

HUME CITY COUNCIL  
**SUSTAINABLE  
GARDENING**

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





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sustainability within  
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## INTRODUCTION

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 are low maintenance as they require less watering, lower application of fertilisers and chemicals, and less mowing and pruning.

Gardening can have a positive benefit to the health of our environment. When we:

- Use local plants we provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies.
- Conserve water in the garden it helps to maintain water levels in our reservoirs.
- Reduce chemical use in the garden there will be less chemicals in our creeks and streams.
- Compost our household and garden organic waste it reduces the amount of waste going into landfill and therefore cuts the amount of greenhouse gas produced.
- Purchase renewable resources for the garden instead of non-renewable resources, it can help protect our old growth forests and river ecosystems.

Gardening is all about creating a beautiful environment. It is important that we create diverse and interesting gardens for our family and friends to come together to work, play and socialise. This booklet has been designed to provide information and inspiration to create your own sustainable garden in Hume.



*Showing the way to sustainable gardening.*

## GARDEN DESIGN

Many gardens 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. They are also 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.

### 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. Do a site analysis. Focus on soil quality, sun, shade, privacy and fire risk potential. This will tell you what your site will let you do.
3. List what you need (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. Consider locations that are practical and look good.
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.
7. If you have a fine lawn grass such as 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.

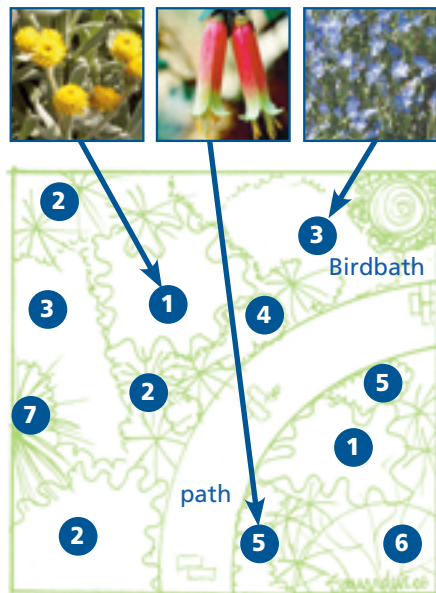
Running grasses such as Couch or Kikuyu will not be eliminated by newspaper and mulch. They are very tough grasses to remove and you can try one of three methods:

- Cover 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.



## COTTAGE GARDEN

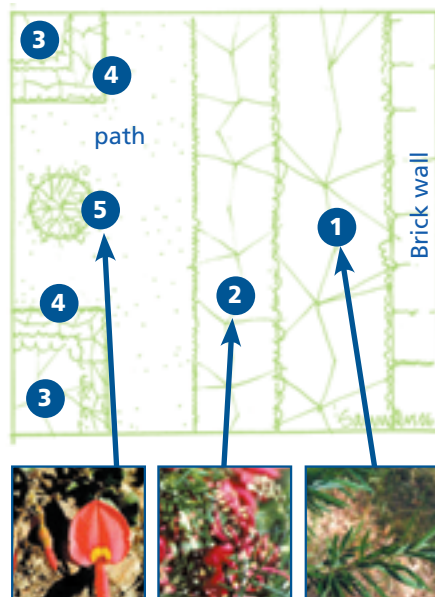
The cottage garden look is easily achieved with local plants and the addition of a few other native plants. Unlike the traditional cottage garden, this garden can look interesting and colourful all year round, and it's drought tolerant. Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*) looks delightful growing with the grey-leaved Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*).



- 1 Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)
- 2 Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)
- 3 Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)
- 4 Lobe-seed Daisy (*Brachyscome dentata*)
- 5 Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)
- 6 Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)
- 7 Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*)

## FORMAL GARDEN

Some local plants can be grown into neat clipped hedges and shapes to complement the straight lines of a formal garden. These gardens require a bit more maintenance but at least the plants chosen can be drought tolerant. The local shrub Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*), for example, can be pruned to create a formal hedge. In front, Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*) forms a lower hedge, to create a tiered effect.



- 1 Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*)
- 2 Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*)
- 3 Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)
- 4 Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)
- 5 Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*), growing in an urn

## JAPANESE-STYLED GARDEN

The sculptural and minimal look of a Japanese Garden creates a quiet, thoughtful place. There are many local (indigenous) and native plants that work very well and sit beautifully with Japanese sculptural elements. Clumps of the Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*), for example, look dramatic in a gravel garden with feature rocks, such as shown here. A Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) growing in a lawn of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) can be a sculptural element.



- 1 Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*)
- 2 Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) lawn
- 3 Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)
- 4 Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)

## INFORMAL NATURAL GARDENS

The famous Australian bush garden has a relaxed easy-care feel about it. Here a meandering path crosses a dry creek bed. These gardens are a haven for wildlife and a great refuge for humans. With a bit of planning, you can ensure there is something in flower almost all year round.



- 1 Drooping Sheoke (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)
- 2 Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)
- 3 Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)
- 4 Common Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*)
- 5 Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)
- 6 River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)
- 7 Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)
- 8 Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)

## SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth. Water use in the garden is a major contributor to high water consumption levels throughout Hume. By improving the soil and using alternative water sources for the garden such as rain water collected in tanks, storm water directed into the garden, grey water and installing efficient irrigation systems along with good garden design, significant water savings can be made.



### WATER TIPS

1. Plant local (indigenous) native plants to reduce water use and maintenance.
2. Water the base of plants, not the leaves and use mulch to reduce evaporation and run-off.
3. Use a drip watering system or porous hose which cuts wastage by ensuring that the water only goes where it is needed.
4. Avoid micro-sprays. They waste up to 70% water through drift and evaporation and if the soil is mulched, water will not penetrate the soil.
5. Check and clean your irrigation system every Spring.
6. Position irrigation systems so that water isn't wasted on paths, patios, driveways and buildings.
7. Install garden tap timers to reduce over-watering.
8. Use a rain sensor in your garden so that watering doesn't occur automatically when it is wet.
9. Check the weather forecast to avoid watering before rain.
10. Stop water evaporating before it reaches your plant roots by watering in the late evening –subject to restrictions.

