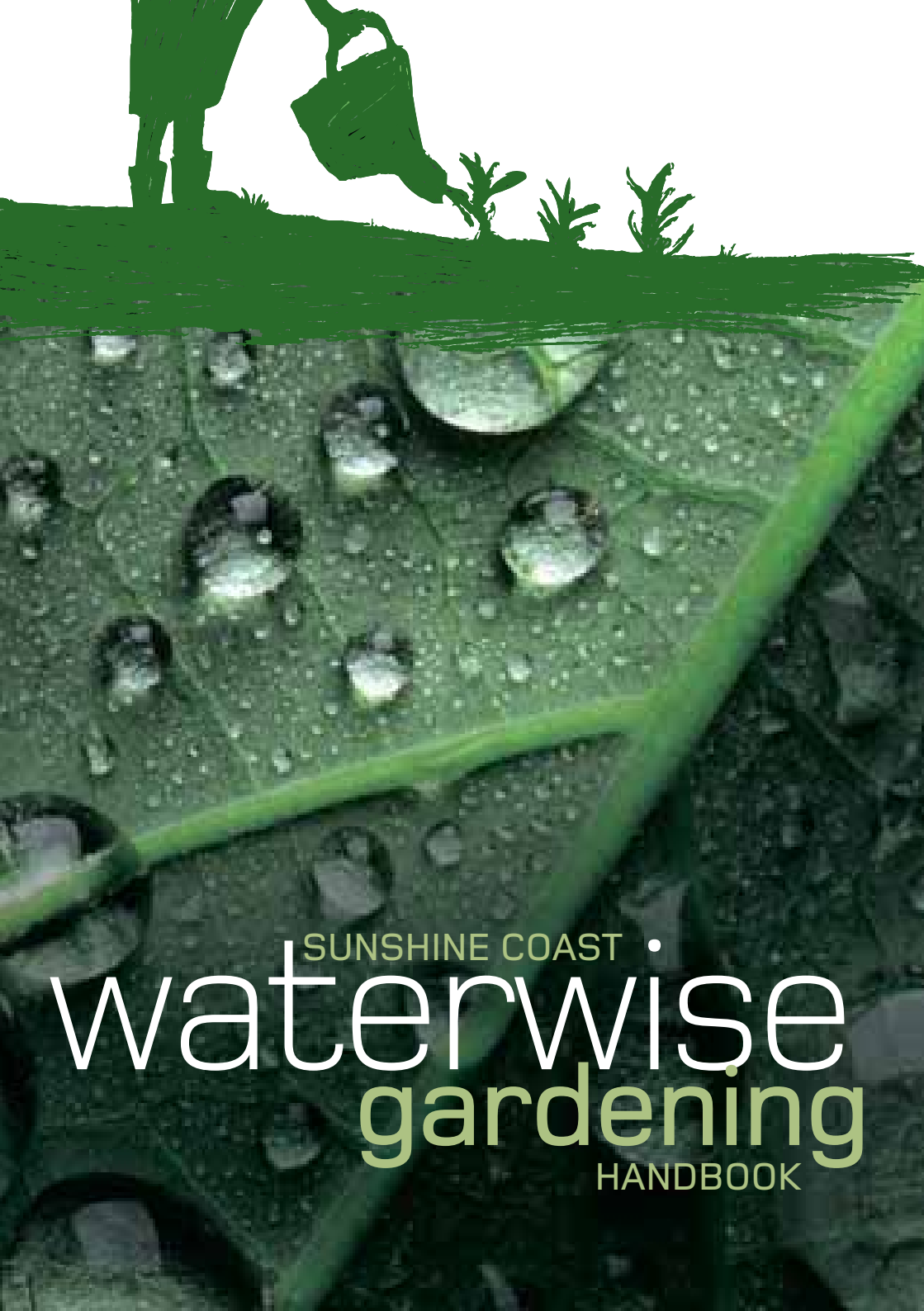


SUNSHINE COAST

waterwise gardening

HANDBOOK

Printed on Harvest Gloss
a recycled paper made from alternative fibre obtained from agricultural waste from the sugar cane industry.

contents

BY BECOMING A WATERWISE GARDENER YOU ARE NOT ONLY HELPING YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, YOU ARE ALSO DOING YOUR PART IN HELPING TO CONSERVE THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE.

