Including your 2006/2007 Recycling Calendar

City of Casey

sustainable living IN THE CITY OF CASEY

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by the City of Casey.
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www.sgaonline.org.au

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City of Casey is committed
to contributing to the
achievement of sustainability
within Casey and promoting
sustainability to others.

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable gardening is about maximising the benefits to our natural environment and reducing negative environmental impacts that gardening can have.

Gardening can have a positive benefit to the health of our environment. For example, if we plant local plants we provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies. By conserving water in the garden we help maintain our water storages and by composting our household and garden organic waste we reduce the amount of waste material going to landfill which reduces the amount of greenhouse gas produced. If we purchase products made from renewable resources for the garden, 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 types and have a low impact on our natural environment. Sustainable gardens can be introduced gradually, for example, when an exotic plant dies, replace it with a local species. 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. It is also important to consider where the products we use in our garden have come from and the impacts our purchasing decisions can have on other communities.

This booklet has been created to enable you to conduct a sustainability audit of your garden. Different sustainability themes 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 both six months and 12 months. You can then start working towards making your garden more sustainable.

GARDEN DESIGN

Many gardens today still maintain the traditional layout which came from English gardens many years ago. This includes a paved sitting area, large open lawn and flowerbeds of exotic plants around the outside. Today, our busy lifestyles often prevent us from spending time in the garden and gardens are becoming smaller with children tending 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 sustainable garden you need to take time to work out how to create a space you feel comfortable with, enjoy and suits your local soil and climate.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ have a plan of sun/shade, slope and soil variation of your property
- ☐ 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 p. 12)
- ☐ have thought about the amount of waste (e.g. lawn clippings and prunings) generated by your garden and identified ways for managing it on site (composting or mulching)
- ☐ have replaced concrete with gravel to allow more water to soak in (creating a permeable surface) to the ground
- ☐ 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. Find a style you like which suits your garden so all the paving, pots, water features and plants match, especially in a courtyard garden.

2. Undertake a site analysis of your property (sun, shade, slope, privacy – all the problems that need solving) which will tell you what your site will let you do.
3. List what you need in your garden (shed, washing line, kids' swings, entertainment area) and what you want (vegie garden, shade area, pond, fruit tree/s).
4. Develop a scaled plan or mark out in the garden what will go where, is practical and where it looks best. For example, placing a new shed in a shady corner, vegetables where they get full sun, and a pond where it can be seen from inside the house.
5. If your block is on a slope consider building a retaining wall or contouring your garden to prevent water and mulch runoff.
6. Make garden 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.
7. 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 herbicide.

Further Information

Patrick, John (1994) *Beautiful Gardens with Less Water,* Lothian Books, Melbounre.

Snape, Diana (2002) *The Australian Garden,* Bloomings Books, Melbourne

Browse through the library.

CARING FOR YOUR SOIL

Healthy soil = healthy plants. Soil needs organic matter (leaf litter, compost, manure, grass clippings). Worms break down organic matter to make food for plants, and worm burrows allow air into the soil so that plant roots can breathe. Organic matter needs to be replaced as plants absorb nutrients. Ideally all soil types benefit from having organic matter added to improve soil structure and avoid it becoming hard in summer, like concrete and a sticky mess in winter. In addition, most people want a low maintenance garden. This is much easier to achieve if you look after your soil. Compost adds nutrients to the soil and improves water holding capacity and needs to be dug in. Mulch is placed on top of the soil to reduce water evaporation and control weed growth. If organic matter is mixed with mulch the material can "cake" up and form an impermeable barrier that rain can't get through.

Give yourself a tick if you:

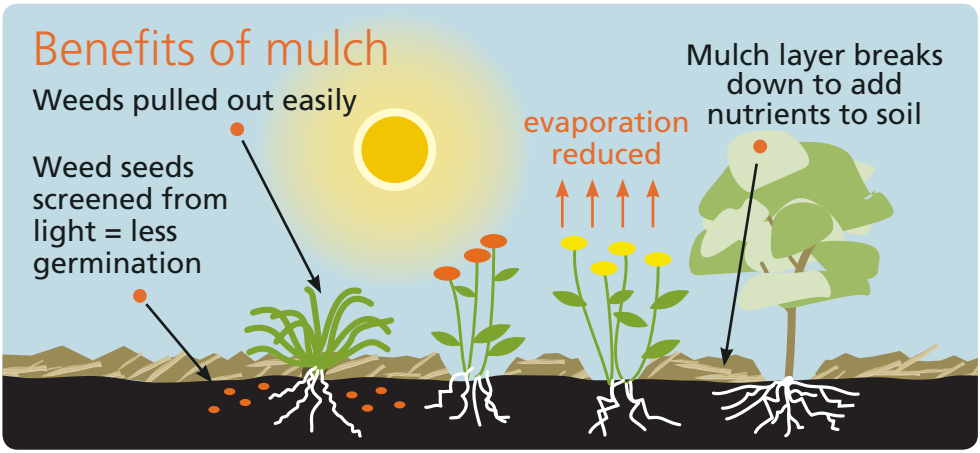
- ☐ check mulch levels and replace every year to bring back to a minimum of 2.5cm and maximum of 7.5cm
- ☐ regularly add organic matter (e.g. compost, manure) to your soil
- ☐ know which are the best types of mulch for different types of plants
- ☐ know at least five good things mulch does to reduce maintenance
- ☐ have at least three worms in a spadeful of soil wherever you dig in the garden
- ☐ only dig your soil when you need to

Soil Score /6

SOIL IMPROVEMENT TIPS

1. Soil should be damp before you add mulch. Generally spring is the best time to apply mulch, once the winter rains have soaked in.
2. Mulches made from recycled organics (such as coarse woody material) are an excellent choice as they save water, are long-lasting and feed the soil when they break down.

3. Encourage worms in your garden by digging compost into your soil before topping with mulch.
4. Pea straw is a good option if you have not mulched the soil for a long time as it breaks down quickly, returning nutrients to the soil. Bark mulch has very few nutrients so don't rely on it to add nutrients to your soil.
5. 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. If you mulch, use a bark mulch on its own without soil improvement, or gravel as a mulch.
6. When buying new soil for your garden don't just buy topsoil, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
7. There is no need to heavily cultivate your soil as it can affect your soil structure. However if you have compacted soil, especially after construction work, cultivating soil (with added organic matter) may help the structure and allow water to infiltrate.



Further Information

Hodges, Jeff (1996) *The Natural Gardener,* Angus & Robertson, Melbourne, Victoria.