### BE INFORMED ABOUT WATER RESTRICTIONS

Details on current Water Restrictions and Permanent Water Saving Rules can be found at [www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au) or call 131 722

## RAINWATER TANKS

A rainwater tank is a good way to reduce the amount of mains (drinking) water used on your garden. Collecting rainwater from the roof will provide water for the garden that is not subject to the same restrictions as mains water.

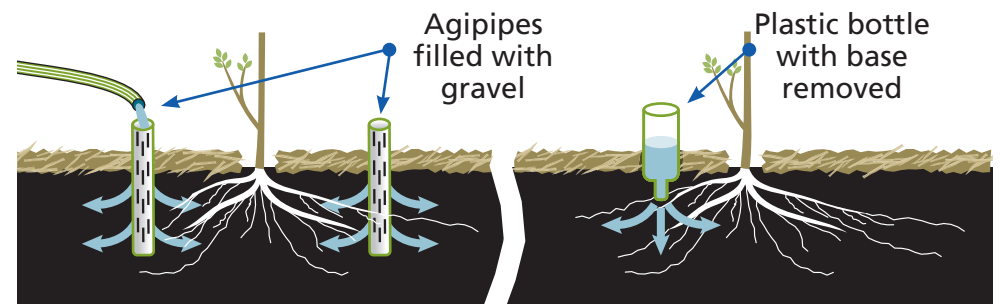
Rainwater tanks can also be used to directly supply water to the toilet, bathroom, laundry and kitchen. If mains water is connected to a rainwater tank the water must be used in compliance with current water restrictions for garden use. Victorian Government rebates are available to cover some of the costs of installing rainwater tanks. Conditions apply. Contact your local water retailer for further information or visit [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/ourwater/water\\_smart\\_rebates/](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/ourwater/water_smart_rebates/)



The ideal tank size will depend on what the water will be used for, the size of your roof and local rainfall patterns. The larger the tank the more expensive it will be, and obviously the more room it needs.

A smaller tank might be enough to provide 'opportunity' water for occasional use, but is not likely to last through the summer. For greater certainty of supply, and to reduce your water use overall, a larger tank is needed. A tank holding 3000 litres or more is ideal for summer watering. Also consider whether a pump will be needed to move water around your garden, as there will be less water pressure coming from a rainwater tank.

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



## GREYWATER

Greywater is domestic wastewater, excluding toilet waste which is sometimes referred to as blackwater. Providing care is taken with the products used (eg. low phosphorous and sodium washing powders) 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. It 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.

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

For further information on greywater recycling contact Council's Environmental Health or Sustainable Environment Department on 9205 2200.

### Do:

- ✓ Only use wastewater from baths, showers, hand basins and washing machines (final rinse water).
- ✓ 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 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.

### Further Information

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

## HABITAT GARDENING

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

### BIRDS

Birds are beautiful creatures that are a joy to watch in any garden. In addition, many birds feed on plant pests such as aphids and scale, contributing to non-chemical pest control in the garden! To attract birds to your garden consider the following points.

**Shelter:** birds need shelter from predators such as cats and predatory birds. Help protect your feathered visitors by providing prickly or dense plants at various levels in your garden.

**Water:** a reliable water source, particularly in summer will attract birds to your garden. If you install a birdbath, place it near dense or prickly plants to provide birds with protection from predators.

**Food:** Small birds – Silvereyes, Blue Wrens, Finches, Fantails and Thornbills forage in the lower levels of the garden. They feed on insects and help to keep plant pest numbers down. Native grasses such as Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) provide an important source of food for grass seed-eating birds such as Red-browed Finches and Crested Pigeons.



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



Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*).



Honey Eating birds – Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds and Eastern Spinebills are specialist nectar feeders. They use their brush-like tongues to collect nectar from the flowers of Melaleucas, Correas (*Correa reflexa* or *C. glabra*), and Silver Banksias (*Banksia marginata*). They also like to eat insects as a source of protein.

Parrots – Crimson and Eastern Rosellas feed on Eucalypt flowers and seeds, while Cockatoos and Galahs prefer the seeds of Hakeas (*Hakea nodosa*), Callistemon (*Callistemon sieberi*) and Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus radiata* or *E. ovata*). Red-rump grass parrots feed on grass seeds.

Large birds – Magpies, Kookaburras and Butcherbirds feed on larger insects, small lizards and skinks.



Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).

## BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden and with a few simple design principles are easily attracted.

**Nectar traps:** Colourful, massed flower beds draw butterflies in and keep them happily moving through the garden. They are attracted to a large range of coloured flowers, in particular blue, yellow and red.

**Flowers:** Simple, flat flowers make it easier for butterflies to extract nectar. Double flowers (multiple layers of petals) are difficult for butterflies to feed from, but simple flowers like Daisies, Pelargoniums (*Pelargonium australe*), Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia communis*), Saltbush plants (*Atriplex semibaccata*), and Pea flowers (*Bossiaea prostrata*) are more suitable.

**Position:** Butterflies use the early morning sun to warm themselves and retreat to cooler, shadier places during the heat of the day. Providing a sheltered position that combines warmth and protection is ideal. Also consider adding flat rocks for butterflies to bask and to court each other. Mud puddles or a dish of damp sand can provide them with water and salts.



Australian Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawii*).

**Host plants:** Incorporate host plants for butterflies to lay eggs. Caterpillars are generally small and shy, and won't devastate the garden. Popular indigenous plants include Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) and Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), and grasses such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.) and Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*).