WHAT IS A WATERWISE GARDEN?

A waterwise garden is designed using a number of water efficient principals in order to save water. The good news is waterwise gardens can still be pleasing to the eye and rewarding for any gardener, whether you're a beginner or a true green thumb.

Planting a waterwise garden is one of the most practical ways to save water and cut down on your household water bill. In fact, around 40 per cent of the water used by Queensland households is used in outdoor areas and in the garden.

This handbook is designed to help you develop your own waterwise garden including a step-by-step guide on how to create a master plan, tips on the most appropriate plants and lawns to use and help on how to identify and manage your soil type.

PLANNING A water efficient garden

CLEVER PLANNING AND DESIGN IS THE KEY TO ACHIEVING A WATER EFFICIENT GARDEN THAT IS NOT ONLY PRACTICAL BUT ENJOYABLE AS WELL. THE FIRST STEP IS TO CONSIDER A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS.

- **WHAT WILL BE THE NEEDS OF YOUR GARDEN?**
- **WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN EACH SECTION?**
- **HOW MUCH SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ACTIVE RECREATION, A VEGETABLE GARDEN, OR A PATIO?**
- **HOW MUCH MAINTENANCE WILL BE REQUIRED?**

Before you begin thinking about plants and materials you need to develop a master plan.

Start with a map

Draw a scaled plan of the property detailing the location of your home, orientation of the sun, existing vegetation and any other structures such as a pool, pond or paths.

Consider site characteristics

Lay a sheet of tracing paper over the base map and detail:

- Direction of the views you want to emphasise
- Undesirable views you want to screen
- Drainage patterns of the property
- Location of any changes in soil type

Incorporate shade into the design

Identify areas where cooling from shade might benefit and incorporate them into your plan.

Establish water-use zones

Map out your desired water-use zones:

- High-water-use zones are small, highly visible and highly maintained areas of the landscape

PLANNING TIP

The plan should be simple in design, which will ensure easy maintenance and water-use efficiency.

- Moderate-water-use zones are the areas with established plants, which require watering only when plants show symptoms of moisture stress, such as wilting or changing colour
- Low-water-use zones are the areas where the plants receive no water except natural rainfall

Develop a Master Plan

The final step is to pull all the ideas together into a master plan. The master plan should incorporate your design scheme, water management arrangement and definition to the various spaces in your plan. It is important during this final step to reflect nature by reducing tight curves and unnecessary bends which make maintenance and irrigation difficult.

did you know?

DURING TIMES OF LIMITED RAINFALL, MANY SUBTROPICAL GRASSES WILL ADAPT BY:

- **ROLLING OF LEAF BLADES**
- **REDUCING CANOPY DENSITY BY DROPPING LEAVES**
- **GOING DORMANT (BROWN) BY CEASING GROWTH**
- **DEVELOPING A DEEP ROOT SYSTEM**

IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A HEALTHY LAWN AND STILL BE WATER EFFICIENT AS WELL. BY SELECTING THE RIGHT TURF GRASS, TRAINING YOUR LAWN AND FOLLOWING A FEW SIMPLE DO'S AND DON'TS, YOU CAN ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS OF HAVING A LAWN ALL YEAR ROUND.

MAINTAINING your lawn

The objective in conditioning your lawn for dry conditions is to have a good quality lawn that will survive on little or no irrigation. The following guidelines will assist in achieving a drought-conditioned lawn:

Improve the water storage capacity of soil

Don't

- Compact your soil
- Use clay based soils as top dress material

Do

- Cultivate your lawn regularly
- Use a garden fork or lawn aerator to aerate the soil to depth
- Top dress your lawn annually

Select turf types suitable for the South East Queensland climate

Don't

- Use turf types suitable for colder climates such as ryegrass or bent grass

Do

- Plant turf types suitable for subtropical regions such as blue couch, green couch or soft leaf Buffalo

Train your lawn to live with dry soil conditions

Don't

- Over irrigate—avoid excessive run-off
- Apply short daily irrigations

Do

- Irrigate only when lawn shows signs of water stress
- Apply less frequent, long irrigations that fully recharge the soil

