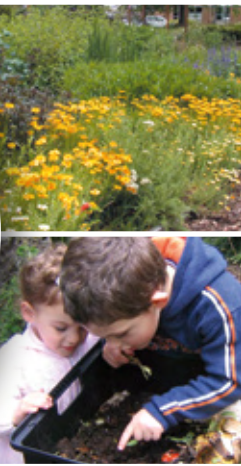




City of  DAREBIN

# Sustainable Gardening

in Darebin



This revised Sustainable Gardening booklet was produced by the City of Darebin in 2011.



Text by Sustainable Gardening Australia

Photographs: Darebin Council, Helen Moss,  
Scott Watson, Viridans and Flora.cyberia

Original design by Thumbprint, editing by  
Migawa Design.

Printed in 2011 on Cyclus recycled paper with  
vegetable base inks.

**Disclaimer:** Although care has 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.



**DAREBIN**

*Darebin Council is committed  
to contributing to the  
achievement of sustainability  
within Darebin and promoting  
sustainability to others.*

Darebin City Council

274 Gower St, Preston Victoria 3072

**Phone:** 8470 8888 **Facsimile:** 8470 8877

**TTY (hearing impaired):** 8470 8696

**Multilingual Telephone Line:** 8470 8470

**Email:** [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au)





## CONTENT

<i>Introduction</i> .....	2
<i>Garden Design</i> .....	3
<i>Caring For Your Soil</i> .....	5
<i>Compost And Worm Farming</i> .....	7
<i>Water</i> .....	12
<i>Plant Selection</i> .....	16
<i>Darebin Local Plant Guide</i> .....	18
<i>Sustainable Plant List</i> .....	24
<i>Darebin Garden Escapee Guide</i> .....	25
<i>Chemicals</i> .....	30
<i>Food Gardening</i> .....	33
<i>Sustainable Products</i> .....	38
<i>Sustainable Gardening Score Card</i> .....	40

## INTRODUCTION

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

Gardening can have a positive benefit to the health of our environment. If we plant 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. If we reduce the use of chemicals in the garden we help to keep our stormwater runoff into creeks and streams chemical free. By growing food in our gardens we can reap environmental and health benefits. 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 instead of non-renewable resources, 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 e.g. 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.

Sustainability also relates to social interaction. 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 enable you to conduct a sustainability audit on your garden. Different sections 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 6 months and 12 months time. 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. Aspects of your garden can also impact on your household energy use. Well placed deciduous trees and vines can provide shade in summer and light in winter. Having a washing line outside to dry clothes is also a great energy choice.

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 page 12)
- ☐ Have thought about the amount of garden waste (e.g. lawn clippings and prunings) and ways and space for managing on site (composting or mulching)
- ☐ Have maximised the permeable surface e.g. replace concrete with gravel
- ☐ Have designed your garden to have flow and interest to create appeal
- ☐ Have designed your garden to reduce your home energy use
- ☐ Have included food production in your garden

**Design Score** /8

## GARDEN DESIGN TIPS

1. List what you need (shed, washing line, water tank, 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, practically and where it looks best. 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 should have 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, or
  - apply chemical herbicide.

### Further Information

*The Australian Garden* – Diana Snape

*Beautiful Gardens with Less Water* – John Patrick

*Bold Romantic Gardens* – Oehme Van Swede

[www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment)

Browse through the library...

## CARING FOR YOUR SOIL

**Healthy soil = healthy plants.** Soil needs organic matter (mulch, compost, manure, 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, most 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
- ☐ Have at least 3 worms in a spadeful of soil wherever you dig in the garden
- ☐ Only dig your soil when you have to

**Soil Score** /5

## SOIL IMPROVEMENT TIPS

1. 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. Top up mulch annually to 8-10cm deep.
2. Mulches made from recycled organics are an excellent choice as they save water, last well and feed the soil when they break down.
3. Spreading compost over your soil (under the mulch layer) will encourage worms in your garden.
4. 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.



5. 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.
6. When buying new soil for your garden don't just buy topsoil, buy a soil that includes recycled organics or compost.
7. 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.

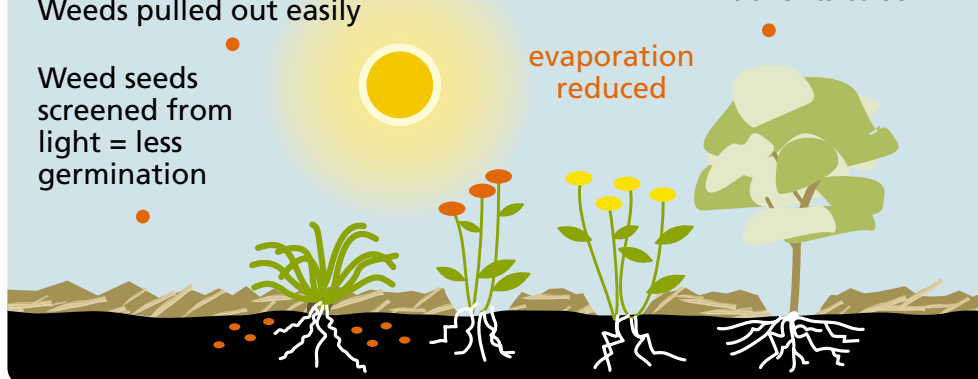
## Benefits of mulch

Weeds pulled out easily

Weed seeds screened from light = less germination

evaporation reduced

Mulch layer breaks down to add nutrients to soil



## Further Information

*The Natural Gardener* – Jeffrey Hodges

*Gardening Down-Under* – Kevin Handreck

*The Natural Magic of Mulch* – Michael J. Roads

[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au) [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment)



## COMPOST AND WORM FARMING

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. In addition to creating great fertiliser, it reduces greenhouse gases, saves water and dramatically reduces the amount of waste going to landfill.

