



# Saving water in the garden.



## Did you know?

Pot plants use a lot more water than plants in the ground. They're more exposed to the sun and wind, only store a small amount of water and dry out faster, so you water them more.



- Reduce your lawn cover. Most of the water used in our homes goes on the lawn.
- Plant local natives. They require less water and fertiliser.
- Mulch. Organic mulches reduce evaporation and restrict weed growth.
- Collect rainwater. This will save scheme water.
- Water deeply. Watering slower, for longer, less often encourages deep root growth.
- Use greywater. Re-use your laundry and bathroom water on your garden.
- Install a drip irrigation system. This will deliver water straight to the root system.
- Landscape. Group plants to suit watering needs. Keep high water use plants together.
- Use a pool cover. It will reduce evaporation by up to 97%, saving water and money.
- Maintain. Check taps and reticulation regularly for leaks and blockages.



# Grow local native plants and save water.

## Did you know?

About half the water typically used in our homes is used to water the garden, generally lawns. Many of us water a large lawn and only use part of that lawn. Some of us overwater even those parts of the lawn we do use regularly. Think about the areas of lawn you use regularly and whether you can reduce the amount of watering. Similarly, often the plant species in our gardens are exotic and not suitable to our climate, needing more water to survive. These can be regrouped together and more waterwise plants put in their place.

- Local native plants are best suited to the local climate, conditions and soil.
- They require less water, fertiliser and maintenance.
- They attract local wildlife, insects and birds.
- They have minimal impact on the environment, unlike some introduced species which have become bushland weeds.
- Local plants represent local heritage, teaching us about nature and our local identity.



# Protect and maintain our local water supplies. Fertilise WISE.

## Did you know?

Fertilisers are a major contributor to surface and groundwater contamination. They run off into the stormwater system through roadside drains, collect in sumps and leach into the groundwater system. They also wash into the rivers and sea, creeks and swamps where they can do major damage to reefs and aquatic life.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Minimise lawn areas and use plants that don't use fertiliser
- Grow local native plants – they require less water and fertiliser
- Where possible, use organic fertilisers
- If you must use a chemical fertiliser, look for one that is phosphorus free. Use a nitrogen to phosphorus to potassium (N:P:K) ratio of 10:0:6.
- Use a slow release fertiliser
- Only apply in spring or early autumn, not in winter or summer
- Fertilise only when symptoms of deficiency occur (e.g. yellowing)
- Use liquid fertiliser if you have a subsurface irrigation system
- Compost your garden waste
- Don't fertilise near waterways or road verges
- Don't let grass clippings or leaves go down the drain
- Wash your car on the lawn (if you have any) not on the driveway
- Pick up after your dog
- Use phosphorus-free detergents (always read the labels)