Adopt a mowing strategy that encourages a healthy resilient lawn

Don't

- Mow at lowest height
- Allow mower maintenance to be neglected by using old damaged blades

Do

- Mow at highest height
- Adjust the frequency of mowing to the growth of the turf
- Keep the mower blades sharp and properly balanced. A leaf cut by a sharp blade will heal over more quickly and lose less water than a leaf blade shredded by a dull mower blade

Adopt a fertilizer strategy, which enhances the drought tolerance of your lawn

Don't

- Apply excess nitrogen, which encourages excessive growth and reduced water savings

Do

- Apply ONLY the correct amounts of slow release fertilizer as directed by your local garden centre or fertilizer product specifications

irrigation
DESIGN & INSTALLATION

CORRECT IRRIGATION DESIGN AND INSTALLATION IS A KEY FACTOR IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A WATERWISE GARDEN. A WATER EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM MUST APPLY WATER UNIFORMLY TO WHERE IT IS REQUIRED WITHOUT WASTAGE DUE TO LEAKAGE, WIND DRIFT, DRAINAGE OR EXCESSIVE EVAPORATION.

AN AUTOMATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO THE CONDITIONS AT THE TIME. INCLUDE A SOIL MOISTURE OR RAIN SENSOR, WHICH WILL STOP WATERING SYSTEMS IF IT BEGINS TO RAIN OR IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT MOISTURE IN THE SOIL.

Make a plan

Draw a detailed plan of your home site on paper showing the areas you wish to water (e.g. gardens, lawn and pot plants) plus details of any infrastructure (position of the house, paths, tap etc). Do not forget to include measurements and dimensions. The plan will be used to determine what equipment you will require and will be useful when discussing your needs with sales assistants at your local hardware or irrigation shop.

Research

Research the latest developments in home irrigation technology and ask your supplier about their water efficiency. A water efficiency-rating scheme exists in Australia (the Smart Approved Water Mark) for indoor and outdoor equipment and appliances. Check the approved product list for some of the best irrigation systems and equipment available at the Water Services Association of Australia's website: www.wsaa.asn.au

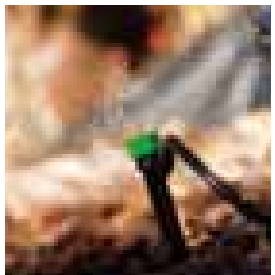
Installation

Ideally, you should engage the services of a qualified, certified professional to install your system. If you are irrigating below ground a backflow prevention device is required. However, garden irrigation systems can also be installed by the homeowner:

- Lay out all parts prior to cutting or installing to check what you have matches the irrigation system plan.
- Once you have confirmed all parts are correct then start digging any trenches that are required.
- Once the trenches are completed, lay out your main and sub-main system as per your irrigation system plan.
- Connect mains to sub-mains and test that all sections receive water. This will also assist in flushing any blockages from the system prior to connection of sprinklers and drippers.
- Once testing and flushing is completed, turn off the water and start installing sprinklers and drippers as per the plan.
- With all parts installed, again turn on the water and walk through checking for leaks, blockages and that all parts appear to be working correctly. You can test the flow rate of sprinklers and drippers by using a bucket and stop watch. Check the flow rate recommended for that product. If you find any large discrepancies, contact your supplier to discuss possible causes.
- If all parts are working correctly and there are no leaks, you may begin filling in trenches.

Check for leaks

It is worthwhile checking for leaks within your system on a regular basis. Turn off everything that uses water—taps, appliances and irrigation equipment. Look at your water meter. If it is still running you have a leak somewhere on your property or in your house and should seek the assistance of a qualified plumber.



WATERWISE TIP

Take note of the weather forecast! If it is raining or rainfall is predicted, refrain from watering. Override automated irrigation systems and let nature do the work.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU CANNOT HAVE A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND BE WISE WITH YOUR WATER USE AS WELL. ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE PLANNING AND CONSIDERATION OF YOUR GARDENS SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEEDS.

did you know?

A FORGOTTEN SPRINKLER CAN WASTE UP TO 1000 LITRES OF WATER AN HOUR? TRY AND USE AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM WITH A TIMER TO AVOID WATER WASTAGE.

watering

How often should you irrigate your lawn and gardens?