Roads, M.J. (1989) *The Natural Magic of Mulch,* Greenhouse Publications, Elwood, Victoria.

www.sgaonline.org.au www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

COMPOST – EASY AND FUN

Composting or worm farming your food scraps, grass and garden clippings (organics) can provide you with an excellent source of free garden food and soil improver. Composting organics 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 the amount of waste going to landfill. Composting and getting that perfect mix can also be lots of fun and a great activity for the children. It's not hard and almost half of all household rubbish can be turned into compost that's useful for your garden.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ make your own compost or use your green waste bin
- ☐ can list 10 things you can put in compost and three things you shouldn't put in compost
- ☐ do not put food scraps or garden waste in the the domestic waste bin
- ☐ regularly turn your compost to aerate it
- ☐ 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

Compost Score /6

COMPOSTING TIPS

1. Your compost bin or heap should be located on soil, not concrete, so that it drains well and 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 chook 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 – enough so that the contents are moist but not wet.
   - Oxygen – added by regularly turning over the contents of the heap or bin
   - Warmth – locate your compost bin in a sunny place – but not with direct sunlight all day.
   - 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. (Refer to the SGA or Sustainability Victoria websites for details.)

Add to your compost

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- coffee grounds
- tea bags
- egg shells
- onions
- citrus fruit (cut up)
- pizza and egg cartons
- vacuum cleaner dust
- animal fur
- 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

Keep out of your compost

- fish (put in the garbage bin)
- meat (put in the garbage bin)
- cat and dog droppings (dig into garden or bag and put in the garbage bin) ; consider a pet poo worm farm instead
- big woody prunings (if under 75mm in diameter put in the green waste bin – otherwise utilise the Hard Rubbish collection)
- bulbous weeds – e.g. *oxalis* spp. (put in the garden waste bin)
- weeds with runners – e.g. couch grass (put in the garden waste bin)
- bleached or glossy office paper contains harmful chemicals (put in the blue recycling bin)

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 diverse range of materials.

This diagram is an example of the different layers. 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 i.e. add more dry materials such as dried, chopped up leaves and newspaper.

Or: Make sure you aid decomposition by using a garden fork and turn 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 however, they do indicate that your compost will not decompose fast enough.

Attracting flies?

If you see tiny flies (*Drosophila* spp.) 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 bin/heap, such as hessian sacking or carpet felt underlay.

Visited by rats, mice, blowflies or maggots?

Meat scraps or fish bones can be added to compost but **only** if it is working effectively. They 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.

Taking so long to do anything?

The carbon/nitrogen ratio needs to be altered. Remember: **too wet**, add dry matter, such as newspaper; **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!

CLOSING THE LOOP

Excess garden material can be loosely placed (NO plastic bags or paper) in your garden waste bin. This material is recycled and made into soil conditioner and compost for the garden. Refer to page 46.

Further Information

Handrek, K. (2001) *Gardening Down Under,* CSIRO Publishing, East Melbourne, Victoria.

Taylor, D. (1999) *The Compost Book,* New Holland Publications, UK.

www.sgaonline.org.au

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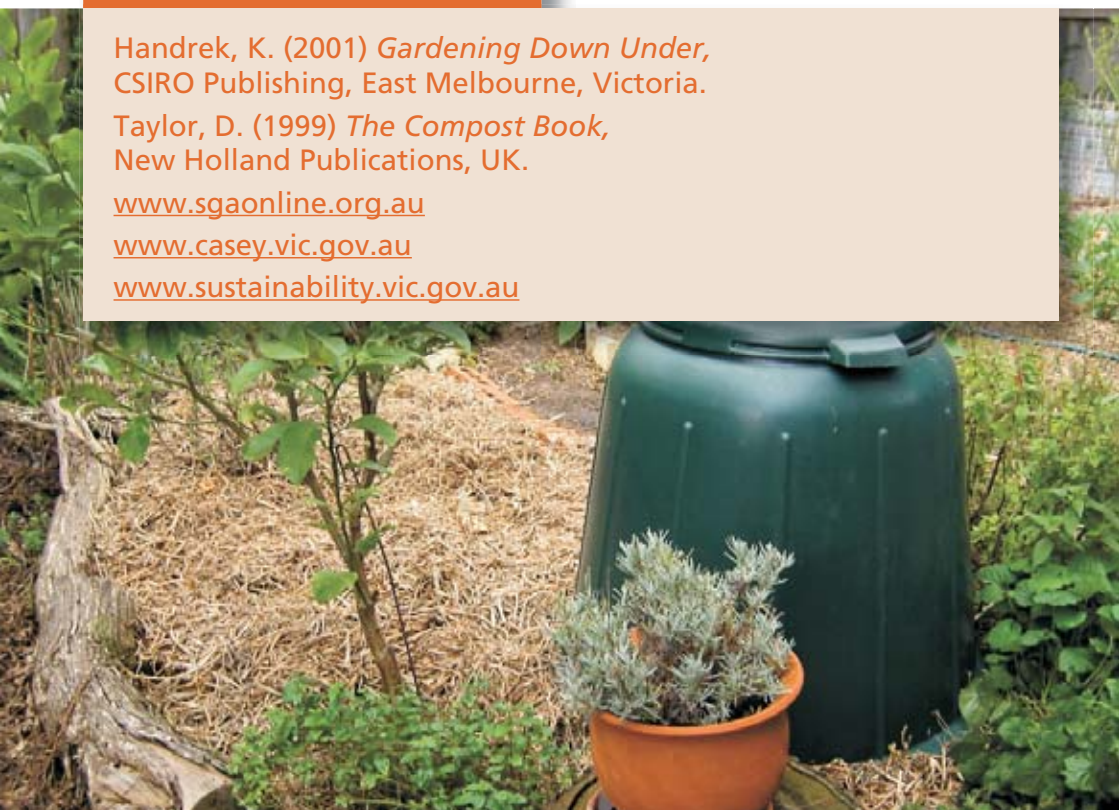


SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth and each year our fresh water storages are depleted due to reduced annual rainfalls. In Melbourne, it has been predicted that our water demands will exceed our supply within 15 years. Water use in the garden is a major contributor to high water consumption levels throught the City of Casey. By improving the soil, using alternative water sources for the garden such as rain water collected in tanks, storm water directed into the garden and grey water, installing efficient irrigation systems and good garden design, significant water savings can be made in the garden.