### *Give yourself a tick if you:*

- ☐ Make your own compost
- ☐ Can list 10 things you can put in compost and 3 things you shouldn't put in compost
- ☐ Put most of your food waste in your compost not your garbage bin
- ☐ Put most of your green waste in your compost not your green waste bin
- ☐ 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 located on soil, so that it drains well and worms and bacteria can enter the bin to decompose the waste.
2. a) 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. Kitchen scraps and grass clippings also contain nitrogen.
  - Contain carbon, such as dried leaves or shredded newspapers.
  - Aim for a ratio of 30 parts carbon: 1 part nitrogen.

- b) 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.
  - Warmth – locate your compost bin in a sunny place, but not with direct sunlight all day.
- 3. If you are left with half decomposed lumps in your compost add smaller pieces of food to the bin/heap to ensure it all decomposes evenly. Always crush eggshells.
- 4. Ants and slaters are an indication your heap is too dry. Add a sprinkling of water or less dry matter.
- 6. Visit the SGA website for information on compost trouble shooting.  
[www.sgaonline.org.au/info\\_science\\_of\\_composting](http://www.sgaonline.org.au/info_science_of_composting).

## 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/compost mate 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 or maggots?"*

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 bin/heap, such as hessian sacking or carpet felt underlay.

### *"visited by rats or mice?"*

Meat scraps or fish bones can be added to compost if it is working efficiently and quickly. 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 before commencing.

### *"taking so long to do anything?!!!"*

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

#### Add to your compost

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- coffee grounds and tea bags
- crushed egg shells
- animal fur, human hair
- onions and cut up citrus fruit
- pizza and egg cartons
- vacuum cleaner dust
- pure cotton articles (cut up)
- grass clippings (3-4cm layers)
- cut up prunings
- weeds without seed heads
- blood and bone, manure
- shredded newspaper
- small amounts of wood ash
- straw

#### Keep out of your compost

- fish and meat
- cat and dog droppings; consider a pet poo worm farm instead
- big woody prunings
- bulbous weeds e.g. *oxalis* spp.
- weeds with runners e.g. couch grass
- bleached or glossy office paper
- pineapple tops
- avocado seeds

## WORM FARMING

Using a worm farm is an excellent way to reduce the amount of organic waste in your garbage. Worms eat the organic waste and turn it into liquid fertiliser (worm liquid) and worm castings which are great fertilisers for pot plants and gardens. Worm farms can be a great option for smaller gardens and apartments.

Worm farms can be purchased from Council or garden centres and come with easy to follow instructions. You will need to buy composting worms for your worm farm. Common composting worm types sold are Tiger, Red Wrigglers and Indian Blues.

Follow the worm farm instructions and remove the castings and worm liquid as you need them, or as trays fill up and your worms are eating food in another tray. Castings can be mixed directly into the soil around your plants or before you plant. To use the worm liquid fertiliser, dilute it in water 1:10 before adding to your plants. You can even bottle it to store for short periods, or give to friends. (Use plastic bottles to avoid glass breakage.)



## WORM FARM TIPS

1. Feed your worms gradually and don't overfeed them. Begin with small amounts of organic waste, allowing gradual build-up over the months as the ecosystem evolves. As a guide maintain two centimetres of food over half the surface area of your worm farm. If you are adding more food than the worms can eat, your worm farm may become smelly.
2. Worms like food wastes like vegetable and fruit peelings, tea leaves, crushed eggshells and bread. They also like small amounts of soiled paper and cardboard such as shredded egg cartons. Avoid meat scraps as they can produce offensive odours and attract rats and mice.
3. Chop up your food and garden waste as much as possible to feed to the worms. Add aged manure, mouldy leaves or mulch litter and regular light sprinkles of mature compost to accelerate the composting process and inhibit vinegar flies.
4. Worms like temperatures between 18-24 °C. Worms stop eating when

they are cold and can die if they are too hot. In summer keep them in the shade and ideally find a warmer spot for the winter.

5. Worms like it moist, but not too moist! Keep a few layers of moist newspaper or hessian over the top of your worms, underneath the lid. Keep the rain out and don't flood your worms. If your worm farm is too wet your worms may drown at the bottom or you may have huge numbers of small vinegar flies (a small amount are healthy). Make sure you regularly drain the worm farm, or keep the tap open with a container underneath to catch the worm liquid. If your farm is too wet try adding torn up newspaper to absorb excess moisture.
6. Keep the worm farm lid on to keep out the rain and the light. Worms like the dark.
7. Worms are the perfect pet, they don't need to be fed every day and temporary absence or limited availability of food is not a major concern. If you go away in summer you may need to position/prepare your worm farm to stay cool and moist in your absence.
8. You can try a pet poo only worm farm. Don't add any other organic food to this type of worm farm and do not put resulting castings and liquid around any edible plants. You also need to avoid using it for a period after you have wormed your pet.

## GREEN WASTE

If you have excess green waste that you can't compost you can contact Council for a green waste bin (annual fees apply). Grass cuttings, weeds, leaves, flowers and prunings (up to 30cm in length) can be put in the green waste bin. Your green waste can then be recycled into mulches, soil mixes and/or fertilisers. Please don't put plastic bags and other contaminants in your green waste bin. Annual bundled branch collections are also available. Check your Darebin waste calendar or [www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au) for details.

### Further Information

*Make Your Own Compost* – Yvonne Cave

*Gardening Down-Under* – Kevin Handreck

[www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment)

[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

Call Darebin Council on 8470 8888



## WATER

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth. 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. By improving the soil and using alternative water sources for the garden such as rain water collected in tanks, stormwater or greywater directed into the garden, installing efficient irrigation systems and using good garden design, significant water savings can be made.