In general terms you should only water your garden and lawn when it needs it. The easiest way to know when your garden needs a drink is to look for signs of stress such as wilting of leaves, curling of leaf blades or footprints remaining visible on your lawn.

Recommended water use in millimetres to apply as needed

Garden Type	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
New Lawn	20	15	5	15
Established Lawn	10	7	3	10
Flower beds	30	20	10	20
New Garden	35	25	15	30
Established Garden	30	20	10	20

The amount of water to apply will vary according to soil type and rooting depth. The table (left) gives you an idea of how much water you will need to apply through your irrigation system to keep your plants healthy. These guidelines are based on the expected evaporative rate for plants grown within the South East Queensland region.

To water correctly you also need to know how much water your irrigation system puts on your garden. The technical term for this is the "application rate" of your system. If someone has designed the system for you, make sure they tell you the application rate so you know how long to run it for. For example if your system applies 10 mm of water each hour and you are watering an established lawn, using the figures for Summer in the table left, we can see that you only need to run the system for one hour each week.

It is quite simple to measure the application rate of your system yourself. Put an empty one-litre ice cream container on the ground where it will catch water from the irrigation system. Run the irrigation for 15 minutes, being careful to time this carefully. After 15 minutes turn off the irrigation system and measure the depth of water in millimetres with a ruler. If you measure 5 mm then you know your irrigation system applies water at approximately 5 x 4 (four lots of 15 minutes in one hour) = 20mm per hour. If you are watering an established lawn in summer you will only need to run the system for about half an hour each week.




IDENTIFY YOUR soil type

THERE'S A SIMPLE TEST YOU CAN DO TO DETERMINE THE SOIL TYPE IN YOUR GARDEN. YOU WILL NEED A SHOVEL, SMALL CONTAINERS OR PLASTIC BAGS, TAPE MEASURE OR RULER, AND SOME WATER.

To Start

- Dig up approximately one small handful of soil from various parts of your garden and place individual samples in containers or plastic bags. You will need a good handful from each location.
- Wet the soil gradually and work it in your hand until it forms a ball.
- Keep working the ball of soil in your hand until it doesn't change anymore.
- Now slowly squeeze the soil out between your thumb and forefinger to form a ribbon (like a sausage) and measure the length of the ribbon if any.

If you end up with a firm ball shape that you can bend like plasticine, that's a clay soil.

If the soil barely forms a ball and just crumbles, that's sandy soil.

And if the soil holds together but the ball is crumbly, you have a loam.

As a guide, the soil type can be estimated from the length of the ribbon as listed below.

Ribbon Length (mm)	Soil Texture Class
> 50	Clay
40 – 50	Clay Loam
25 – 40	Loam
15 – 25	Sandy Loam
5 – 15	Loamy Sand
0	Sand

UNDERSTAND & MANAGE YOUR SOIL

NOW THAT YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED THE SOIL TYPES IN YOUR GARDEN, FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO BETTER MANAGE YOUR SOIL.

Clay soil

Clay soils have advantages and disadvantages. On the positive, clay soils are rich in nutrients and they hold water well. However, they are also prone to compaction, waterlogging, and can be sticky when wet and tough when dry. These problems are made worse if a clay soil is cultivated when wet.

Improving clay soil

- Cultivate soil to a minimum depth of 300 mm. Check soil moisture before cultivating. The soil should be moist, not wet.
- Apply 500 grams of gypsum or dolomite per square metre to the soil and incorporate well. This will assist in breaking up clay soils, improving structure and the availability of water and nutrients. These products should only be applied to moist soil not wet soil. Add sand and incorporate.
- Dig in plenty of organic material (compost, mulch, manure), and keep doing this on an annual basis.
- Add a layer of mulch, which will break down and improve your soil structure (mulch should be at least 75 – 100mm thick when settled).

Sandy soil

Sandy soils have low moisture and nutrient holding capacity. However, they are well aerated and are easy to cultivate.