Give yourself a tick if you:

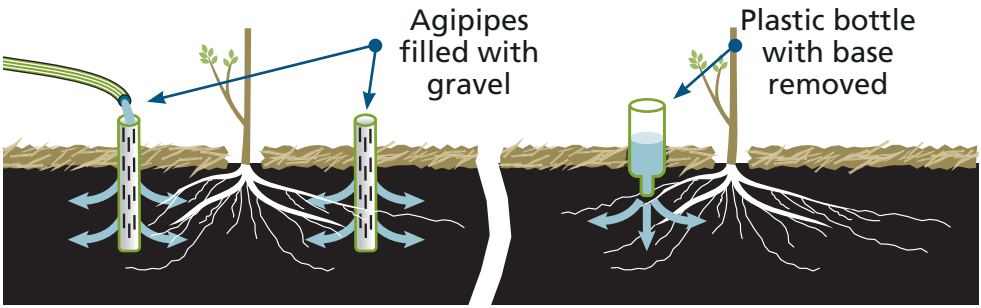
- ☐ have 30% or more of your garden planted with species listed in the *Casey Indigenous Plant Guide* (pp 22-25)
- ☐ have less than 50% of your garden area taken up by lawn or don't use tap water to water your lawn
- ☐ have mulched all of your garden beds and pots
- ☐ don't have a lawn, or if you do, cut it longer (8–10cm) over summer
- ☐ do not water your garden with tap water, instead use tank, grey water or storm water
- ☐ water around the plant root zone with long, infrequent watering in the cool of the day
- ☐ use a soaker hose or dripper system beneath mulch instead of sprays
- ☐ have a tap timer, rain sensor or soil moisture sensor
- ☐ have a water tank
- ☐ recycle greywater from the laundry and bathroom to the garden using EPA approved techniques or systems

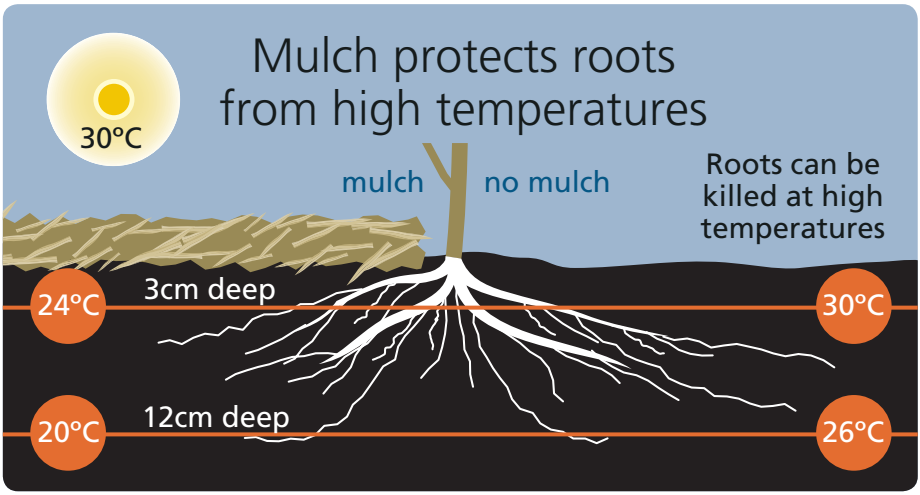
Water Score /10

WATER TIPS

1. After you have watered dig down to see how far it has penetrated; it should be at least 10cm, more for medium to large plants.
2. Install a large rainwater tank (3,000 litres of water in a tank for summer is ideal).
3. Check and clean your irrigation system every spring.
4. Mulch all your garden beds and pots. Mulch made from recycled organics is a great water saving product.
5. Micro-sprays waste up to 70% water through drift and evaporation and if the soil is mulched, water will not penetrate to the soil. Use drip irrigation instead.
6. Water pots and plants with a low pressure flow from the hose. Consider placing pots in a bucket or saucer of water to allow it to effectively soak up the water it needs.
7. Go for a tough drought-tolerant grass like Sir Walter Buffalo; a native grass such as *Microlaena stipoides* (won't take heavy activity, but is fine for walking on); or a native groundcover like *Myoporum parvifolium* for the front garden.
8. Check the weather forecast to avoid watering before rain.

Watering: Deep watering of trees/large shrubs delivers water slowly to the roots and encourages deep roots.





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Van Dok, Wendy, (2002) *The Water Efficient Garden: A Guide to Sustainable Landscaping in Australia,* Water-efficient Gardenscapes, Glen Waverley, Victoria.

Walsh, Kevin (2004) *Waterwise Gardening,* Reed Books, Melbourne, Victoria.

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.savewater.com.au

www.epa.vic.gov.au

www.southeastwater.com.au

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

www.casey.vic.gov.au

GREYWATER

Greywater is domestic wastewater, excluding toilet waste. Providing care is taken with the products used (eg. pH, phosphorous and sodium levels) grey water from the laundry (rinse cycles) and bathroom can be used directly in the garden. Untreated greywater can be diverted on a temporary basis to sites within your garden. 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 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.

By carefully choosing products you use inside the house such as soaps, detergents and shampoo, you will increase your opportunities for utilising your greywater. Detailed information on laundry product research can be found at www.lanfaxlabs.com.au.

To avoid potential health risks greywater from the bathroom and laundry must be collected and used according to EPA and council regulations.

Dos:

- Divert only low risk greywater such as final rinse water of washing machine.
- It is preferable to apply greywater subsurface.
- Use detergents with zero or low phosphorous and low sodium levels.

Don'ts:

- Do not divert kitchen wastewater as this has high levels of contaminants.
- Do not divert greywater with any blood or faecal contamination, such as water used to wash soiled nappies.
- Do not water vegetables for human consumption with greywater.
- Do not allow greywater to pool or stagnate as this will cause odours and attract pests.
- Never store untreated greywater
- Never allow people or pets access to areas where greywater is being reused.
- Never allow greywater to enter the stormwater system or neighbouring properties.

Further Information

www.epa.vic.gov.au

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.lanfaxlabs.com.au

City of Casey - 9705 5200

Van Dok, Wendy, (2002)
The Water Efficient Garden: A Guide to Sustainable Landscaping in Australia,
Water-efficient Gardenscapes, Glen Waverley, Victoria.

SAVING WATER IN THE HOME

As well as saving water in the garden there are many actions you can do around the home that will help reduce the amount of water we consume.