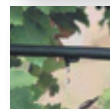
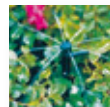
### *Give yourself a tick if you:*

- ☐ Have 30% or more of your garden planted with plants in the Darebin Local Plant Guide (pp 18–23)
- ☐ Don't water your garden except for your veggies and fruit trees
- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Recycle greywater from the laundry and bathroom to the garden using EPA Victoria approved techniques or systems

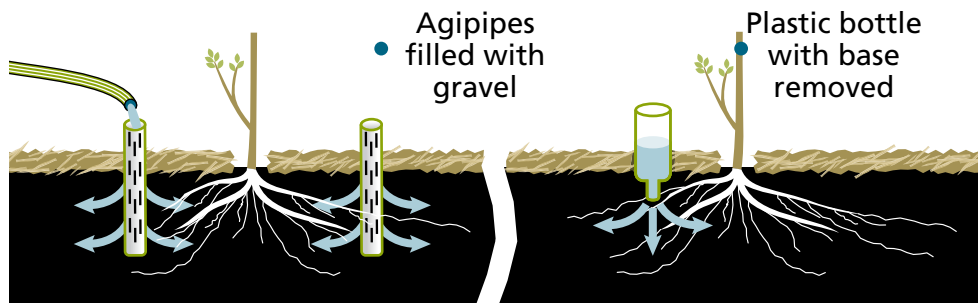
**Water Score** /10

## WATER TIPS

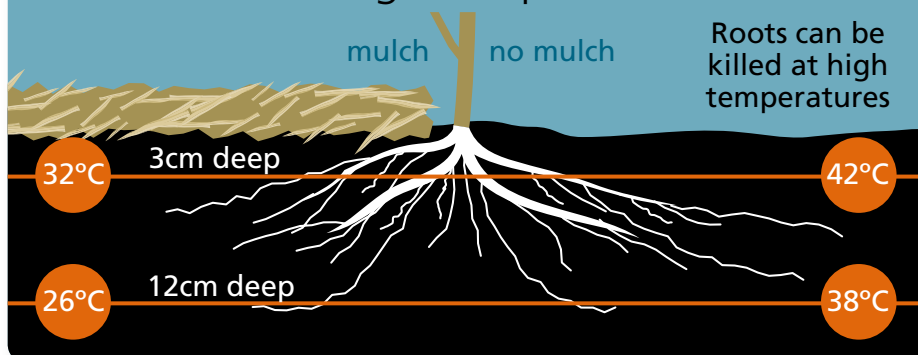
1. After you have watered dig down to see how far it has penetrated, it should be at least 10cm.
2. Have as large a tank as possible. Savewater recommends a 4000-5000 litre tank for garden watering.
3. Check and clean your irrigation system every spring.
4. Mulch all your garden beds and pots. Mulch made from recycled organics is a great water saving product.
5. Micro-sprays waste up to 70% of water through drift and evaporation and if the soil is mulched, water will not penetrate to the soil.
6. Water pots and plants with a low pressure on the hose. The water should be running slowly, not on a spray, as this does not penetrate very deeply.
7. Go for a tough drought tolerant grass like 'Sir Walter Buffalo'; a native grass such as *Microlaena stipoides* (won't take football games, but is fine for walking on); or a native groundcover like *Myoporum parvifolium* for the front garden.
8. To avoid potential health risks greywater from the bathroom and laundry must be collected and used according to EPA Victoria guidelines.
9. Check the weather forecast to avoid watering before rain.



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



## Mulch protects roots from high temperatures

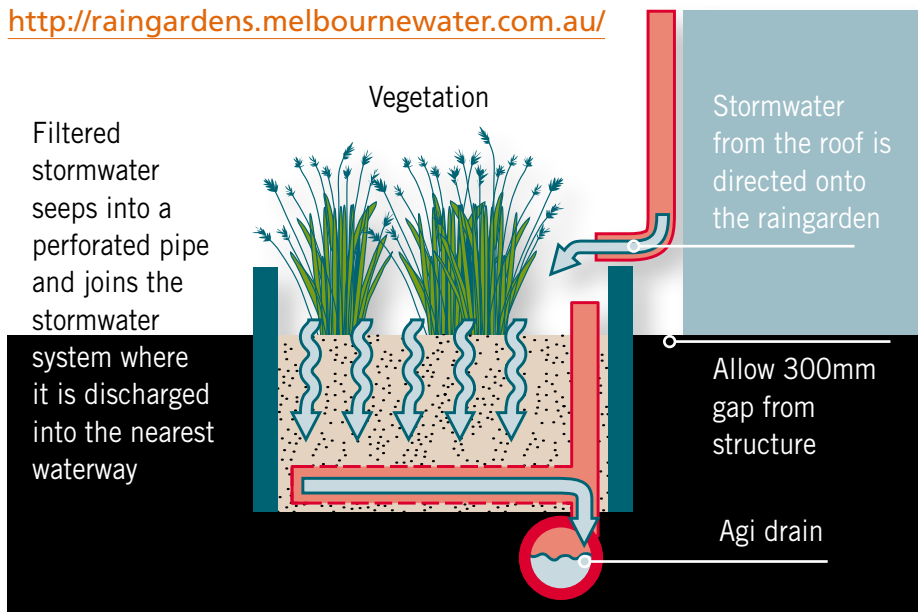


## RAINGARDENS

To create a water efficient garden and improve the health of our creeks you may want to consider installing a raingarden near a down pipe to filter and slow down the stormwater rushing to our creeks when it rains.

For further information visit the Melbourne Water website:

<http://raingardens.melbournewater.com.au/>



## GREYWATER

Greywater is domestic wastewater, excluding toilet waste which is sometimes referred to as blackwater. It can be a good water resource in dry periods but its reuse can carry health and environmental risks.

The best quality greywater comes from the rinse water of your washing machine, bath, shower or hand basin. Toilet and kitchen wastewater should always go to sewer. Untreated greywater can be diverted on a temporary basis to sites within your backyard using a bucket or diverter. However, the continual discharge of greywater can potentially cause problems for your garden if not managed.

Greywater can contain a number of micro-organisms such as bacteria and viruses, as well as chemicals from cleaning agents, so be careful to follow the tips recommended, particularly rotating the areas you water and when choosing detergents.