Improving sandy soil

- Cultivate soil to a minimum depth of 300 mm. Check soil moisture before cultivating. The soil should be moist, not wet.
- Add organic matter (compost, mulch, manure) to the soil and incorporate well. This may need to be done on a regular basis since the climate (high rainfall and temperatures) in South East Queensland can tend to enhance decomposition.
- Mulch well (to 100 mm depth), to help it retain moisture by preventing evaporation. As the mulch breaks down, it improves soil structure. Replenish the mulch layer on a regular basis to maintain a minimum depth of 75 mm.

Loam soil

The term 'loam' covers all the soils between sandy soils and clay soils. Loams are said to be the perfect soil for growing plants. It is unlikely you would find a 'true loam' rather a soil halfway between a sandy soil and a clay soil. Loams can be improved and maintained through addition and incorporation of organic matter, such as compost, mulch and manures.

mulch & YOUR GARDEN

MULCHING IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF IMPROVING WATER EFFICIENCY IN THE AVERAGE GARDEN. MULCHING IS THE PRACTICE OF SPREADING A MATERIAL, TYPICALLY ORGANIC, AROUND THE BASE OF A PLANT TO ACT AS A PROTECTIVE COVER.

MULCHING TIP

To reduce the rate at which organic mulch needs to be replaced, place newspaper on the ground prior to laying down the mulch.

Materials available to use include:

- Pine Bark
- Hoop Bark
- Wood chip
- Sawdust
- Gravel
- Paper
- Cypress Mulch
- Grass clippings
- Green garden waste

Mulching improves available soil water to the plants by minimising evaporation and enhancing infiltration of rainfall and irrigation. Mulch also suppresses weeds, reducing the need to manually or chemically remove weeds.

Other benefits of mulching include:

- Increases the soils ability to store water
- Improves soil fertility and structure
- Maintains an even soil temperature
- Can protect against soil erosion

How much to use?

Mulch should be evenly spread around the base of the plant to a thickness of 75 – 100 mm, but not touching the trunk. Spread too thick, mulch can reduce aeration of the soil, particularly if it is prone to compaction.

To calculate how much mulch to use, measure the area to be covered in square metres (width × length). Multiply this number by the depth required in millimetres and then multiply by 0.001. This gives the amount of mulch required in cubic metres. For example, to cover an area of 10 m^2 at a depth of 100 mm would take 1 cubic metre.

When should I replace or replenish the mulch?

Under South East Queensland conditions, fresh mulch should be added every 6 – 8 months, with fine products replenished more frequently than large wood chips or bark pieces. Carefully rake fine mulch at least every two months to prevent compaction.

SUNSHINE COAST waterwise plant guide

	Species Name	Common Name	Water Use	Height* (m)	Flower	Bush Food	Sandy Soil	Clay Soil	Full Sun	Part Shade	Butterflies	Bird food
GROUND COVERS	Austromyrtus dulcis	Midyim	low	< .50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Crinum pedunculatum	River Lilly	low	< 1.0	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cymbopogon refractus	Barbed-wire Grass	low	< .50			✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Dianella brevipedunculata	Pin Cushion Dianella	low	< .50	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dianella congesta	Coastal Dianella	low	< .50	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Yellow Buttons	low	< .25	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Hibbertia vestita	Guinea Flower	low	< .50	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Lomandra confertifolia	Mat-rush	low	< .50	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	low	< 1.0			✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Viola hederacea	Native Violet	low	< .25	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SHRUBS	Backhousia myrtifolia	Carroll	low	< 3.0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Babingtonia similis	Twiggy Myrtle	low	< 2.0	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Banksia aemula	Wallum Banksia	low	< 3.0	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Banksia spinulosa	Hairpin Banksia	low	< 1.5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Callistemon pachyphyllus	Wallum Bottlebrush	low	< 1.5	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Hovea acutifolia	Hovea	low	< 1.5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Melaleuca thymifolia	Thyme Honey Myrtle	low	< 1.0	✓		✓	✓	✓			
	Leptspermum polygalifolium	Wild May	low	< 3.0	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pultenaea villosa	Bacon and Eggs	low	< 1.0	✓		✓	✓	✓			
	Xanthorrhoea spp	Grasstrees	low	< 2.0	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
SMALL TREES	Banksia integrifolia	Honeysuckle Banksia	low	4 – 8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Brachychiton bidwillii	Small Kurrajong	low	3 – 6	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Red Bottlebrush	low	4 – 8	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Casuarina littoralis	Coastal She-oak	low	4 – 8			✓	✓	✓			✓
	Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Tuckeroo	low	4 – 8	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Blueberry Ash	low	3 – 6	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Eucalyptus curtisii	Plunket Mallee	low	3 – 6	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Rhodamnia argentea	Malletwood	low	6 – 8	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Melaleuca linariifolia	Snow in Summer	low	4 – 8	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Petalostigma pubescens	Hairy Quinine	low	4 – 8	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Average estimate in cultivation

