

CREATING YOUR WATERWISE GARDEN

This winter time is important for the future survival of our gardens. It gives us the time we need to plan, replant and repair the garden in order to set up our gardens to handle the ongoing water restrictions and dry weather conditions.

Plan:

- **The key to having a healthy, waterwise garden is in its overall design.**
- Identify the passive and active areas for outdoor living needs
- Consider the prevailing dry, hot summer winds and summer sun and plan permeable windbreaks and shade plants accordingly
- Identify the soil type and depth of soil to best determine where lawns and gardens should be planted
- Use trees, pergolas, lattices, shadecloth, creepers and vines to shelter and shade areas to reduce evaporation
- Grow lawns only where it is needed as this is the highest water user. Consider alternative groundcovers
- It is most important to divide garden beds into watering zones. Group plants and trees with similar watering requirements
- Group the high water demand plants where they will be most visible and appreciated
- Put the intermediate water using plants and the water misers in separate locations
- Consider the areas selected to be lawns and ensure they are shaped to suit the spray patterns of the proposed sprinkler configuration. Choose functional and compact areas and avoid long and narrow stretches of lawn.



Prepare:

- Mix organic matter such as compost and animal manure into the soil or purchase an appropriate soil blend to dramatically improve the water and nutrient holding capacity
- Find out your soil type and pH and add fertiliser and soil conditioner to suit your soil type
- Apply soil wetting agents to improve the moisture retention and soil permeability
- Match your sprinkler systems to the water mains pressure. Too much pressure results in water wastage and evaporation losses through misting and uneven application. Use drippers to deliver water direct to the plant wherever possible.

Plant it green side up:

- No ifs or buts about this rule, the only consideration is what depth to plant it at. As a general guide you should aim to maintain the same finished soil level when planted as it was in the pot. Planting deeper can have benefits with some plants, especially seedlings of some native species plants. Slightly deeper, say 2 – 2.5cm is acceptable for most plants. Never have the plant finish up higher than the original soil level in the pot
- Plant flower beds densely, this reduces watering needs
- Choose local native plants where possible as these are naturally water efficient and handle the local climatic conditions best
- Individually tune each dripper to apply the required rate for the plant
- Test and tune the reticulation system to ensure water is being delivered efficiently
- Apply at least a 75mm covering of shredded vegetation mulch to all plant beds. Spreading it thinly does nothing to achieve the desired results or obtain the benefits your garden requires.



The current watering restrictions will continue to apply for the rest of winter and will most probably be with us for next summer and beyond.

For more information ring the advisory line 131039, or visit www.watercorporation.com.au

BEING LED ASTRAY AT KARLKURLA PARK

Karlkurla Park is a great place to exercise and walk your dog but please remember a few things when walking up there with your four legged friends.

- Ensure that your dog is on a lead and that you have a dog tidy bag with you to clean up after your dog. Recently five (5) wheelbarrows of dog droppings were cleaned up in the park!
- Domestic animals can have an adverse effect on the native fauna in the park; small things like drinking from the water troughs in the park which are for native animals only and having a noisy uncontrollable dog in the park can scare off native animals.



So please think of other people and the native animals when walking dogs in the park.

Dogs must always be on a lead in the park

KBULG FINALIST IN WORK FOR THE DOLE AWARDS



KBULG's Work for the Dole program in Karlkurla Park has been recognised with a national award nomination. The winners will be announced by Employment Services Minister, Mal Brough in Canberra on June 18. Doug Krepp, the Supervisor was also nominated for an award: Best Work for the Dole Supervisor.

Two judges recently visited the park and were taken on a tour to show what work had been done around the park.

Over the last three months KBULG's Work for the Dole participants have been busy on a number of projects. The participants are currently laying bricks underneath the picnic tables in Karlkurla Park making them more user friendly and attractive.

A number of trees and shrubs are being cultivated and grown in the greenhouse ready to be planted in the park in the near future. Many metres of reticulation is being laid to help these seedlings establish themselves once planted.