

GARDENS FOR NATURE

Nature Conservation Information Sheet



Create your own nature garden

Home gardens provide a fantastic opportunity to recreate habitats for our local wildlife. Have a go at creating your own nature inspired garden and enjoy seeing the locals drop in for regular visits.

Planting Natives

The south west of Western Australia is recognised internationally as a biodiversity hotspot. We have a huge range of plants already adapted to our local climate, which is great news for gardeners as they are much more likely to thrive with minimal attention.

Try to select a range of shapes and sizes from trees through to shrubs and groundcovers. Also choose plants with different flowering times so that you always have something in flower. You can do this by visiting your local nursery during each season and selecting the plants in flower.

For more information see [Gardening with Native Plants](#), [Revegetation with Local Natives](#), [Plant This Instead](#) and the [Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the Cape to Cape Region](#)

Avoiding Weeds

Weeds are a huge threat to our forests and local areas of natural beauty. Don't plant them in your garden and remove any that are already there before they spread. NEVER dump your lawn clippings or garden waste in the bush.

For more information see [Managing Environmental Weeds](#) and [Woody Weeds of the Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin Region](#)

Encouraging Wildlife

Gardens can be a haven for local wildlife. From birds and butterflies to lizards and frogs, we can design our gardens to encourage these special guests. When designing your garden for wildlife:

- Provide a source of clean water.
- Plant the plants they like to eat or that will attract the food they like to eat.
- Keep pets under control and ALWAYS keep them in at night.
- Provide safe nesting boxes.

You may even be lucky enough to have quendas and possums visiting your garden. For more information see [Wildlife Friendly Gardens](#) and [Gardens for Birds](#).



Attracting Beneficial Insects

Beneficial insects provide pollination and pest control for your garden so welcome them in with a few key features:

- Warm sunny spots
- Mulch and leaf litter
- A water source where they can drink from without drowning
- Most insects can't see red so make sure you plant plenty of blue, purple, white and yellow flowers to bring them in
- Consider installing a few bee hotels

Having insects in the garden will also attract many of the small wrens and robins. For more information see [Attracting Beneficial Insects](#).

Avoiding Chemicals

Avoid using chemicals in your home and garden as these can have unintended consequences for visiting wildlife and beneficial insects. Research natural alternatives and let nature take control in the garden.

Being Waterwise

Saving water in the garden helps to conserve a precious resource and puts less pressure on the local environment. Consider these ways to reduce your water use:

- Limit areas of lawn and plant natives to reduce your garden's water demand
- Divide your garden into hydrozones based on the watering needs of the plants
- Install a greywater system and a watertank as alternative water supplies

For more information see [Waterwise Gardens](#).



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Photos provided by Dr Boyd Wykes, Green Tree Naturopathy, Drew McKenzie and Katie Biggs



DESIGNING YOUR OWN GARDEN FOR NATURE

Key things to consider



Plant a diverse array of **native plants** including layers of trees, shrubs and groundcovers

Install a **frog pond**

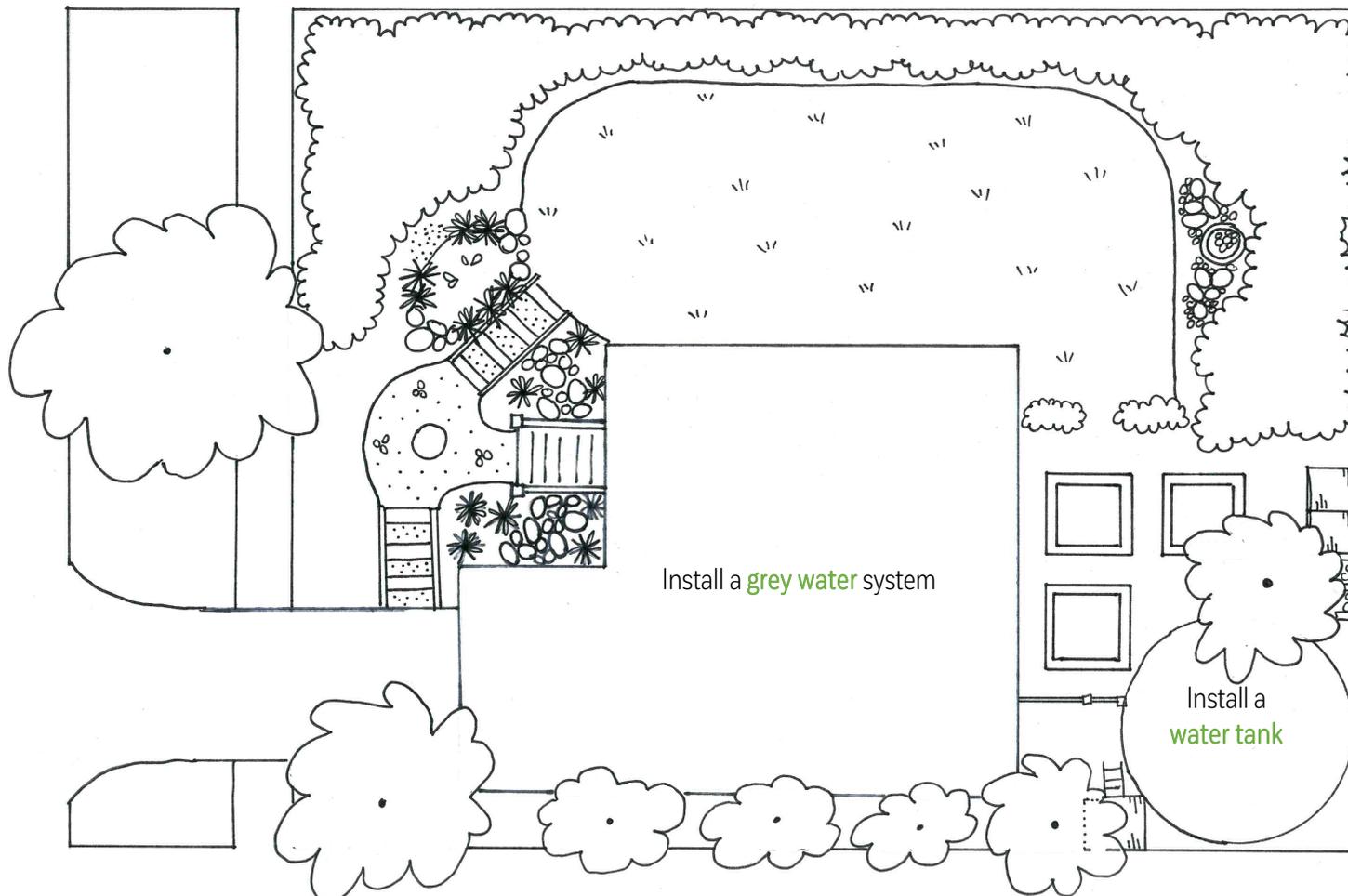
Limit **lawn** to where you will use it

Apply thick **mulch** to gardens beds

Include piles of **rocks and logs** in landscaping to encourage insects and local wildlife

Establish a native **verge garden** and encourage the neighbours to do the same

Careful placement of **trees** will provide shade and reduce water demands in summer



Provide a variety of **water stations** for wildlife – deep, shallow, high and low

Divide the garden into **hydrozones** based on the water and nutrient needs

Vegies and exotics have high water and nutrient needs

Use **pots** and **wicking beds** to minimise any leaching of fertilisers into waterways

Make your own **compost** with food and garden waste