minyama

WATERWISE GARDEN
CASE STUDY 1

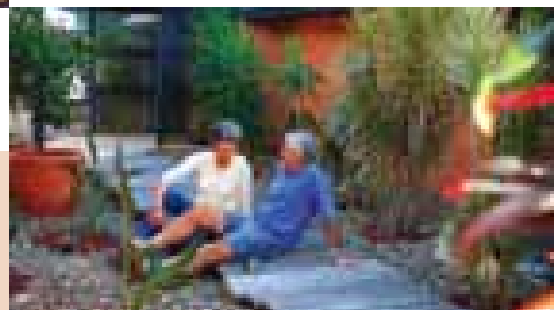
SUE AND GRAHAM NEEDHAM CREATED A GARDEN WHICH BALANCES FUNCTIONALITY, BEAUTY AND WATER EFFICIENCY IN A COURTYARD BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS IN MINYAMA.

"We love being in our garden, looking at it and watching it grow," says Sue.

"It is so easy to care for because of the limited need for watering and it provides an extra living area and added feature to the modular design we have between the houses."

Shade from the western afternoon sun is provided courtesy of the bushes and house next door and provide a perfect environment for minimising heat and evaporation, without blocking too much light.

"We believe in enjoying our garden, not being a slave to it."



Lime trees, herbs, agaves, yuccas, moses-in-the-basket, mondo grass, palms and bird of paradise are some of the plants which thrive in this water efficient garden.

The soil was not particularly fertile and required quality potting mix, slow-release fertilizers and watering to boost the growth of new plants. Once established, nature was free to take its course.

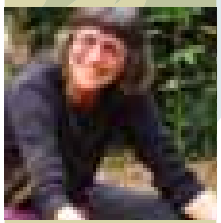
Minimal use of fertilizers and watering helped control the growth rate of plants and the associated need for pruning and weeding.

Sue and Graham's philosophy was to keep their garden time, effort and water efficient so that they could spend their time enjoying it.

Rainfall in the area supplies most water needed to keep the garden flourishing. A constant watch on weather forecasts provides a guide for when extra watering may be needed to compensate for extremely dry conditions.

Plants that require most water are grouped together and shaded by the larger palms.

The only lawn is in the nature strip. Decorative rocks, timber walkways and a pond with a re-circulating pump add to the aesthetic appeal of the main courtyard garden and help keep maintenance and water use to a minimum.



"The power and beauty of Mother Nature make me passionate about stewardship of the planet. Being able to eat from the garden is an added bonus."

LEE ROSTRON'S GARDEN IS AN INSPIRATION. IN THE 25 YEARS SINCE SHE MOVED TO HER 1¾ ACRE PROPERTY IN POMONA, LEE HAS TRANSFORMED IT FROM BARE, EX-DAIRY LAND INTO A PARADISE FOR ALL SENSES.

WATERWISE GARDEN CASE STUDY 2

pomona

The fruit, vegetable, herb and bush tucker plants provide a bounty of organic produce to tempt taste buds.

The interspersed native plants, rainforest trees and clumping bamboos provide shade and beauty and attract more than 40 species of birds and abundant wildlife.

The gardens are very low-maintenance and only require re-mulching and weeding once a year and a little seasonal pruning when needed. Watering is only used in the early days of a plant's establishment and in extremely dry conditions.

It is hard to imagine that such a bountiful garden requires so little maintenance. Lee rarely needs to water her garden. She selects species which survive on the local rainfall and plants them in groupings to maximise shade.

"If a plant dies from a lack of water, after it has settled in, then I know it is not suitable for my garden or I planted it in the wrong place," says Lee.

