list of suppliers



Sustainable Gardening Score Card

| SECTION | Now | 6 mths | 12 mths |
|---------------|-----|--------|---------|
| Design (7) | | | |
| Soil (6) | | | |
| Compost (6) | | | |
| Water (10) | | | |
| Plants (8) | | | |
| Chemicals (7) | | | |
| Produce (2) | | | |
| Products (4) | | | |
| TOTAL (50) | | | |

Conduct a sustainability audit on your garden by counting up the number of ticks you have achieved for each section and your total. Make a note of what you have to do to score more ticks in six months and 12 months. You can then start working towards making your garden more sustainable.

Think Global Act Local



What I need to do to make my garden more sustainable:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS:

Brimbank City Council
Ph: 9249 4000 or email
conservation@brimbank.vic.gov.au

For contact details of the following local Friends Groups visit Council's website.

- Friends of Kororoit Creek
- Friends of Maribyrnong Valley
- Friends of Organ Pipes National Park
- Friends of Steele's Creek
- Friends of Stony Creek
- Friends of Taylors Creek

Nurseries stocking indigenous plants suitable for Brimbank:

Western Plains Flora
28 Wildwood Rd, Wildwood
Phone 9740 3178

Newport Lakes Native Nursery
2 Margaret St, Newport
Phone 9391 0044

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-op (VINC)
Yarra Bend Rd,
Fairfield
Phone 9482 1710

Visit these special places in Brimbank:

Rutherglen Way Wildflower Garden, Taylor's Lakes
(Melways Map Reference 14 B2)

Denton Grassland Garden, Denton Ave, St Albans
(Melways Map Reference 26 D7)

Further Reading:

Plants of the Western Plains, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Keilor.

Plants of the Merri Merri: A Home Gardener's Guide to Using Indigenous Plants in the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne, R.Wigney ed, (1994). Merri Creek Management Committee.

Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Maroondah (rev ed 1993). Hyland House.