### Further Information

*Waterwise Gardening* – Kevin Walsh

*Waterwise House and Garden* – Allan Windust

[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

[www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

### Do:

- ✓ Only use greywater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines (final rinse water).
- ✓ Only use low phosphate detergents.
- ✓ Only use greywater on the garden and rotate the areas you water.
- ✓ Only apply water that the soil can absorb.
- ✓ Wash your hands after watering with greywater.

### Don't:

- ✗ Use greywater on vegetable or herb gardens.
- ✗ Use greywater that has any faecal contamination, for example wastewater used to launder nappies.
- ✗ Use kitchen wastewater (including dishwashers) due to high concentration of food wastes and chemicals.
- ✗ Store greywater for more than 24 hours.
- ✗ Let children or pets drink or play with greywater.
- ✗ Allow greywater to flow from your property or enter stormwater systems.

### STOP:

- ✗ Using greywater during wet periods.
- ✗ Using greywater if odours are generated and plants do not appear to be healthy.

[www.yvw.com.au](http://www.yvw.com.au)

[www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)

## PLANT SELECTION

Factors that will guide plant selection for your garden include soil type, drainage patterns, aspect (i.e. full sun, part shade and shade) and local climate. Plants need to be grouped together according to their sun/shade, water and fertiliser needs. Visit a nursery for advice on plants to suit the position you have in mind.

It is best to use local (indigenous) plants wherever possible because they are well 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 Darebin, refer to the Darebin Local Plant Guide pp 18-23 of this booklet.

You should always avoid using plants that are known environmental weeds. Two thirds of the weeds found in Victoria's natural environment (parks, and along waterways and coasts) are actually 'garden escapees'. Their seeds are spread from gardens by the wind, birds and animals or by people dumping garden cuttings into the bush and waterways. Weeds compete with our local plants for light, nutrients and water. Before too long they can replace 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 Darebin Garden Escapees Guide pp 25-30). Consider removing and replacing potential garden escapees with local plants.

Please refer to the inside back cover of this booklet for more information on indigenous plants and environmental weeds.





**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 Darebin Local Plant Guide (pp 18–23)
- ☐ Have more than 30% of your garden planted with Sustainable Plants listed on page 24
- ☐ Do not have any of the plants listed in the Darebin Garden Escapees Guide (pp 25–29)
- ☐ 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**HABITAT GARDENING**

Attracting native animals to your garden can add extra colour and interest. They can assist pest control by attracting insect predators, encourage pollination and can also contribute to keeping animal populations viable by providing a pathway for wildlife to commute between bushland areas. All you have to do is provide your garden visitors with natural sources of food, water and shelter.



Adult male Superb Fairy-wren (*Malurus cyaneus*).



## DAREBIN LOCAL PLANTS

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

Some of these plants provide habitat for



birds



butterflies



frogs



lizards

☀ = Full Sun ☁ = Part Shade ☷ = Shade  
 💧 = Drought Tolerant 💧💧 = Needs seasonal water  
 ↑ = Height ↔ = Width HHH = Suitable as hedge

### CLIMBERS



#### Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁💧

↑ prostrate or climber ↔ 3m. Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Climbing plant useful as a screening plant.

Grows well in pots.



### GROUNDCOVERS and WILDFLOWERS



#### Black Anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁💧 ↑ 30cm-1m ↔ 0.5-2.5m.  
Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Hardy, easily maintained plant.

Ideal for growing close to trees.



#### Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁💧 ↑ 30cm-1m ↔ 1-3m

**Features:** Very hardy. Prune in winter to rejuvenate.

Great in rock gardens, in pots, under trees or in an open position in the garden.



### Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 10cm ↔ 0.5 - 1.5m. Well-drained soils.

**Features:** Grows well under other plants.



### Cut-leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 10-40cm ↔ 20cm-1m.

Prefers moist soil and will tolerate dryness once established.

**Features:** Grows well in pots. Fast growing. Light pruning after flowering.



### Kidney Plant (*Dichondra repens*)

**Requirements:** ☁️ ☁️ 💧

↑ prostrate ↔ creeping herb.

Well-drained soils.

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



### Native Flax (*Linum marginale*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 30-80cm ↔ 30cm

**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.





## Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↓ prostrate ↔ 1-2.5m

Accepts most soils but avoid poor drainage.

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



## Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧

↓ 15-50cm ↔ 15cm

Moist well-drained soil

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



## GRASSES

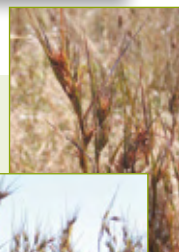
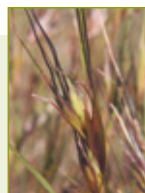
### Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↓ 70-90cm ↔ 40-70cm

Adaptable to most soils.

**Features:** Attractive tufting grass.



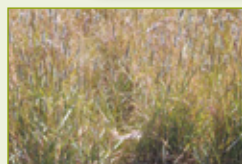
### Silky Blue-grass (*Dichanthium sericeum*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ 💧

↓ 30-50cm ↔ 30-40cm

Well-drained heavy clay soils.

**Features:** Blue-grey appearance provides great contrast.



## Wallaby Grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 30-40cm ↔ 30-40cm

Well-drained soil.

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



## SHRUBS (up to 4m)

### Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧 HHH

↑ 1-2m ↔ 1-2 m

Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Responds well to regular pruning.



### Drooping Cassinia (*Cassinia arcuata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 1-3m ↔ 1-2m

Well-drained soil.

**Features:** This graceful plant is easy to grow.



### Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 HHH

↑ 50cm-2.5m ↔ 2-4m

Adaptable to most soils

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







### Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧 HHH

↑ 1-2.5m ↔ 1-3m Prefers damp soil

**Features:** Fast growing. It responds well to pruning.

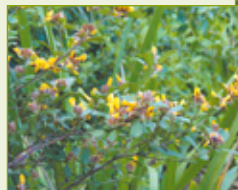


### Large-leaf Bush-pea (*Pultenaea daphnoides*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 1-3m ↔ 50cm-2m

**Features:** Attractive tall shrub.



### River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧 HHH

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

**Features:** Excellent screening shrub.

Pruning encourages flowering.



### Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ ☁️ 💧 HHH

↑ 1-3m ↔ 1-3m Well-drained soils.

**Features:** Establishes well under existing trees.

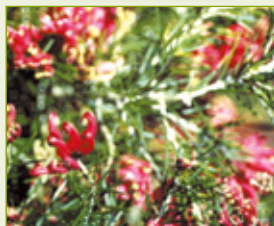


### Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosemarinifolia*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 1-3m ↔ 2-3m Well-drained soil

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



**Tree Violet****(*Melicytus dentata*)****Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 2-4m ↔ 1-2.5m

Well-drained soils

**Features:** It has violet coloured berries.**Twiggy Daisy-bush****(*Olearia ramulosa*)****Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 50cm-2.5m ↔ 1m

Well-drained soils

**Features:** Pruning as the flowers begin to fade usually encourages a further flush of flowers.**TREES (over 4m)****Black Sheoke****(*Allocasuarina littoralis*)****Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 4-8m ↔ 2-5m

Well-drained soil

**Features:** Excellent screen plant and windbreak.**Lightwood****(*Acacia implexa*)****Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧

↑ 5-15m ↔ 4-7m
























































Adaptable to most soils

**Features:** Small screen or shade tree.



## SUSTAINABLE PLANT LIST ✓

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

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	FORM	CONDITIONS
Catmint	<i>Nepeta cultivar</i>	Ground Cover	 
Creeping Boobialla	<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Ground Cover	 
Flax	<i>Phormium cultivars</i>	Strap Foliage	 
Swan-neck Agave	<i>Agave attenuate</i>	Strap Foliage	 
Wekleaf Yucca	<i>Yucca flaccida</i>	Strap Foliage	 
Heliotrope "Cherry Pie"	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	Cottage	 
Jerusalem Sage	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Cottage	 
Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Cottage	 
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon cultivars</i>	Cottage	 
Sage	<i>Salvia species</i>	Cottage	 
Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium perezii</i>	Cottage	 
Correa	<i>Correa 'Dusky Bells'</i>	Small Shrub	 
Hebe	<i>Hebe 'Blue Gem'</i>	Small Shrub	 
Rock Thryptomene	<i>Thryptomene saxicola</i>	Small Shrub	 
Rosemary	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	Small Shrub	 
Salmon Correa	<i>Correa pulchella</i>	Small Shrub	 
Wallflower	<i>Cheiranthus 'Winter Cheer'</i>	Small Shrub	 
White Correa	<i>Correa alba</i>	Small Shrub	 
Coastal Rosemary	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Medium Shrub	 
Plumbago	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Medium Shrub	 
Weeping Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Medium Shrub	 
Californian Lilac	<i>Ceanothus 'Blue Pacific'</i>	Tall Shrub	 
Grevillea	<i>Grevillea 'Ivanhoe'</i>	Tall Shrub	
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Tall Shrub	 
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'</i>	Small Tree	 
Crepe Myrtle	<i>Lagerstromia 'Yuma'</i>	Small Tree	 
Willow Myrtle	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Medium Tree	 
Cabbage Tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Tree	
Lemon-scented Gum	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Tree	

LEGEND:

Full Sun = 

Part Shade = 

Shade = 

## DAREBIN GARDEN ESCAPEES

All the plants in this section are serious garden escapees in Darebin. Garden escapees are generally more invasive than indigenous plants and will often displace native flora and become the dominant species very quickly. Invasive plants reduce the biodiversity of the environment and often create a monoculture if left unchecked. Managing Garden Escapees is costly and reduces the level of revegetation and rehabilitation programs that can be undertaken. 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*)

#### Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

A scrambling climber.

Leaves shiny, broadly oval to round.

**Replace with:**

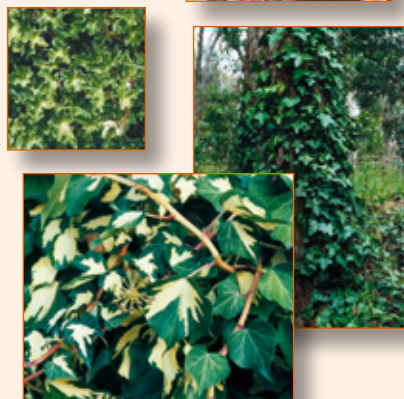
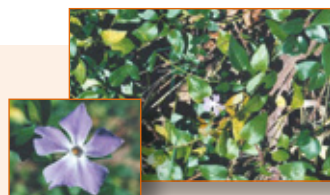
Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

#### 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-leaved 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. Leaves spear shaped, bright green.

**Replace with:**

Large bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)



### Moth Plant (*Araujia sericifera*)

A climber that can grow to 10m tall. Triangular leaves to 11cm long. Fruit looks like a choko. Poisonous to poultry and dogs. Sap can cause skin irritation.

**Replace with:**

Common Appleberry (*Billardiera scandens*)



### 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

### Agapanthus (*Agapanthus* spp.)

Leaves poisonous. Sticky sap can ulcer mouth.

**Replace with:** Pale Flax-Lily (*Dianella longifolia*)



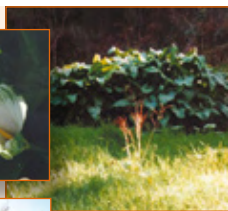


**Arum Lily**  
**(*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)**

Highly poisonous.

**Replace with:**

Pale Flax-Lily (*Dianella longifolia*)



**Fountain Grass**  
**(*Pennisetum setaceum*)**

**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*)



**SHRUBS**

**Castor Oil Plant**  
**(*Ricinus communis*)**

Highly poisonous seeds

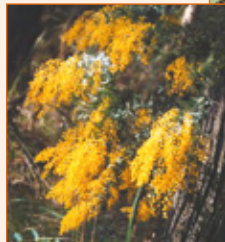
**Replace with:** Prickly Currant-bush  
 (*Coprosma quadrifida*)



**Cootamundra Wattle**  
**(*Acacia baileyana*)**

**Replace with:**

Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)



**Cotoneaster**  
**(*Cotoneaster* spp.)**

Berries contain toxins that can be harmful to infants if eaten.