TIPS ON SAVING WATER IN THE KITCHEN

1. Aerating taps are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.
2. Don't use running water to defrost frozen food. Ideally, place food in the refrigerator to defrost overnight or use a microwave.
3. Where convenient and appropriate, try to capture 'warm-up' water for use on plants, rinsing dishes, washing fruit and vegetables, or other cleaning tasks.
4. Check for leaks and if there are any dripping taps, replace washers or other components as required. Dripping taps can waste 30-200 litres of water per day, so ensure taps are turned off properly.

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER IN THE LAUNDRY AND BATHROOM

Of all water consumed in the home, about 15 - 20% is used in the laundry. This high utility room is a major consumer of not only water, but also energy and detergents.

1. Look for clothes washers that have an 'A' rating or WELS label – the more As or stars the better - and seriously consider buying a front loading washer.
2. Look for information about the water efficiency performance of any product when making a purchase however, also check to see if the marketing claims are independently verified or substantiated.
3. If you are buying a new clothes washing machine, choose one with an economy setting or a AAA or better water conservation rating.

4. Remember that washing machines can use up to a bathtub full of water per load. Using a AAA rated washing machine can cut your water usage by 35%.
5. Consider installing a rainwater tank to use for flushing the toilet.

An easy to use grey water diversion device

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER – CARS AND PATHS

1. Use a broom, brush or rake to sweep and clean outdoor paths and paving instead of hosing them down with water.
2. Wash cars, boats and other vehicles on the lawn (if practical) with a bucket not a running hose. Use a trigger nozzle or a positive shut-off nozzle infrequently for occasional rinsing sprays.

3. In many cases, commercial car washing facilities can improve our ability to save water by providing a specialised site with technologies that recycle the water and minimise the detergents that are released into the drainage system.

Tips taken from http://www.savewater.com.au

For further information

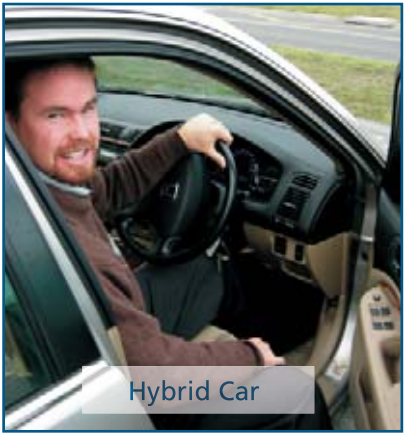
www.ourwater.vic.gov.au
www.savewater.com.au
www.southeastwater.com.au

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

Eighty percent of the world's energy comes from greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels. Greenhouse gas emissions cause global warming. In Australia, specifically, this has the potential to diminish our water resources, increase the strength of tropical storms, cause more droughts, flooding and bushfires and kill off the Great Barrier Reef. Here are some ways that you can act:

- Switch to green power – unlike power produced from coal, green power is created from renewable energy such as solar, wind and hydro. By switching to green power you are supporting investment in sustainable, more environmentally-friendly energies.

- Become a single car household – cars are not only expensive to run, they also create around seven tonnes of greenhouse pollution each year. Try getting rid of one of your cars and sharing a ride with your family or friends, or using public transport, it'll save you almost $8,000 per year!


Hybrid Car

- Turn off standby power – by turning off power sources at the wall you could save around 10 percent on your electricity bill, and reduce greenhouse emissions by up to 700 kilograms a year.

PLANT SELECTION

Local (indigenous) plants are suited to the local soil and climate. They do not require large amounts of nutrients and, once established, little water. There are many beautiful plants local to the City of Casey. Many of these plants offer shelter and are important food sources for local birds, insects, reptiles and animals. (Refer to the *Casey Indigenous Plant Guide* of this booklet).

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 our local plants for light, nutrients and water. Before too long they have replaced our local plants, leaving native animals without food or habitat. As gardeners we need to know which plants can escape and destroy our unique natural environments. (Refer to the *Casey Weed Guide* of this booklet). Please consider removing and replacing potential garden escapees as there are so many beautiful plants that are 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. More information on indigenous plants is available in the City of *Casey Indigenous Plant Booklet*.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ know the difference between native, indigenous and exotic plants through talking to your local nursery or using reference material
- ☐ have more than 30% of your garden planted with plants listed in the *Casey Indigenous Plant Guide* (pp. 22-25)
- ☐ have more than 30% of your garden planted with sustainable plants listed on p. 26
- ☐ do not have any of the plants listed in the *Casey Weed Guide* (pp. 29–31) in your garden
- ☐ have at least one shade tree of suitable size for your garden
- ☐ have reduced your lawn area to less than 50% of the 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. Try and avoid planting in summer.
2. Fast growing plants (e.g. jasmine, variegated pittosporum) are appealing at first as screening plants because they grow very quickly and 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 planning stage.
5. Mulch prunings or put them out bundled together for hard waste collection. 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 City of Casey on the inside back cover of this booklet.

Further Information

Blood, Kate (2001), *Environmental Weeds: A Field Guide for SE Australia,* Bloomings Books, Victoria.

Scott, Rob et al. (2002) *Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt: A Gardening Guide for South-east Melbourne,* Bloomings Books, Melbourne.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Maroondah Inc. (2001) *Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area,* Hyland House, Melbourne.

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.weeds.org.au

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds

Lightwood, (Acacia implexa) refer to Local Plant Guide

CASEY INDIGENOUS PLANT GUIDE

These plants are great for properties in the City of Casey as they grow here naturally and are good for wildlife.

GROUNDCOVER AND TUSSOCK SPECIES

Bulbine lily
(Bulbine bulbosa)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; moist, well-drained soil.
Features: Beautiful as a mass planting. It remains dormant after flowering.

Small-leafed clematis
(Clematis microphylla)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: A vigorous, showy climber useful for drier sites.

Black-anther flax-lily
(Dianella revoluta)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Hardy, easily maintained plant. Ideal for growing close to trees. Butterfly attracting.

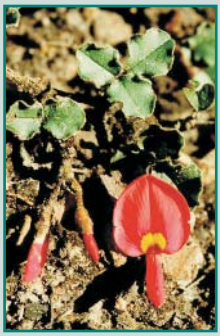
Bidgee-widgee
(Acaena novae-zealandiae)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Creeping groundcover that dies back in winter. Useful for binding soil.

Kidney plant
(Dichondra repens)
Requirements: Semi sun, full shade; well-drained soil.
Features: An excellent lawn substitute in moist, shady areas where traffic is light.

Spiny-headed mat-rush
(Lomandra longifolia)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; moist, well-drained soil.
Features: Attractive strappy foliage. Butterfly attracting.

