

Urban Greening

How you can help reduce the urban heat island effect in your local area



POTTED PLANTS AND GARDEN BEDS

You will be surprised what you can do with plant pots and garden beds. From growing your own produce to stunning vibrant flowers, there are endless options for gardens using these methods.

If using pot plants, ensure you select a large enough pot to give your plants room to grow and place them near other potted plants to create cool microclimates.

If a garden bed is your choice, self watering wicking beds are a great option. Wicking beds can be made from a degassed fridge, polystyrene box or esky, for example.

Raised garden beds make gardening easier, especially for seniors or people with mobility issues. They can be placed on a stand or mounted to a wall.

Potted plants and structured garden beds minimise the amount of fertiliser and water required, and helps control weeds.

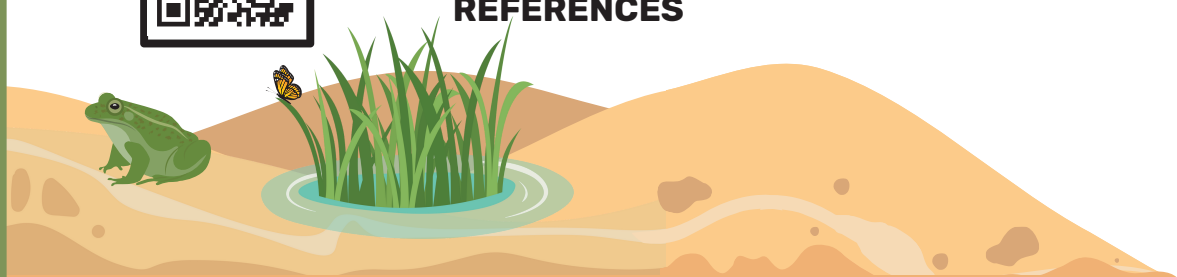
RAIN GARDENS

If your property has a spot that collects a lot of water when it rains, you can create a rain garden in that area to help filter pollutants and reduce erosion during storms. Tips for building your own rain garden:

- Ensure your garden is at least 3m away from any buildings, utilities infrastructure or septic tanks.⁽²⁾
- Dig your garden to be 15cm deep in the centre, and slightly shallower on the edges.⁽²⁾
- Add a clay mix to your soil if it is sandy to help it retain water.
- Plant wetland species and other water loving natives.⁽²⁾



**SCAN TO ACCESS
HELPFUL VIDEOS ON
PLANT CARE & FOR
REFERENCES**



VERGE GARDENS

Planting verge gardens with low-lying native and waterwise plants tolerant to harsh sunlight and winds can transform your neighbourhood. Follow these steps to create your own verge garden:



Check Council regulations - Research permissible plant types, height limits and placement of verge plants.



Check the soil on your verge - It may need additives to improve permeability and long-term growth.



Clear any weeds - Use non-toxic removal methods such as hand weeding and steam, and wait at least 3 days before planting.⁽¹⁾



Plant at the right time - Plant between late April and October and water the soil the night before planting.⁽¹⁾



How to plant - Dig a hole twice the size of the pot the plant came in and ensure it is 2cm lower than the ground. Add 5-10cm of mulch around the plant, keeping clear of the stem.⁽¹⁾



Maintain your plants - Water twice a week during the first summer and prune green growth 3-4 times a year (less than a third of a branch). Consider the use of an appropriate fertiliser once or twice a year in autumn or spring.⁽¹⁾

What plants are best for your suburb?

Contact your local council for planting guides and recommendations of species that are best suited to your area.



TREES AND HEDGES

Before planting trees, first ensure they are suitable for your property. Trees known to grow large root systems are not recommended to be planted close to structures. Plant deciduous trees along the east and west sides of your home to block heat and light in summer and let it in during winter.⁽³⁾

For hedging, choose a species with short stems, small leaves and can cope with root competition. To plant hedges, dig a trench that is twice as deep as the plant's container. Factor in pruning when calculating the height of your hedge. Leave your plants to establish in the first year, prune every three months in the second year.⁽⁴⁾

GREEN WALLS & FENCES

Establishing green walls and encouraging plant growth on fences are great ways to increase vegetation around your home. You can create green walls and fences using:

- a metal mesh grid
- a trellis
- a vertical garden kit
- balcony planters

Whichever option you choose, make sure you properly mount the structure to the wall or fence and have it verified that the wall can take the additional weight of the vegetation.⁽⁵⁾

Vegetation applied to green walls can struggle during the harsh summer months and may need additional care and shading.