"I found that by talking to the people I bought my plants from, often at local markets, I could determine whether or not they would be suitable for my garden."

Lee established her grounds one garden bed at a time. Cardboard and mulch (hay bales) form the foundation of new garden beds.

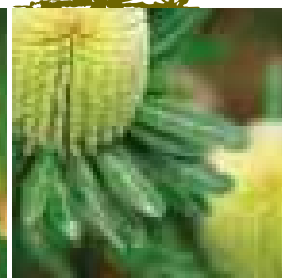
"I ensure new garden beds stay moist until the cardboard starts to decompose, otherwise it forms a layer and creates a desert effect by preventing water from reaching the roots."

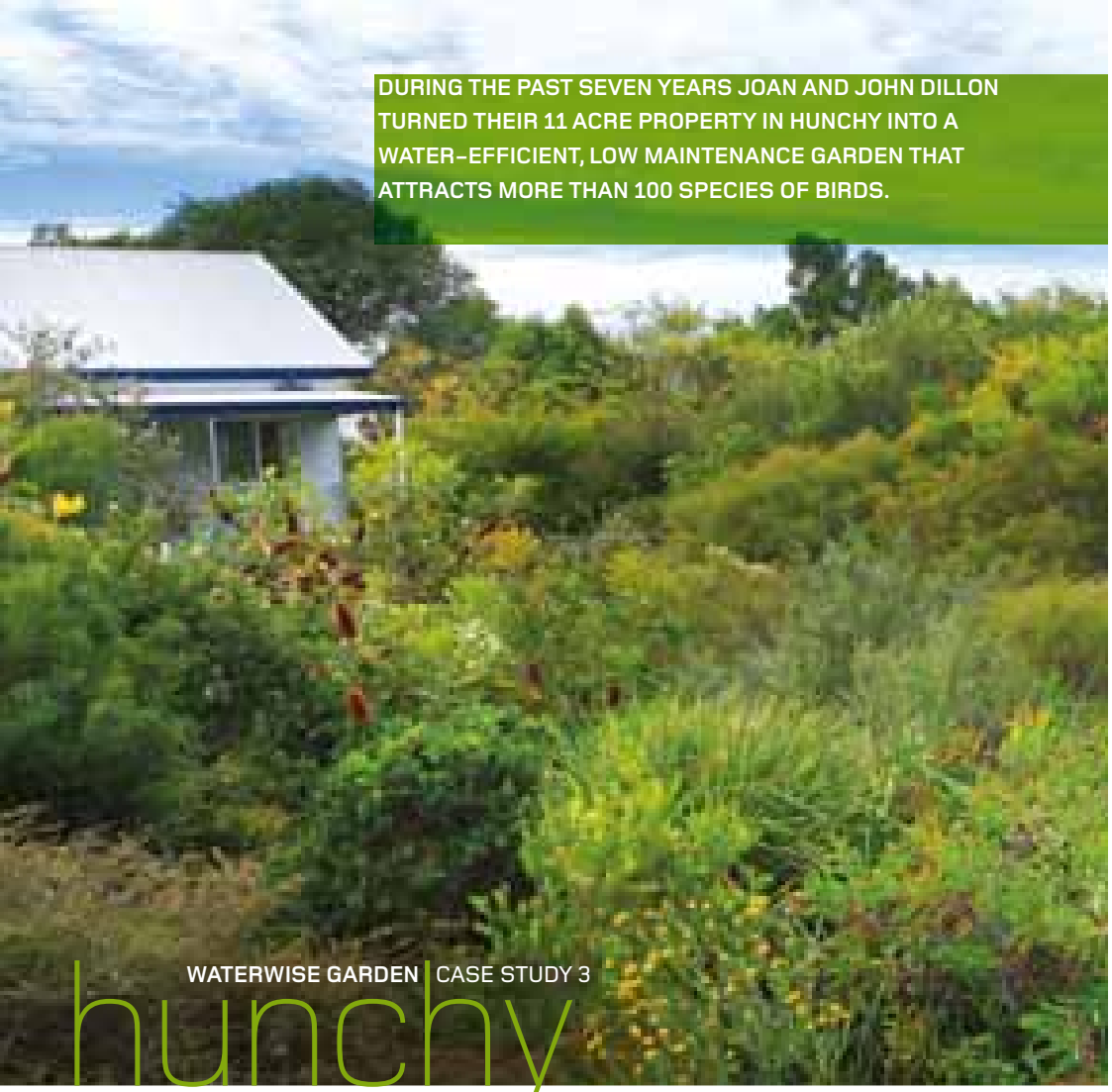
Organic compost keeps the soil sweet and encourages worms. Planting of pigeon peas in new garden beds fixes nitrogen in the soil and provides shade and wind protection for the young plants.