**Replace with:**

Prickly Currant-bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*)

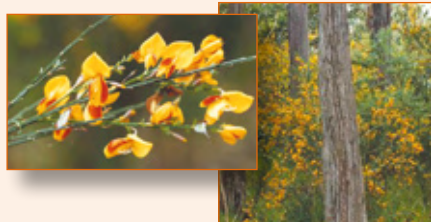


### English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

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*)



### Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyma*)

#### Replace with:

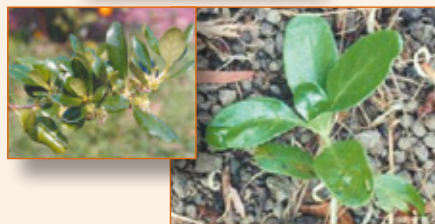
Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentata*)



### Mirror Bush (*Coprosma repens*)

#### 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**  
(*Optunia* spp.)

Replace with:

Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum laciniatum*)



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

Replace with:

Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)



**TREES**



**Desert Ash**  
(*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Replace with:

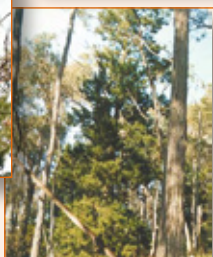
Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)



**Pine Tree**  
(*Pinus* spp.)

Replace with:

Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)



**Sweet Pittosporum**  
(*Pittostrum undulatum*)

Replace with:

Muttonwood (*Rapanea howittiana*)



## 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 our 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 GreenUp Product Guide on the SGA website [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au))
- ☐ 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

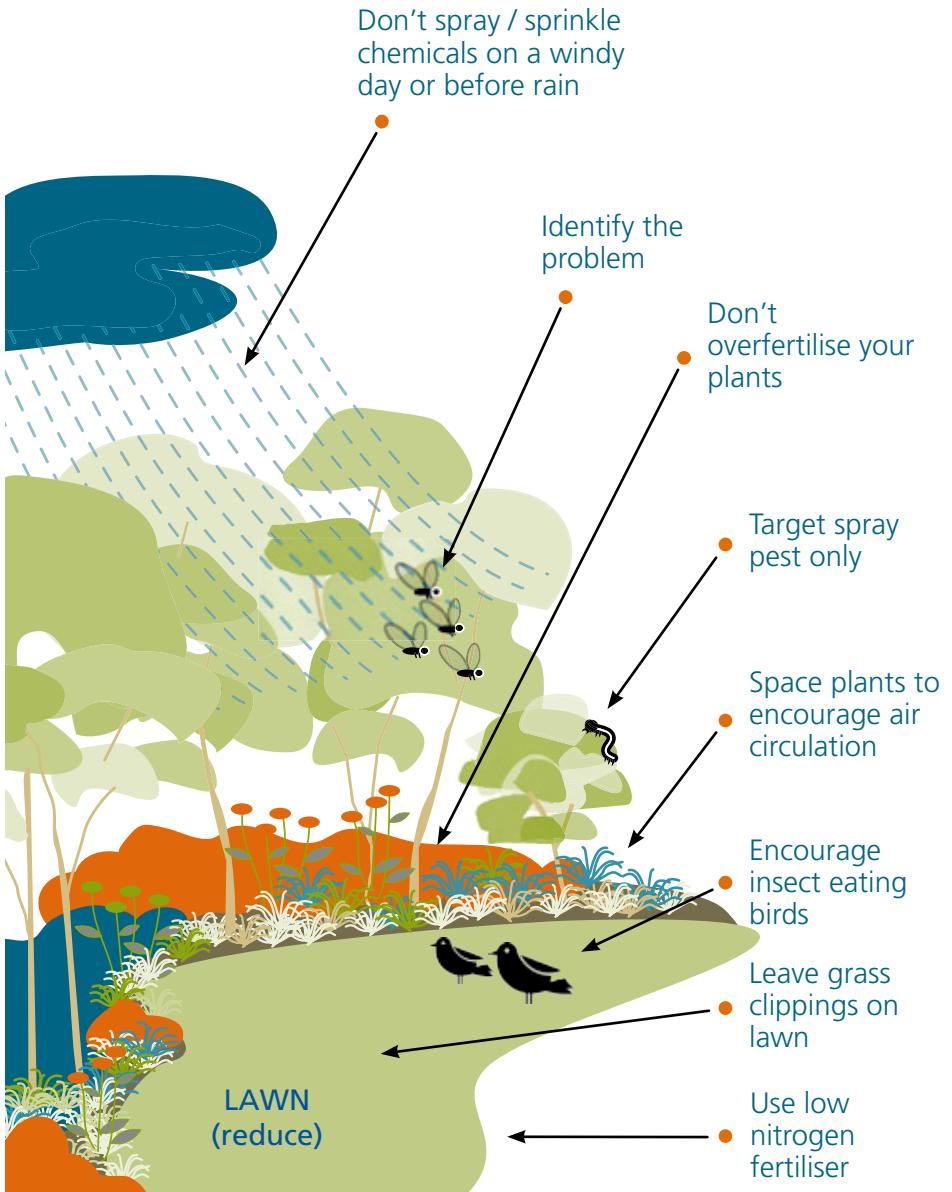
**Chemical Score** /7

## 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





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. Check the SGA 'GreenUp Guide' for low environmental impact products.

### 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](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

Native Flax, (*Linum marginale*) refer to Local Plant Guide





## FOOD GARDENING

There's nothing more satisfying than plucking your fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs straight from your garden. There are many great reasons to grow your own produce.