Wallaby grasses
(Austrodanthonia* spp.*)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Excellent contrast plant in landscaping. Good lawn alternative if mown infrequently.

Running postman
(Kennedia prostrata)
Requirements: Full/semi sun. Accepts most soils, but avoid poor drainage.
Features: Attractive as a groundcover, in tubs, hanging baskets, cascading over rocks, walls and under trees. Insect and bird attracting.



SHRUB SPECIES

Hedge wattle
(Acacia paradoxa)
Requirements: Highly adaptable.
Features: Fast-growing dense shrub covered with thorns. Good refuge for birds.

Sweet bursaria
(Bursaria spinosa)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Sweet smelling flowers in summer. Butterfly attracting.

Drooping cassinia
(Cassinia arcuata)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: This graceful plant is easy to grow. Leaves have a spicy aroma.

Common correa
(Correa reflexa)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Excellent for a dry, shady position. Bird attracting.

Hop goodenia
(Goodenia ovata)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Fast growing. Responds well to pruning.

Austral indigo
(Indigofera australis)
Requirements: Any position; well-drained soil.
Features: Responds well to regular pruning. Butterfly attracting.

Large kangaroo-apple
(Solanum laciniatum)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; well-drained soil.
Features: Fast growing shrub. Short lived (approx. 2-5 years). Food source for birds.

TREE SPECIES

Black sheoke
(Allocasuarina littoralis)
Requirements: Full/semi sun; most soils.
Features: Small screen or shade tree. Bird attracting.

Full Sun = Part Shade = Shade =

SUSTAINABLE PLANT LIST

✓ These plants are not indigenous but include great natives and low water users.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	FORM	CONDITIONS
Weeping bottlebrush	*Callistemon viminalis*	Shrub	
Chef's cap correa	*Correa baeuerlenii*	Strap Foliage	
Bougainvillea	*Bougainvillea traillii*	Climber	
Bower vine	*Pandorea jasminoides*	Climber	
Autumn sage	*Salvia gregii*	Cottage	
Blazing star	*Liatris spicata*	Cottage	
California lilac	*Ceanothus* spp.	Ground Cover	
Prostrate juniper grevillea	*Grevillea junipera prostrata*	Ground Cover	
Pachysandra	*Pachysandra terminalis*	Ground Cover	
Fan flower	*Scaevola aemula*	Groundcover	
Glossy abelia	*Abelia x grandiflora*	Medium Shrub	
Mexican orange blossom	*Choisya ternata*	Medium Shrub	
Geraldton wax	*Chamelaucium uncinatum*	Medium Shrub	
Wax flower	*Eriostemon myoporoides*	Medium Shrub	
Bird of paradise	*Strelitzia reginae*	Perennial	
Enamel flower	*Adenandra uniflora*	Small Shrub	
Silver bush	*Convolvulus cneorum*	Small Shrub	
Gum rock rose	*Cistus ladaniferus*	Small Shrub	
Dwarf willow myrtle	*Agonis flexuosa nana*	Small Shrub	
Small crowea	*Crowea exalata*	Small Shrub	
NZ rock lily	*Arthropodium cirrhatum*	Strap Foliage	
Lily turf	*Liriope muscari*	Strap Foliage	
Kangaroo paw	*Anigozanthus* Bush Gem hybrids	Strap Foliage	
Grevillea	*Grevillea* 'Ivanhoe'	Tall Shrub	
Albany woolly bush	*Adenanthos sericea*	Medium Shrub	
Tea tree	*Melaleuca bracteata 'Revolution Green'*	Tall Shrub	
Willow myrtle	*Agonis flexuosa*	Tree	
Coral gum	*Eucalyptus torquata*	Tree	
Bottle brush	*Callistemon* 'Kings Park Special'	Tree	

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 could consider the following 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, but will need some water. Weeping grass is drought, frost and shade tolerant, but does not cope with heavy traffic or dog urine. Excellent for a front lawn it 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.

Use groundcover plants that form dense mats, don't require mowing and perform well in shade. Examples include: Kidney plant *(Dichondra repens)*, Creeping boobialla *(Myoporum parvifolia)* and Native mint *(Mentha diemenica)*.

Planting out a mass of native wildflowers to create a meadow look can be spectacular particularly in spring and summer. This works particularly well as a front lawn alternative.

Examples include Tufted bluebells *(Wahlenbergia communis)*, Australian bindweed *(Convolvulus erubescens)*, Chocolate lily *(Arthropodium strictum)*, Bulbine lily *(Bulbine bulbosa)* and Climbing saltbush *(Einadia nutans)*.

Further Information

www.nativeseeds.com.au
www.sgaonline.org.au

GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways your family can be involved in local environmental projects and activities.

Through the City of Casey's "Growing a Green Web" program around 20,000 indigenous plants are planted by volunteers into the municipality's open spaces each year. Council staff do this with the help of school children and environmental groups. Schools can help by registering their interest in being part of the program by contacting council's Natural Resource Officer on 9705 5200. All materials are paid for by the program; all that is needed is enthusiastic children who don't mind getting dirt under their nails.

The City of Casey has many environmental groups that help to take care of different parcels of land with environmental values. A list of Friends and Landcare groups can be found on the City of Casey website at http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/environment. They are continually taking new members and would welcome any extra help you can offer.

Look out for the City of Casey plant giveaway during Arbor Week each year in May. This program encourages residents to plant indigenous plants by giving away 2 plants per household. A total of 20,000 indigenous and Australian native plants are given away over the four days of this program.

Why not explore local parks such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne (1,000 Ballarto Road) with a great display of native and indigenous plants or Wilson Botanic Park (Princes Highway, Berwick).

Further Information

www.casey.vic.gov.au
Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne www.rbg.vic.gov.au/rbg_cranbourne
Wilson Botanic Gardens www.casey.vic.gov.au/wilsonbotanicpark/

CASEY WEED GUIDE

All the plants in this section are serious garden escapees in the City of Casey. 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. Please contact the City of Casey for a copy of the *Casey Weeds Booklet*.