## LIZARDS

Most lizards found in the garden are little Grass Skinks that feed on insects and larvae. You may be fortunate enough to encounter a larger lizard such as a Blue-tongue or Shingleback, but these beautiful creatures are not as common as they used to be.

To create lizard habitat in your garden, provide the following:

- Tussock grass and hiding spots between rocks and logs for protection.
- A protected sunny spot on a rock, log or brick path.
- Natural leaf mulch to support the insects and larvae they feed on.



Common Blue-tongue Lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*).

Where possible avoid using snail bait as Blue-tongue lizards will eat the poisoned snails.

## FROGS

What could be more interesting than watching tadpoles grow into frogs and then being serenaded by their calls at night? Frogs also help control pests in your garden as they eat flies, mosquitoes, slugs, snails and even spiders.

In order to enjoy frogs in your garden you will need to provide a pond with certain features, but you'll also need to live near a frog population to attract them from.



Pobbleblon (*Limnodynastes dumerili*).



A frog pond can incorporate one or all of the requirements for each part of the frogs' lifecycle:

- Damp bog zone for adult frogs.
- Shallow water zone for laying eggs.
- Deep zone of at least 30cm for tadpoles.

Your frog garden should also have:

- Soft, thick vegetation that droops into the water, for shelter and protection.
- Rocks, logs, bark and leaf litter.
- Mostly shade.
- Sloping sides for frogs to crawl out.
- Been made from non-toxic materials (concrete ponds will need to be sealed and plastic ponds be made of food-grade plastic).
- Food plants for tadpoles (and they will eat them, so don't put your prize waterlily in there).

#### Frog-friendly plants:

Tufting plants – Pale Rush (*Juncus pallidus*) or Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*).

Bog plants – Thatch Saw-sedge (*Gahnia radula*), Knobby Club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*), Tassel Cord Rush (*Restio tetraphyllus*).

Water plants – Common Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*) and Water Ribbons (*Triglochin procerum*).



Common Nardoo  
(*Marsilea drummondii*).

#### Things to avoid:

- Fish – most fish will eat tadpoles.
- Fountain pumps – tadpoles and eggs can be killed by them.
- Cats and dogs – protect the frog area of your garden with sharp, spiky plants.
- Chemicals – frogs eat insects, so you don't want to spray them. Frogs are very sensitive to chemicals which can be absorbed through their thin skin.
- Allowing floating plants such as Duckweed or Azolla to cover the top of the pond. This can result in reduced oxygen levels for tadpoles.
- Cleaning out the pond too often – tadpoles need some material to be breaking down in the pond water to provide food for them.
- Collecting tadpoles from the wild is illegal in most parts of Australia.

## MAMMALS

As the human population grows urban development has replaced natural habitat. Our unique native animals have either adapted or suffered a dramatic decline due to loss of habitat, traditional food, disruption of breeding cycles or become victims of road kill. While you may be incredibly lucky to encounter a koala or echidna, you are more likely to have possums and bats as regular visitors.

**Possums:** Common Brush Tail and Ringtail Possum populations have adapted magnificently to the urban environment. With an abundance of highly nutritious food and great nesting sites in the roofs of buildings, their populations are higher in the urban areas than in the bush.

If possums are becoming a problem you may try the techniques recommended by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE):

- Build a floppy fence around the garden. Use 80cm wide, heavily galvanised chicken wire, bury the bottom 20cm and support the remainder on vertical lengths of flexible, high-tensile fencing wire. Bend the wire to curve the upper section outwards. When the possum attempts to climb the fence it will bend over and then spring back.
- Use collars to protect fruit trees.
- Repellents – recent tests showed none of 15 repellent compounds effectively prevented possums damaging ornamental trees or fruit (further information on repellents available on the DSE website).

If on the other hand you would like to attract possums, or particularly the more vulnerable animals such as the Sugar Glider to your garden, you could plant Banksias, Callistemons, Wattles, Teatrees and Eucalypts. Put in some appropriate nesting boxes to provide a safe, warm haven. It is important not to feed wildlife as human food can be dangerous and cause serious dietary imbalance.



Common Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*).

Photo: Viridans

## 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. If you mix your plants you can be forever replacing dead plants. Visit a garden centre to find a plant to suit the position you have in mind, not the other way round.

It is best to use local (indigenous) plants wherever possible because they are well suited to the local soil and climate conditions. They do not require large amounts of nutrients and once established, little water. There are many beautiful plants indigenous to Hume.

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. Consider removing and replacing potential garden escapees as there are many beautiful local plants that make great alternatives. For more information on noxious and environmental weeds, refer to page 25 or contact the Sustainable Environment Department on 9205 2200 or visit the Sustainable Gardening Australia website, [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au).



## HUME LOCAL PLANT GUIDE

The following list of species make great plants for gardens in Hume as they are indigenous to the area and provide habitat for native wildlife. Indigenous plants are also the most waterwise plants for your garden as they have adapted to the local climate and soil conditions so require less maintenance. See the list of nurseries stocking plants indigenous to Hume at the back of this booklet. For a more comprehensive indigenous plant list, please contact the Sustainable Environment Department on 9205 2200.

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

### WILDFLOWERS

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

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁ 💧 ↑ 80cm ↔ 50 cm.  
Well-drained soil.

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



#### Lobe-seed Daisy (*Brachyscome dentata*)

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁ 💧 ↑ 130cm ↔ 60cm.  
Prefers well drained soil, protect from snails and slugs

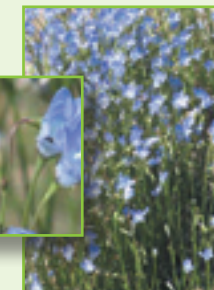
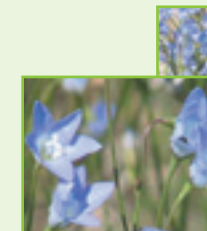
**Features:** Grows well in a pot.  
Light pruning after flowering.



#### Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*)

**Requirements:** ☀ ☁ ☁ 💧 ↑ 30cm ↔ 15cm.  
Moist, well-drained soil.

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





### Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)

**Requirements:** ☀️💧 ↓ 20cm ↔ 1m.  
Well-drained soil.

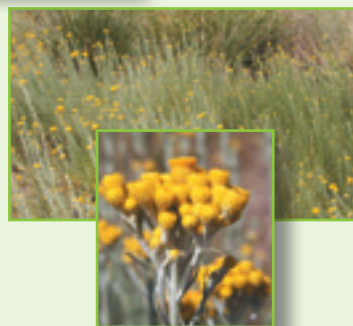
**Features:** An excellent rockery plant with contrasting silver foliage. Prune regularly to encourage new growth.



### Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 50cm ↔ 50cm.  
Well-drained soil.

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

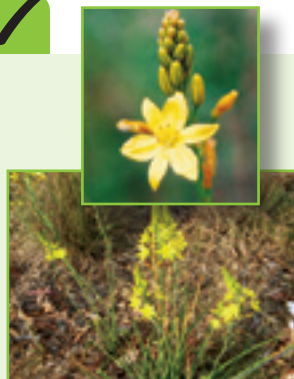


### SEASONAL WILDFLOWERS - will die back

#### Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 40cm ↔ 30cm.  
Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Beautiful in mass plantings. Plants die back to tuberous rootstock in dry weather to re-shoot in autumn.



#### Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 70cm ↔ 50cm.  
Well-drained soil. Adaptable to most soils.

**Features:** Chocolate-scented flowers brighten a rockery. Beautiful in mass plantings. Can be planted as bedding plants.



### Native Flax (*Linum marginale*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 40cm ↔ 40cm.  
Well-drained soil.

**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.



### GROUND COVERS

#### Creeping Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️💧 ↓ 20cm ↔ 1-2m.  
Well-drained soil. Salt tolerant.

**Features:** Grey-green foliage. Attractive small red berries after flowering.



#### Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 30cm ↔ 1m.  
Tolerates dry soils.

**Features:** Grey-green foliage. Attractive small red berries after flowering. A useful ground cover for rockeries.



#### Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)

**Requirements:** ☀️☁️💧 ↓ 5cm ↔ 1m.  
Very adaptable tolerating poor soils, dryness and some salinity.

**Features:** An attractive plant with green succulent leaves and red berries. Pruning is beneficial.



### Small-leaved Eutaxia (*Eutaxia microphylla*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ 💧 ↓ 5cm ↔ 1m.

Prefers sheltered position, well-drained soils.

**Features:** Grey-green leaves. Excellent plant for containers or rockeries. Responds well to pruning.



### Sticky Everlasting (*Bracteantha viscosa*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ 💧 ↓ 60cm ↔ 30cm.

Grows well on shallow soils. Prune to encourage bushiness.

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



### Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 10cm ↔ 1.5m.

Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Matting ground cover. Grows well under other plants.



### Kidney Plant (*Dichondra repens*)

**Requirements:** ☁️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ prostrate ↔ 30cm.

Well-drained soil.

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



### Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ prostrate ↔ 2m.

Accepts most soils, but avoid poor drainage.

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



## 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.



### Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ prostrate ↔ 3m

Well-drained soil.

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



## GRASSES

### Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 50cm ↔ 40cm

Adaptable to most soils.

**Features:** Attractive tufting grass.



### Common Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 50cm ↔ 30cm

Adapts to moist or slightly dry soil.

**Features:** Fast-growing grass. Lawn alternative. Attractive contrasting plant.







### Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 80cm ↔ 50cm  
Well-drained soil, tolerating dry shade.

**Features:** Excellent contrasting plant with its bright green strappy leaves. Grows well under established trees.



## SHRUBS

### Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 HHH ↓ 1.5m ↔ 2m  
Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Establishes well under existing trees. Responds well to a light pruning.



### Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 3m+ ↔ 2m  
Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Clusters of attractive bronze seed capsules follow flowering. Easily grown.



### Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosemarinifolia*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 2m ↔ 2m  
Well-drained soil.

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



### Sticky Boobialla (*Myoporum viscosum*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 2m ↔ 1m

**Features:** A tough plant once established. Regular pruning will extend life.



### River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 HHH ↓ 3m ↔ 3m  
Adaptable to many soils.

**Features:** Excellent screening shrub. Pruning encourages flowering.



### Wedge-leaf Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa* spp. *Spatulata*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 HHH ↓ 2m ↔ 1m  
Well-drained soil.

**Features:** Very hardy shrub. Excellent screening plant. Responds well to pruning.



### Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*)

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 2m ↔ 2m  
Well-drained soil. Lime tolerant.

**Features:** Needs regular pruning for shaping.



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

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 HHH ↓ 2m ↔ 2m  
Adaptable to most soils.

**Features:** A good low screening plant. Suitable for large pots.



## SMALL TREES

**Blackwood**  
*(Acacia melanoxylon)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 7m ↔ 5m  
Prefers deep moist soil, but adaptable.  
Will tolerate dry conditions once established.  
**Features:** A long-lived tree providing good screening and shade.

**Drooping Sheoak**  
*(Allocasuarina verticillata)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ 💧 ↓ 7m ↔ 4m  
Well-drained soil.  
**Features:** A graceful tree, excellent as a screening plant. The golden effect of the small flowers is an attractive feature of this tree.

**Silver Banksia**  
*(Banksia marginata)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 10m ↔ 5m  
Well-drained soil.  
**Features:** Bushy forms make excellent screening plants.