- Home grown food is healthy. Fruit and vegetables begin to lose their vitamins as soon as they're picked. After 5 days some have lost 40–50% of vitamins. When you grow your own vegetables, you know exactly what has gone into it and so you can make sure your produce is free from harmful chemicals.
- It's better for the environment. Commercially growing fruit and vegetables uses a lot of energy, water and chemicals in fertilisers, weed sprays and pest killers, and in storing, transporting and selling produce. Growing food locally and organically can dramatically reduce climate pollution and your environmental footprint.
- Growing your own fruit, vegetables and herbs is so easy. Even if you only grow tomatoes and herbs in pots, it's a start! If you want to produce a regular supply, spend a little time setting up the beds to be low maintenance and you will be able to spend as little or as much time as you like in the garden. Picking what you need, as you need it, is so convenient.
- Children love to watch vegetables grow. Your garden can become an opportunity for children to learn, explore, experiment and taste new flavours.



## TIPS FOR SETTING UP AND MAINTAINING YOUR VEGETABLE PATCH

1. Fruit and vegetables generally like to grow in the full sun, so make sure to pick a sunny part of your garden for your vegetable patch and fruit trees.
2. Fruit and vegetables need more water and richer soil than local and native plants so it's best to grow them in separate parts of the garden.
3. You can grow vegetables in garden beds, no dig beds (these can be put in over old concrete or paving), wicking beds, or even big pots. For different types of garden beds and how to make them see [www.sgaonline.org.au/?p=611](http://www.sgaonline.org.au/?p=611) yummy yards kit fact sheets.
4. Use recycled plastic sleepers, bricks, large stones or recycled hardwood to make raised beds. Never use treated wood, tyres or anything that may have been treated with chemicals which will leach into the soil.
5. To avoid compacting your soil from walking on it, either make a large bed with a few paths through it, or make smaller beds where you can reach without stepping into them (an average reach is 60cm, so if you can walk on either side a bed could be 1.2m wide).
6. To enrich your soil for food gardening add organic fertilisers such as compost, sheep or cow manure, and blood and bone. How much you need depends on the quality of your soil. Many gardens will benefit from at least one large bag of manure and a few handfuls of blood and bone for every few square meters of garden bed.
7. Before planting, consider putting in a drip irrigation watering system. Drip irrigation systems are more water efficient and, dependent on water restrictions, can be set on a timer to save you having to hand water. You may want to consider putting in a rainwater tank specifically for your produce garden. Mulching your garden also saves water.



8. The soil of vegetable gardens need to be kept moist most days, particularly when plants are small. It's best to water plants in the morning as evening watering can result in higher mould and fungi problems. In winter you may rarely need to water due to rain and low evaporation. However when its warmer you may need to water at least three times a week, or every day in particularly hot weather. Fruit trees need a deep watering at least once a week. Pots dry out quicker than gardens and may need daily watering – check the soil.
9. For beginners, seedlings and large seeds are the easiest to grow and can be planted directly into the garden. Follow the directions on the packet or label for plant space requirements. Once planted, water them in thoroughly.
10. Try heritage seeds. The fruit and vegetables of heritage plants generally ripen gradually so you don't have too much produce at once.
11. Try planting long lasting (perennial) crops that don't need to be replanted every year. This can save you time and money. Great perennial crops include asparagus, strawberries, currants, globe artichokes, some chilli bushes, passionfruit vines, grape vines, fruit trees, nut trees, and woody herbs such as rosemary, sage, oregano, lemon verbena and thyme. Grow mint in a pot as it can take over in garden beds.
12. If you can, try planting your crops over time. For example, plant early and then late season tomatoes to get produce from early summer to autumn, or plant a few bok choi every two weeks so you have a regular supply rather than too many all at once. Consider planting crops that can be harvested all season. For example, silverbeet, kale or lettuce from which you can take a few leaves at a time and they will continue to grow.



13. Spread pea straw or lucerne straw over your vegetable patch in summer to reduce water loss due to evaporation. Leave a few centimetres gap around plants to avoid rotting the stem. This straw will rot down over time and provide nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
14. When seedlings are young you need to check for snails and caterpillars most days, as a small plant can be eaten very quickly. Go out at night and drown snails in a bucket of salt water. Also try removing the lid and cutting the bottom off 2 litre plastic bottles and placing these over seedlings to protect them.
15. To manage pests, use natural alternatives such as hand removing cabbage moth caterpillars and snails, or use pyrethrum and garlic sprays. Try planting aromatic herbs, such as oregano and rosemary, amongst your vegetables to disguise their scent from pests, or plant pest prone vegetables amongst different plants to hide their foliage.
16. Rotate the position of vegetables every year to stop diseases spreading.



## SHARE OR SWAP WHAT YOU'VE GROWN

One of the great joys of growing food is you can share it with your family, friends and neighbours. You can even swap excess for other home garden produce at local food swaps. These are generally informal community gatherings where produce is swapped. Swapping can include: fruit, vegetables, herbs, seeds, cuttings, advice, preserves, etc.

Check information on Council's website, local community notice boards or <http://transitiondarebin.org/> or do an internet search on local food swaps.



## COMMUNITY GARDENING

PermaBlitzes are informal community opportunities where two or more people come together to create or add to edible home gardens, share/learn skills and have fun. [www.permablitz.net](http://www.permablitz.net)

Sustainable Gardening Australia runs the POD Project which encourages neighbours to come together to share knowledge, muscles, seeds and tools and have fun. [www.sgaonline.org.au/pods](http://www.sgaonline.org.au/pods)

## TOO MUCH SPACE OR NOT ENOUGH?

Landshare Australia connects growers with people who have land to spare or share. [www.landshareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landshareaustralia.com.au)

If you don't have enough space for a veggie garden you may also be able to join a local community garden. Look for one close to you at: [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment).

### Give yourself a tick if you:

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

**Food Gardening Score** /2

### Further Information

*Backyard Self-Sufficiency* – Jackie French  
*The Australian Vegetable Book* – Clive Blazey  
*Natural Gardening in Australia* – Jeffrey Hodges  
*City of Darebin Sow What When* – seed planting guide  
[www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/environment)  
[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)



## SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT SELECTION

When buying products for the garden we often don't think about where they have come from, for example, River 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. With some thought we can support more environmentally sound practices through the products we choose for our gardens and homes.