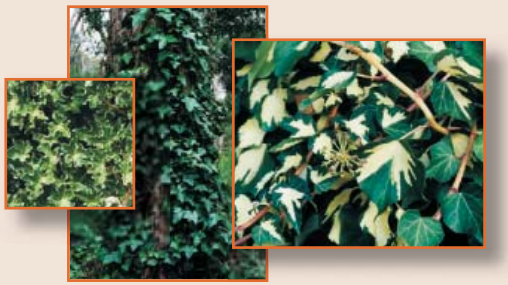
GROUNDCOVER AND TUSSOCK SPECIES

Agapanthus *(Agapanthus* spp.*)*
Leaves poisonous.
Sticky sap can ulcer mouth.
Replace with: Black-anther flax-lily *(Dianella revoluta).*

Arum lily *(Zantedeschia aethiopica)*
Highly poisonous.
Replace with: Spiny-headed mat-rush *(Lomandra longifolia).*

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).*

English ivy *(Hedera helix)*
Fast climber, can grow to 30m up trees or creeping along the ground and forming carpets. Poisonous if eaten and can cause skin and eye irritation.
Replace with: Small-leafed clematis *(Clematis microphylla).*



Pampas grass *(Cortaderia* spp.*)*
Leaves easily cut the skin and cause irritation when handled.
Replace with:
Thatch saw-sedge *(Gahnia radula).*

SHRUB SPECIES

Cotoneaster *(Cotoneaster* spp.*)*
Berries contain toxins that can be harmful to infants if eaten.
Replace with: Prickly currant-bush *(Coprosma quadrifida).*

Mirror bush *(Coprosma repens)*
Replace with:
Boobialla *(Myoporum insulare).*

Montpellier broom
(Genista monspessulana)
Seeds highly poisonous.
Replace with: Golden spray
(Viminaria junceae).

TREE SPECIES

Desert ash
(Fraxinus angustifolia)
Replace with:
Blackwood
(Acacia melanoxylon).

Pine tree *(Pinus* spp.*)*
Replace with: Drooping sheoke
(Allocasuarina verticillata).

Sweet pittosporum
(Pittosporum undulatum)
Replace with:
Black wattle
(Acacia mearnsii).

PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES AND FERTILISERS

Pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers can be transferred from our home gardens to the natural environment. Sprays can drift in the wind and powders can wash into waterways. Strong pesticides and herbicides can kill native insects, plants and animals, while the application of too much fertiliser can lead to extra nutrients in our waterways, contributing to blue-green algae outbreaks that can harm 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
- ☐ avoid using chemicals before it rains or on windy days
- ☐ use chemical alternatives (e.g. garlic sprays) or if you do use sprays, you target 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 due to additional pruning

Chemical Score /7

CHEMICAL TIPS

1. Many insects in the garden such as ladybirds are good guys that will eat pests such as aphids. If you overuse chemicals in your garden you may also kill beneficial insects and make your pest problem harder to control.

   It is very rare that a pesticide or natural product will only target one bug/disease and can often effect other organisms.

2. Use natural alternatives such as pyrethrum and garlic spray to control pests (Refer to the SGA website for recipes).

Even natural alternatives should be used with care and controlled dosage to avoid unintended consequences to other organisms.

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 soil structure while synthetic fertilisers add nothing to the soil structure and tend to move easily from the soil after heavy rain or watering.
6. If a plant is sick do not add fertilisers as overfeeding can often put additional stress on the plant.

Further Information

French, Jackie (1990) *Natural Control of Garden Pests,* Arid Books, Australia.

McMaugh, Judy (2000) *What Garden Pest or Disease Is That?,* New Holland Publications, Australia.

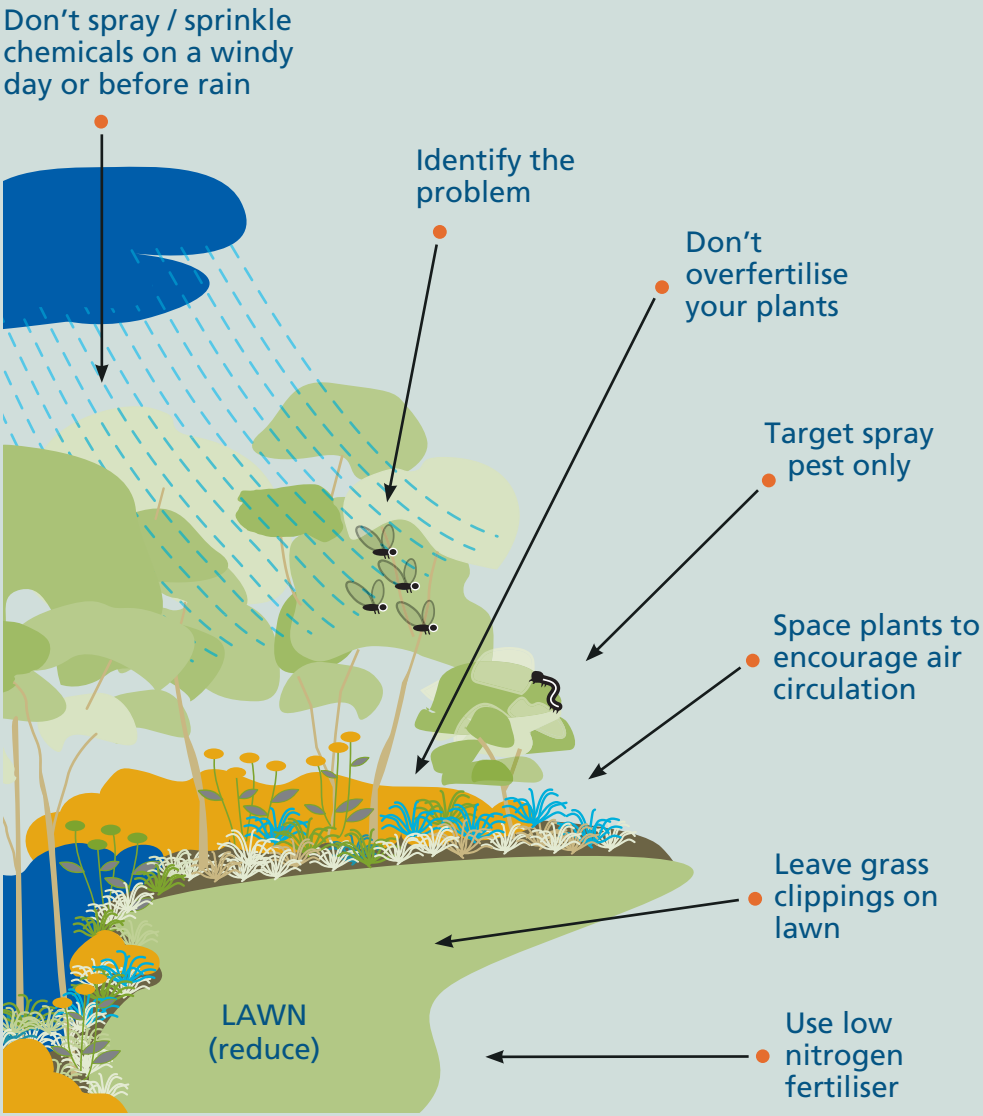
www.sgaonline.org.au

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au – Free Household Chemical Collection Program

SGA LOW ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CHEMICALS

Sustainable Gardening Australia, 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 products that have a low environmental impact. Refer to the SGA website for a list of low environmental damage chemicals.