**Golden Wattle**  
*(Acacia pycnantha)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 8m ↔ 3m  
Well-drained soil.  
**Features:** Fast-growing tree.  
Pruning whilst young encourages denser growth.  
Good screening and windbreak tree.

**Lightwood**  
*(Acacia implexa)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 8m ↔ 5m  
Adaptable to most soils.  
**Features:** Fast growing tree. Excellent screening plant or shade tree.



## LARGE TREES

**Red Box**  
*(Eucalyptus polyanthemos)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 7-25m ↔ 5-15m  
Requires good drainage and will tolerate poor stoney soils.  
**Features:** Attractive slow-growing tree.

**Yellow Box**  
*(Eucalyptus melliodora)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 10-30m ↔ 8-25m  
Well-drained soil.  
**Features:** An excellent tree for larger gardens, providing shade and shelter.
























































**Yellow Gum**  
*(Eucalyptus leucoxylon)*

**Requirements:** ☀️ ☁️ 💧 ↓ 10-20m ↔ 5-8m  
Adaptable to most soils.  
**Features:** An excellent tree for larger gardens, providing shade and shelter.





## SUSTAINABLE PLANT LIST These plants are all low water users.

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

LEGEND: Full Sun =  Part Shade =  Shade = 

## HUME ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

The following list of species pose a significant threat to the natural values within Hume. These species can smother, choke, replace and out-compete native vegetation in Hume's environment. Please do not plant these species. If you have them in your garden, we encourage you to remove them. They can be replaced with one of the suggested species mentioned in the previous section 'Hume Local Plant Guide' in this booklet, refer to page 15. For a more comprehensive environmental weed list, contact the Sustainable Environmental Department on 9205 2200.

### WEED CONTROL TECHNIQUES



**Hand Pull:** hand removal of plant, most suitable for small plants and seedlings.



**Cut & Paint:** cut the plant stem and immediately apply an appropriate herbicide to the stump.



**Solarisation:** covering plants with a plastic sheet with buried edges for a four-week period. This allows the heat from the sun to kill off the plants underneath.



**Mulch:** smothering plants with a thick layer of appropriate mulch. Beware that the chosen mulch is weed-free.



**Scrape & Paint:** scrape the outer layer of an area of the plant stem and immediately apply an appropriate herbicide. Most appropriate on vine weeds.



**Spray:** apply herbicide to the surface of the foliage



**Drill & Fill:** Use a drill or other small tool to cut into the outer bark layer and apply an appropriate herbicide to the soft layer underneath the bark.

If using chemicals to control weeds remember:

- Use chemical control only if non-chemical control is unsuitable.
- Do not spray in high temperatures or if rain is forecast within 24 hours.
- Spray when plants are actively growing.
- Some chemicals require a Chemical Users Permit.
- Always read the label on the product and follow the directions for application rates, safety procedures and handling.

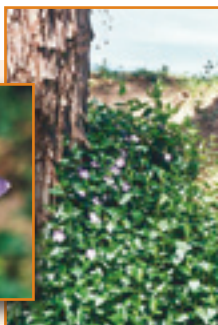
## CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

**Blue Periwinkle**  
(*Vinca major*)

Forms thick carpets in creeks and bushland.

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

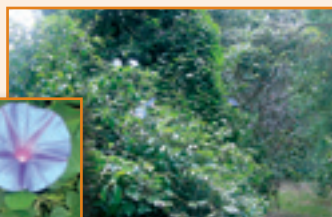
**Control:**    

**Morning Glory**  
(*Ipomoea indica*)

Fast growing climber that smothers bushland.

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

**Control:**   

**Cape Ivy**  
(*Delairea odorata*)

Toxic to both people and animals.

**Replace with:** Small-leaved Clematis  
(*Clematis microphylla*).

**Control:**    

**Bluebell Creeper**  
(*Sollya heterophylla*)

Vigorous climber. Contains toxins.

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

**Control:**    



## GRASSES AND HERBS

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

Highly poisonous. Escapes into creeks.



**Replace with:** Black Anther Flax-Lily  
(*Dianella revoluta*).

**Control:**   

**Pampas Grass**  
(*Cortaderia* spp.)

Leaves easily cut the skin and cause irritation when handled.

**Replace with:** Spiny-headed  
Mat-rush

(*Lomandra longifolia*).  
**Control:**  

**Agapanthus**  
(*Agapanthus praecox*)

Leaves poisonous. Sticky sap can cause mouth ulcers

**Replace with:** Black Anther Flax-Lily  
(*Dianella revoluta*).

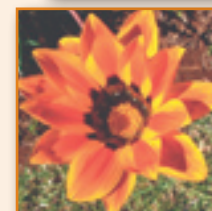
**Control:**  

**Gazania**  
(*Gazania* spp.)

Escapes onto roadsides and bushland.

**Replace with:** Lobe-seed Daisy  
(*Brachyscome dentata*).

**Control:**    





## TREES AND SHRUBS

**Flax Leaf Broom**  
**(*Genista linifolia*)**

Seeds highly poisonous.



**Replace with:** Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)**Control:**   **Montpellier Broom**  
**(*Genista monspessulana*)**

Seeds highly poisonous.


**Replace with:** Gold Dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)**Control:**   **Prickly Pears**  
**(*Opuntia spp.*)**

Succulent up to 5m. tall.


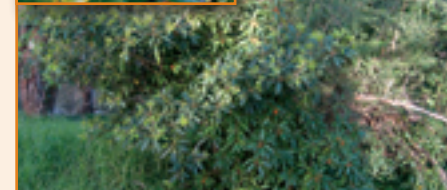
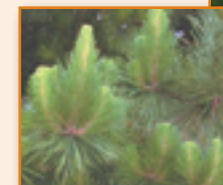

Large spines. Edible fruit.