### *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
- ☐ Reuse your plastic plant pots or put them in a Garden Center pot recycling bin

**Product Score** /4

### ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT TIPS

1. Look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timbers. 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.
2. 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.
3. Make sure you ask where mulch has come from as some are sourced from the logging of old growth forests or contain weed seeds.
4. Ceramic pots fired using gas and produced locally have a lower environmental impact than those fired using coal or wood and transported from overseas.

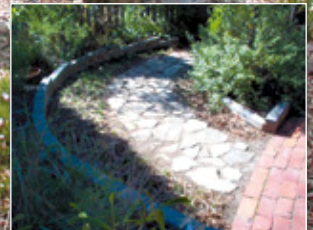


5. River pebbles may have been sourced from waterways in developing countries such as China and India. This destroys the local ecosystem and causes silt to wash down stream to communities who rely on the river for drinking and washing. Use locally crushed rock and granitic gravel.



### Further information

*Forest Friendly Building Timbers* – The Wilderness Society  
[www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)



### Sustainable Gardening Score Card

SECTION	Now	6 mths	12 mths
Design (8)			
Soil (5)			
Compost (6)			
Water (10)			
Plants (8)			
Chemicals (7)			
Food Gardening (2)			
Products (4)			
<b>TOTAL (50)</b>			

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 6 months and 12 months time. 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

For advice on indigenous plants and environmental weeds

City of Darebin,  
Bushland Management  
Phone 8470 8888  
[www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au)

Merri Creek Management  
Committee  
Phone 9380 8199  
[www.mcmc.org.au](http://www.mcmc.org.au)

Darebin Creek  
Management Committee  
Phone 9499 4454  
[www.dcmc.org.au](http://www.dcmc.org.au)

For free sustainable gardening information and advice go to  
[www.SGAonline.org.au](http://www.SGAonline.org.au)

**Nurseries stocking indigenous plants suitable for the City of Darebin**

Keelbundora Indigenous  
Nursery  
Ring Road, LaTrobe University  
Wildlife Reserve, Bundoora.  
Phone 9479 2871

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

CERES Bushfood and  
Permaculture Nursery\*  
8 Lee St, East Brunswick.  
Phone 9387 4403

Western Plains Flora  
628 Wildwood Rd, Wildwood.  
Phone 9740 3178

\*SGA Environmentally Certified  
Garden Centre

### Further reading

*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.

(Available at Preston, Northcote,  
Fairfield and Reservoir libraries.)

*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.

(Available at Preston and Northcote  
libraries.)

*Costermans, L.F (1933) Native  
Trees and Shrubs of South-  
Eastern Australia,* Lansdowne  
Publishing Pty Ltd, Sydney.



This booklet is about gardening in a way that helps the environment. It has information on how to improve your soil naturally, use less chemicals, save water, compost your kitchen scraps and garden waste, choose beautiful local plants and buy things for your garden that don't damage the environment. For more information call our multilingual telephone line on 8470 8470.

### Italian

Questo opuscolo spiega come occuparsi di giardinaggio aiutando l'ambiente. Contiene informazioni per migliorare naturalmente il terreno, adoperare meno sostanze chimiche, risparmiare acqua, compostare i rifiuti della cucina e del giardino, scegliere belle piante locali e comprare prodotti per il giardino che non danneggino l'ambiente. Per ottenere maggiori informazioni chiamare la nostra Linea telefonica multilingue al numero 8470 8470.

### Greek

Το βιβλιάριο αυτό αναφέρεται στην κηπουρική που γίνεται με τέτοιο τρόπο ώστε να βοηθάει το περιβάλλον. Περιέχει πληροφορίες για το πως να βελτιώνεται φυσικά το έδαφος σας, να χρησιμοποιείται λιγότερα χημικά, να οικονομείται νερό, να δημιουργείται κόπτρο από τα υπολείμματα της κουζίνας και απορρίμματα του κήπου σας, να διαλέγετε όμορφα τοπικά φυτά και να αγοράζετε πράγματα για τον κήπο σας που δεν καταστρέφουν το περιβάλλον. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες καλέστε την πολύγλωσση τηλεφωνική μας γραμμή στο 8470 8470.

### Chinese

本冊子將介紹環保園藝方面的知識。其中包含有關如何透過自然方式改良土壤、利用較少的化肥、節約用水、利用廚房殘渣與花園廢物合成肥料、選擇本地精美植物以及購買對環境無害的花園用品方面的知識。如需瞭解更多詳情，請致電多語種專線 8470 8470。

### Arabic

يقدم هذا الكتيب معلومات عن البستنة بطريقة تساعد البيئة. ويتناول أموراً مثل تحسين التربة بشكل طبيعي، التقليل من استخدام المواد الكيميائية، توفير المياه، تحويل فضلات المطبخ والحديقة إلى سماد عضوي، اختيار نباتات محلية جميلة وشراء مواد لحديقتك لا تؤذي البيئة. للمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الإتصال بخط داربين متعدد اللغات على الرقم 8470 8470.

### Macedonian

Темата на оваа книшка е градинарството на начин да и се помогне на околината. Содржи информации како природно да се подобри земјата, да се користат помалку хемикалии, да се штеди вода, да се преработуваат отпадоците од кујната и градината, како да се изберат убави локални растенија и како да се купат работи за градината кои не и штетат на околината. За повеќе информации јавете се на нашата повеќејазична телефонска линија 8470 8470.

### Vietnamese

Đây là tài liệu về cách làm vườn có ích lợi cho môi trường, gồm chỉ tiết về cách làm cho đất thêm màu mỡ một cách tự nhiên, sử dụng ít hóa chất hơn, tiết kiệm nước, làm phân xanh bằng các đồ phế thải từ nhà bếp và từ vườn tược, chọn những loại cây bản địa đẹp và mua những món cho vườn tược mà không gây hại cho môi trường. Muốn biết thêm chi tiết xin điện thoại cho đường dây điện thoại đa ngôn ngữ qua số 8470 8470.