Reducing chemical usage



PRODUCE

Growing fruit and vegetables commercially uses a large amount of energy and chemicals for heating, cooling, spraying weeds and pests and for 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 the 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, that's a great 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 fertliser and compost, while well selected local and native plants do not need a lot of water and fertliser. It is therefore best to grow them in separate parts of the garden.
2. You can grow vegetables in no-dig beds and in big pots.
3. Don't use treated pine in vegetable gardens as the chemicals used to treat the timber can leach into the soil.
4. Use recycled plastic sleepers or recycled bricks to make raised beds. These will not rot.

5. Rotate the position of vegetables in your garden every year to stop diseases from spreading.
6. Use low impact alternatives (such as pyrethrum and garlic sprays) at recommended doses to control pests

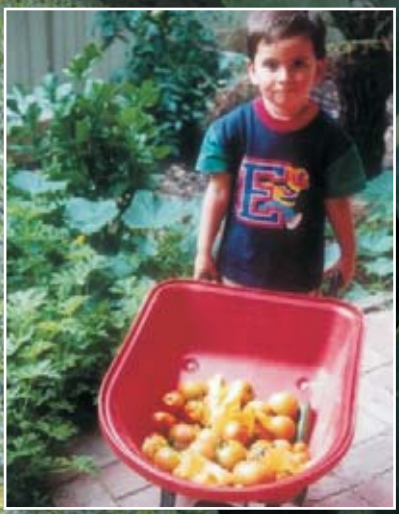
7. You will need to apply regular water to your vegetable garden, so consider installing a rainwater tank.
8. Regularly check for pests, especially snails on new seedlings.
9. Use heritage seeds for more variety and often superior flavour. You can plant early, mid and late season tomatoes.

Further Information

Blazey, Clive (1999) *The Australian Vegetable Book: What's New Is Old,* New Holland Publications, Australia.

French, Jackie (1993) *Backyard Self-Sufficiency,* Arid Books, Australia.

www.sgaonline.org.au



PRODUCTS

When we buy products for the garden we often don't think about where they have come from, for example, red gum trees grow in woodlands which are part of an intricate ecosystem that supports native fauna. Red gum timber is used to produce items such as bark chips, tomato stakes and railway sleepers – harvesting this product is unsustainable. Huge amounts of shiny river pebbles are dug out of active rivers in Asia so we can create a garden feature.

Give yourself a tick if you:

- ☐ ask where a product comes from and avoid buying unsustainable products
- ☐ use sustainable products such as secondhand bricks, recycled timbers, plastic sleepers
- ☐ take your own plastic bag or canvas bag to a garden centre to carry home products and plants
- ☐ reuse your plastic plant pots or return them to a garden centre pot recycling bin

Product Score /4

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT TIPS

1. There are usually alternative gardening products available. For example, pebbles quarried in Victoria from inactive streambeds are acceptable because they are not destroying living habitats.
2. Visit www.timbershop.org to find out which timbers are sustainable. While some outdoor furniture companies claim teak is plantation-harvested in Asia, this magnificent tree is a rainforest plant that cannot be grown in plantations.
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 they have been legally collected.

4. Make sure you ask where mulch has come from as some varieties are sourced from the logging of old growth forests and others may contain weed seeds.
5. Ceramic pots fired using gas and produced locally have a lower environmental impact than those pots fired using coal or wood and transported from overseas.

Further information

The Wilderness Society (1998) *Forest Friendly Building Timbers,* Earthgarden Publication, Australia.

www.sgaonline.org.au

www.timbershop.org

Sustainable Gardening Scorecard

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 keep working towards making your garden more sustainable.

Think Global Act Local

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

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

WEEKLY GARBAGE SERVICE

All residents have a green wheelie bin to be used for collection of household garbage each week. To check your collection day, please consult the map on page 51 of this booklet.

Please observe these requirements to assist with your waste collection:

- Leave a half metre gap between bins or obstacles.
- Do not place rubbish beside or on top of the bin.
- Do not overload the bin (maximum of 55kg).
- No paint, chemicals, liquids or motor oil.
- Number your bin to protect against loss or theft.
- Bag all items, especially dust and loose materials to prevent bin jamming and avoid spillage during collections.
- Remove the bin from the naturestrip as soon as possible after collection.
- The bins are for domestic waste only such as food scraps and non-recyclable items. Do not put bricks, heavy timber or steel in the bin (these materials can damage the collection equipment).

IF your bin is too heavy, unaccessible, overloaded or contains inappropriate material it will not be collected.

BIN SIZES, REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The standard garbage bin for households is 120 litres. If you wish to choose an 80 litre bin in return for a discount on your garbage charge, or if you wish to request an additional garbage bin (at an additional cost) contact the City of Casey on 9705 5200.

All 80 litre bins are clearly marked "80 litres" on the front of the bin. If your garbage bin does not carry this mark it is a 120 litre bin.

For all enquiries regarding your garbage collection service or if your bin is damaged or goes missing contact Thiess Services on Freecall 1800 649 930. (you will be required to sign a declaration for missing bins which is also available on Council's website at www.casey.vic.gov.au).

ENSURE YOUR WASTE IS COLLECTED

Follow these instructions:

1. Place your bin out for collection no later than 5am on collection day
2. Make sure there is a distance of at least half a metre between obstacles such as a pole or tree and your bin.

Place the bin on the naturestrip with the wheels away from the kerbside.

Keep your bin clean. Remember to wash your bin on the lawn or garden but don't let the water go down the drain.

Don't put lawn clippings/garden waste into your garbage or recycling bins. Compost or use your garden waste bin.

Don't place your bin behind a parked car or other obstacle.

Do not overload the bin. The lid should be fully closed.

All bins should be collected by 5pm. If any of your bins are not collected please contact the City of Casey on 9705 5200 as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For free sustainable gardening information and advice visit:
Sustainable Gardening Australia at www.sgaonline.org.au

Further reading:

City of Casey (2006)
Casey Indigenous Plant Booklet,
City of Casey, Victoria.