**Replace with:** Kangaroo Apple  
(*Solanum laciniatum*)**Warning:** The fruit of the Kangaroo Apple is poisonous if eaten green.**Control:**  **Cootamundra Wattle**  
**(*Acacia baileyana*)**Fine, fern-like silvery-blue leaf, flowers  
June to September.**Replace with:** Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)  
or Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)**Control:**   

## TREES AND SHRUBS

**Desert Ash**  
**(*Fraxinus angustifolia*)**Glossy bright green leaves with serrated  
edges. Distinctive winged seed capsules.**Replace with:** Blackwood (*Acacia  
melanoxydon*)**Control:** **Monterey Pine**  
**(*Pinus radiata*)**Aromatic tree with needle leaves, often  
available as a Christmas tree.**Replace with:** Drooping Sheoke  
(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)**Control:** **Sweet Pittosporum**  
**(*Pittosporum undulatum*)**Dark green leaves, small creamy-white  
flowers. Distinctive, yellow fleshy fruit.**Replace with:** Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria  
spinosa*)**Control:**  **Sallow Wattle**  
**(*Acacia longifolia*)**

Spreads rapidly in coastal areas.

**Replace with:** Golden Wattle (*Acacia  
pycnantha*).**Control:**  

## VEGETABLE GARDENING

Growing fruit and vegetables commercially uses a large amount of energy and chemicals for heating, cooling, spraying weeds and pests, and transporting produce. Fruit and vegetables begin to lose their vitamins as soon as they're picked. After five days some have lost 40–50% of the vitamins. Growing your own vegetables is easy, and even easier if you've improved your soil. They're healthier, convenient and children love to watch them grow.



### 'NO DIG' VEGIE GARDENS

A 'no dig' garden is easy to set up and requires very low on-going maintenance. It can be built as a garden bed or in any container to any shape or size, save on water and fertiliser, and potentially recycle kitchen and garden waste.

#### HOW TO BUILD A NO DIG GARDEN ON EXISTING LAWN OR ONTO SOIL:

1. Mark out and form the walls. These should be at least 20cm high. You can use anything including old rocks, sleepers, bricks, blocks or pavers.
2. Line the base with a 3–5mm thickness of newspaper to suppress weeds; and wet thoroughly.
3. Then stack alternating layers of fine and coarse compostable materials. For example, start with a layer of pea straw, then a thin layer of cow manure, a layer of compost, and repeat the layers finishing with a thick compost layer.
4. Planting can be done into the top compost layer. Trowel a small hole to fit the seedlings in and plant. Water in well. The plant will eventually establish a strong root system in its nutritional base.
5. As the seedlings grow and the layers rot down, top up with more layers of manure and compost.
6. Mulch around your seedlings well with a pea straw and dig this into the soil as it rots down, before topping the mulch up.

You can also build a no dig garden in a large container, simply do the same as above, but omit step 1.

#### HOW TO BUILD A NO DIG GARDEN ON A SEALED SURFACE:

1. Mark out the size of the beds and construct the sides. If using bricks, sleepers or other rectangular shaped materials, make sure you leave some gaps for drainage. The walls should be at least 50 cm high.
2. Place a 7–10mm layer of coarse screenings or scoria at the base for drainage.
3. Layer the materials as listed above.
4. Plant the bed.
5. Top up layers as they rot down.

#### ORGANIC PRODUCE TIPS

1. Most fruit and vegetables grow well in full sun with plenty of water, organic fertiliser and compost.
2. Don't use treated pine in vegetable gardens as the chemicals in the timber can leach into the soil.
3. Use recycled plastic sleepers or recycled bricks to make raised beds. These will not rot.
4. Rotate the position of vegetables in your garden every year to stop diseases from spreading.
5. You will need to apply water regularly to your vegetable garden, so consider installing a rain water tank.
6. Regularly check for pests, especially snails on new seedlings.
7. Use low impact alternatives (such as pyrethrum and garlic sprays) at recommended doses to control pests.
8. You can plant early, mid and late season tomatoes.

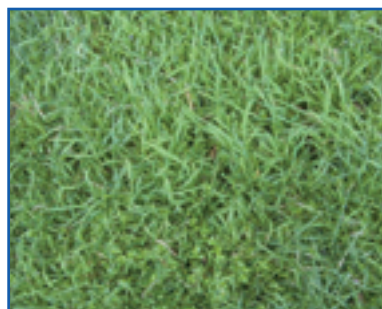




## SUSTAINABLE LAWNS

Traditional turf lawns are often high water users. However if you do prefer a traditional lawn there are drought tolerant mixes available. These may include Kikuyu and Couch but should be avoided if you live next to a bushland reserve or waterway. If you are looking for an attractive lawn alternative, that can withstand periods of low water supply and less ongoing maintenance, you could consider a range of native grasses or plants depending on the look you are trying to achieve.

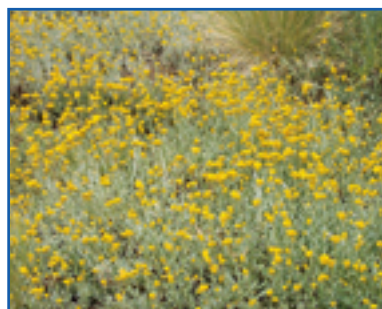
**Native grasses** – one of the most successful native grasses for creating the look of a traditional lawn is the native Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*). It can be mown regularly and will grow well in a wide range of soils. Weeping Grass is drought, frost and shade tolerant, but does not cope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



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



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



## HEALTHY SOILS

**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. If organic matter is not added, the soil becomes hard, like concrete, in summer 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.