White oil helps keep pests under control without the use of chemicals or pesticides.

Lee found that watering for the first 10 to 14 days until new plants take root is all that was required for her gardens to become mostly self-sufficient. Water retention crystals added to the planting holes maximizes the effect of watering and stands young plants in good stead during times of minimal rain.

Although a constant work in progress, Lee has created a garden that has enabled her to realise her goals for protecting the earth and eating organic foods from her own garden.





DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS JOAN AND JOHN DILLON TURNED THEIR 11 ACRE PROPERTY IN HUNCHY INTO A WATER-EFFICIENT, LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN THAT ATTRACTS MORE THAN 100 SPECIES OF BIRDS.

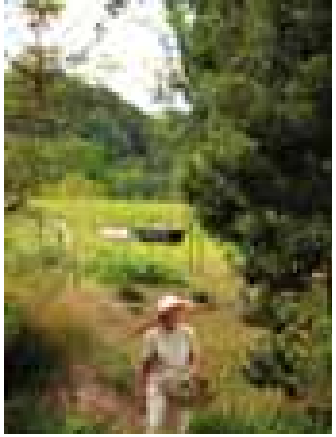
WATERWISE GARDEN | CASE STUDY 3

hunchy

Joan used her degree in Agricultural Science and background in Horticulture to plan a garden which incorporates native plants and fruit and vegetables.

"Because we are on tank water here it was imperative that we planted wisely to reduce water usage," Joan said.

"The other benefits of minimal watering is the reduced amount of time and money we spend on maintaining our garden."



"We love to sit on our verandah with a cup of tea and just watch the birds chasing one another through the foliage."

A range of local native species, including ginger, some hardy bottlebrush and tea-trees are proving extremely adaptable to local conditions.

Joan selected hardy plants which require less water. Most of these species have small leaves with a waxy covering.

Nectar producing flowers, such as bottlebrush and paperbark trees are drawcards for the abundant wildlife.

New garden beds are covered temporarily in black plastic to kill existing weeds, then covered in sugar cane and pine bark mulch. Young plants are given approximately 10 litres of water, then rainfall takes over to keep them flourishing.

Joan spends half an hour spot-weeding, four times a year, and only occasionally prunes trees and bushes.

The key to a successful, low-maintenance and water-efficient garden is in the planning. Joan and John knew what they wanted to achieve and have stayed with their original plan, establishing one garden bed at a time.

There is still plenty of area left on this property for the Dillons to work their magic. In the meantime they are already reaping the benefits of water and money savings and abundant birdlife enjoying the fruits of their labour.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

For more great information on how to save water, visit the Department's website: www.nrm.qld.gov.au

Our waterwise gardeners:

Sue and Graham Needham
Lee Rostron
Joan and John Dillon

The Sunshine Coast Waterwise Plant Guide:

Spencer Shaw

The Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture:

The Sunshine Coast Waterwise Gardening Handbook is a resident's guide on how to maintain a visually pleasing and rewarding garden that is also water efficient. Not only will you learn how to incorporate waterwise principals into your garden and help save up to 40 per cent of your water consumption, you will learn how to develop a garden that is low in maintenance, which suits the climatic conditions of our region.

A joint initiative by Caloundra City, Maroochy Shire and Noosa Councils, the Sunshine Coast Waterwise Gardening Handbook aims to help residents make the most of their gardens while doing their part to save every drop.

Caloundra City Council
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www.caloundra.qld.gov.au

Maroochy Shire Council
P 5475 8501
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Noosa Council
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AquaGen Water and Renewable Energy
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