Scott, Rob et al. (2002) *Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt: A Gardening Guide for South-east Melbourne,*
Bloomings Books, Melbourne.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Maroondah Inc. (2001)
Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area,
Hyland House, Melbourne.

Nurseries stocking indigenous plants suitable for the City of Casey:

Kareelah Bush Nursery
Bittern: 5983 0240

Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery
Belgrave: 9754 6962

Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery
Upper Beaconsfield: 9707 2415

Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
(Grow to order): 9736 2309

Chatfield and Curley
Narre Warren (appointment only): 0414 412 334

Kooweerup Trees and Shrubs
Kooweerup: 5997 1839

Bushwalk Native Nursery
Cranbourne South: 9782 2986

City of Casey
PO Box 1000
Narre Warren
Victoria 3805

Customer Service Centres
Narre Warren – Magid Drive
Open 8am-6pm, Mon-Fri

Cranbourne – Centro Cranbourne
Open 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
9am-noon, Sat

Narre Warren South
Amberly Park Shopping Centre
Open 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
9am-noon, Sat

Contact Customer Service
Ph: (03) 9705 5200
Fax: (03) 9704 9544

Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au

Website: www.casey.vic.gov.au

TIS (Telephone & Interpretation Service): 131 450

TTY (Telephone Typewriter): (03) 9705 5568

这份 "Casey 市的可持续生活" 指南包含有重要信息——包括您的 2006/2007 年度垃圾和回收服务日历。如需更多信息，请在工作时间致电 131 450 联系翻译与传译服务处（TIS），要求他们拨打 9705 5200 直接联系市政厅。

Ovaj vodič pod nazivom "Sustainable Living in the City of Casey" (Održivo stanovanje u Općini Casey) sadrži važne informacije – uključujući i kalendar odvoza smeća i otpada za recikliranje za 2006/2007. Za više informacija nazovite Službu za prevođenje i tumačenje (TIS) na 131 450 tokom radnog vremena i zamolite ih da direktno nazovu Općinu na 9705 5200.

Sustainable Living in the City of Casey (सिटी ऑफ़ केसे में वहनीय जीवन) गाइड में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है, इस में आप का 2006/2007 का कूड़ा और पुनःचक्र सेवा कैलेंडर भी शामिल है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS – अनुवाद और भाषांतरण सेवा) को 131 450 पर दफ़्तर के समय में फ़ोन करें और उन से कांउसिल से 9705 5200 पर सीधे संपर्क करने के लिए कहें।

" برله پسې او دوامداره ژوند د کیسي په ښار کې " په لارښود کې ستاسو لپاره مهم معلومات - په ګډون د ستاسو د خځلو او کثافاتو او دبیا استعمال کېدلو شیانو د ۲۰۰۶ / ۲۰۰۷ کال د جنتری یا کالېنډر شته دي. د زیاتو معلوماتو د لاس ته راوړلو لپاره لطفاً د لیکنې او وینې ترجمانی یا ژباړنې دفتر (TIS) سره د ۱۳۱ ٤٥۰ نمبر ټیلیفون له لارې د کار په رسمي وخت کې په تماس کې شئ او ورته وغواړئ چې د شورا د مستقیم ټیلیفون ۹۷۰۵ ۵۲۰۰ سره مو وصل کړي.

Водич у вези "одржања услова природне средине" у општини Casey ("Sustainable Living in the City of Casey") садржи важне информације - укључујући и календар који означава датуме сакупљања смећа и материјала за рециклажу. За више информација позовите Преводилачку службу (Translating and Interpreting Service, TIS) на 131 450, у току радног времена, и замолите их да позову општину (директно) на 9705 5200.

මෙම "සිටි ඔෆ් කේසි හි තිරසාර ජීවිතය" ("Sustainable Living in the City of Casey") නම මාර්ගෝපදේශයේ, 2006/2007 අපද්‍රව්‍ය සහ ප්‍රතිචක්‍රීකරණ සේවා දින දර්ශනය ඇතුළුව වැදගත් තොරතුරු අන්තර්ගතයි. වැඩිදුර විස්තර සඳහා කාර්යාල වේලාවන්හිදී අංක 131 450 ඔස්සේ පරිවර්තන සහ භාෂණ සේවාව (Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)) අමතා, අංක 9705 5200 ඔස්සේ නගර සභාව සෘජුවම සම්බන්ධ කර දෙන ලෙස ඉල්ලා සිටින්න.

Ang gabay na ito kaugnay ng "Nakakasustenang Pamumuhay sa Siyudad ng Casey"ay may mahalagang impormasyon – kabilang ang inyong kalendaryo para sa taong 2006/2007 ng mga serbisyong kaugnay ng basura at pagreresaykel. Para sa karagdagang impormasyon mangyari lamang na tumawag sa Serbisyong nauukol sa Pagsasaling-wika at Pag-iinterprete (TIS) sa numero 131 450, sa mga oras ng opisina at hilingin sa kanila na kontakin nang direkta ang Konseho sa numero 9705 5200.

"கேசி மாநகரத்தில் விடா உறுதி வாய்ந்த வாழ்க்கை" என்ற இந்த வழிகாட்டி முக்கியமான தகவல்களைக் கொண்டுள்ளது-உங்களது 2006/2007 வருடத்திற்குரிய கழிவு மற்றும் மறு உற்பத்தி சேவைகள் ஆண்டுக்குறிப்பேடு உட்பட. மேலதிகத் தகவல்களுக்கு தயவு செய்து மொழிபெயர்ப்பு மற்றும் மொழிபெயர்த்துரைக்கும் சேவை டிஸ் (TIS) ஐ 131 450, இல் கந்தோர் நேரத்தில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு அவர்களிடம் கவுன்சிலை நேரடியாக 9705 5200 இல் தொடர்பு கொள்ளும்படி கேளுங்கள்.

(سٹی آف کیسے میں مستحکم زندگی) Sustainable Living in the City of Casey گائیڈ میں اہم معلومات درج ہے، اس میں آپ کا 2006/2007 کا کوڑا کرکٹ اور دوبارہ کارآمد بنانے کی خدمات کا کیلنڈر بھی شامل ہے۔ مزید معلومات کیلئے براہ کرم Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS - ترجمہ اور مترجم خدمت) کو 131 450 پر دفتر کے اوقات میں فون کریں اور ان سے کاؤنسل سے 9705 5200 پر سیدھے رابطہ کرنے کیلئے کہیں۔