### SOIL IMPROVEMENT TIPS

1. Soil should be damp before you add mulch. Generally spring is the best time to apply mulch, once winter rains have soaked in.
2. Mulches made from recycled organics are an excellent choice as they save water, are long-lasting and feed the soil when they break down.
3. Avoid small particle mulches ('fines') as they tend to clump together and repel water. Chunky mulch of varying size is ideal for the garden bed and straws that break down quickly are best for vegetable gardening.
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.
5. Soil improvement (such as pea straw 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 a bush mulch or recycled timber mulch on its own without soil improvement.
6. When buying new soil for your garden, buy a soil that is mixed with recycled organics or compost.
7. Don't cultivate your soil unless it is very compacted after building works. Digging destroys the soil structure, which thereby destroys air holes and drainage spaces.
8. When watering use a trigger hose with a spray setting so as not to compact the soil as the water hits. The concentrated pressure of the water stream can close up valuable air spaces.

## COMPOST AND WORM FARMS

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.

### COMPOSTING TIPS

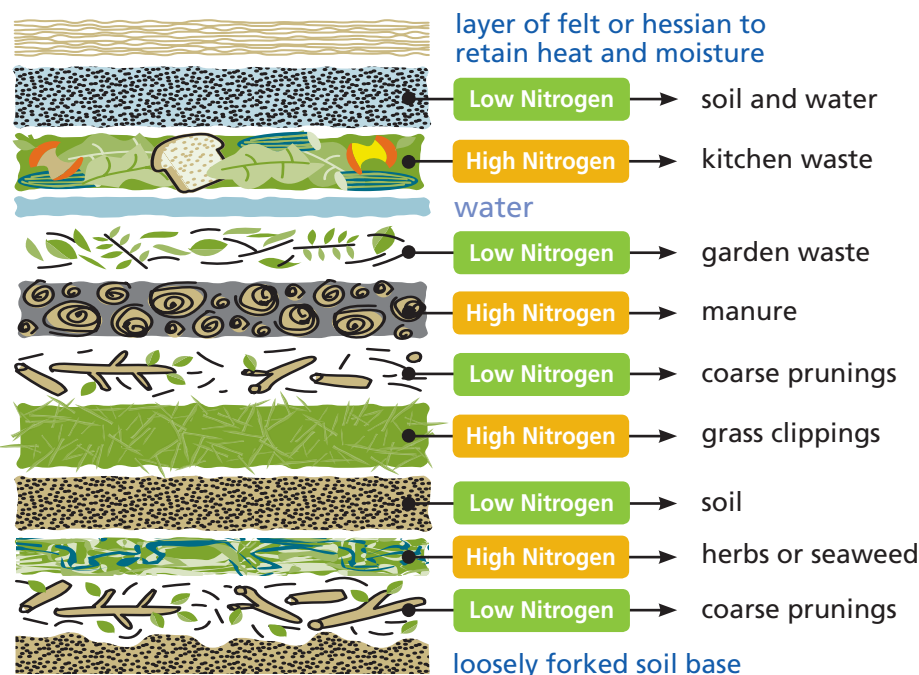
1. Your compost bin or heap should be located on soil, so that it drains well and worms and bacteria can enter the bin to decompose the waste.
2. a) All compost bins or heaps need a balance of materials that:
  - Are high in nitrogen, such as blood and bone, Dynamic Lifter or chicken manure. Kitchen 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.
5. Meat scraps or fish bones can be added to compost, but **only** if its working efficiently and quickly. They are best avoided so as not to encourage vermin, especially over summer.
6. Visit the SGA website for information on compost trouble shooting.



## Building a layered compost heap

1. Build your compost in thin layers (3 – 10 cm). Avoid thick layers of lawn clippings
2. Alternate kitchen waste (high nitrogen) and garden waste (low nitrogen) layers
3. Use a variety of materials

This diagram is an example of the different layers (each 3-10 cm). Alternating kitchen and garden waste layers with an occasional layer of manure works well.



### WORM FARMS

If you have limited space, keeping earthworms in containers and feeding them fruit and vegetable scraps is an excellent way to reduce your waste going to landfill. Worms also produce a rich inexpensive garden fertiliser, called worm castings, that is great for your garden. Visit Sustainable Gardening Australia [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au) for more information.



## SOLVING COMMON COMPOST PROBLEMS

### WHY IS MY COMPOST:

#### Left with half decomposed big lumps?

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

#### Smelly?

Either: Too much nitrogen containing matter and not enough carbon. Try adding more dry materials such as dried chopped up leaves and newspaper. Or: Make sure you aid decomposition by using a garden fork and turning over the bin/heap occasionally (maybe once a week) to introduce more air. This prevents anaerobic bacteria from taking over and producing the smells. In a compost bin you can add lengths of slotted agpipe to increase aeration.

#### Crawling with ants and slaters?

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

#### Attracting flies?

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



#### Visited by rats, mice, blowflies or maggots?

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

#### Taking so long to do anything?!!!

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

#### Further Information

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



## CHEMICALS

Pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers can be transferred from our home gardens to the natural environment. Sprays can drift in the wind and powders wash into waterways. Strong pesticides and herbicides can kill native insects, plants and animals, while the application of too much fertiliser may lead to extra nutrients in our waterways, contributing to blue-green algae outbreaks harmful to animals and sometimes people.

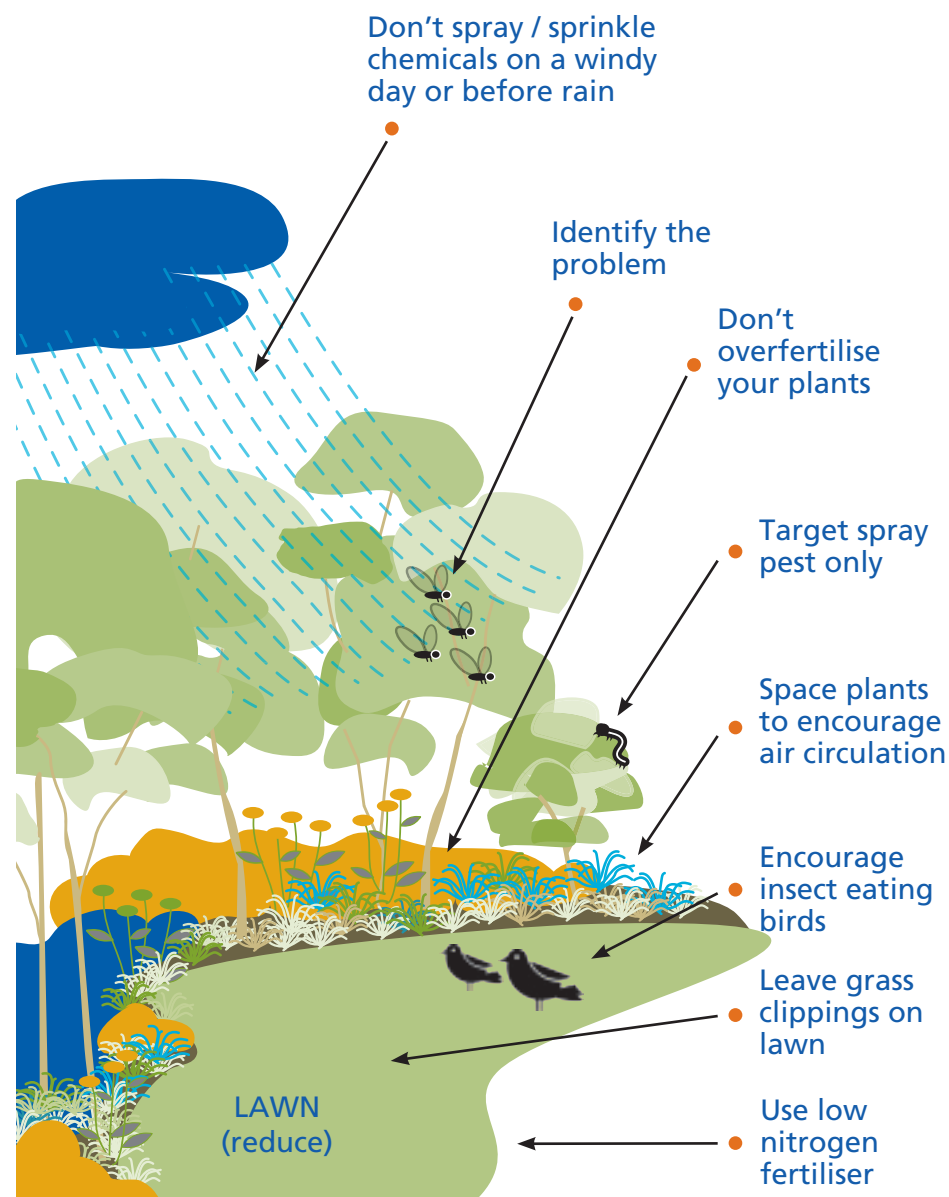


*A local pond suffering from algal bloom due to a high nutrient load from stormwater runoff.*

### 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 you may also kill beneficial insects and make your pest problem harder to control. Multi-sprays in particular kill anything they touch.
2. Remove pests by hand or use natural alternatives such as pyrethrum and garlic spray to control pests. Even natural alternatives should be used with care in controlled doses.
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 meaning the soil is better able to hold water and make it available to plants. Synthetic fertilisers add nothing to the soil structure and tend to move easily from the soil after heavy rain or watering.
6. When a plant looks sick the worst thing you can do is feed it!
7. Sterilise your secateurs with methylated spirits between pruning plants to prevent the spread of disease.

## Reducing chemical usage



## 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.

### ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT TIPS

1. Visit [www.timbershop.org](http://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.
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.

### SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING TIPS

1. Ask where a product comes from and avoid buying unsustainable products.
2. Use sustainable products such as secondhand bricks, recycled timbers, or recycled plastic sleepers.
3. Take your own plastic bag or canvas bag to a garden centre to carry home products and plants.
4. Reuse your plastic plant pots or return them to a garden centre pot recycling bin.



## REFERENCE AND FURTHER ADVICE

### For free sustainable gardening information and advice go to:

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

#### Newport Lakes Native Nursery

2 Margaret Street, Newport  
Ph: 03 9391 0044

#### Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-operative

Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield  
Ph: 03 9482 1710

### For advice on indigenous plants:

#### Western Plains Flora

628 Wildwood Road, Wildwood  
Ph: 03 9740 3178

### Useful links:

Department of Sustainability and Environment

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

Australian Plants Society  
(Keilor Plains Group)

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

Melbourne Water

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

Save Water

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

Sustainable Gardening Australia

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

Sustainability Victoria

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

Weed Society of Victoria

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

Wildlife Victoria

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

### Further reading:

Australian Plants Society Maroondah  
(2001) *Flora of Melbourne*, Hyland House, Melbourne.

Blood, K (2001) *Environmental Weeds: a Field Guide for SE Australia*, CH Jerram and Associates, Melbourne.

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

Jones, D.L. (1944) *A Field Guide to the Native Plants of Melbourne*, Blooming Books, Melbourne.

Marriot, N and J (1998) *Grassland Plants of South-Eastern Australia*, Blooming Books, Melbourne.

APS Keilor Plains Group (1995) *Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A Gardener's Guide to the Original Flora*.

Van Dok, W (2002) *The Water-efficient Garden: A Guide to Sustainable Landscaping in Australia*, Water-efficient Gardenscapes, Melbourne.  
(Limited Availability)

### Libraries:

For branch locations and opening hours visit [www.humelibraries.vic.gov.au](http://www.humelibraries.vic.gov.au)

# HumeLink

Hume City Council's  
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