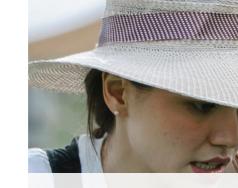
### TIPS FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL

## VERGE GARDEN

#### 1. Planning your verge garden

- Read the Verge Garden Program Guidelines (the Guidelines) to understand:
  - o whether your verge is suitable for verge garden given the Guidelines; and
  - if suitable, how to ensure your verge garden complies with the Guidelines.
- Do some research about gardening
   There are many informative "how-to" resources about gardening, and specifically verge gardening, that are available, including Gardening Australia, Sustainable Gardening Australia and Community Gardens Australia.
- Learn from others As verge gardening has been permitted in some other local government areas across Greater Sydney and in other Australian cities, find some inspiration in many other well-established verge gardens.
- Design your garden carefully Think about how much sunlight and rainwater runoff your verge receives as this will determine which plant species you should use in your verge garden.
- Start small Start cultivating one small patch at a time, with the option to expand your verge garden later if space allows, rather than overcommitting to cultivate a large area all at once.



# 2. Preparing your verge for a verge garden (for planting on grassed verges)

- Remove any weeds Ideally at least three months before planting either by physically removing (e.g. pulling up to remove bulbs), using natural weedkiller (e.g. vinegar or boiling water) and/or suppressing with mulch. Avoid using herbicides.
- Developing the soil Dig out soil to approximately 75mm below kerb/footpath level to allow sufficient space for mulch to be added later after planting. Then, mix the remaining soil with compost mix or another soil conditioner.
- Digging holes for plants Dig suitably sized holes for your plants. Drop granules of slow-release fertiliser into the holes before planting. Make these holes slightly larger than the current size of your plants to allow them space to grow.

#### 3. Recommended species to plant

- Native species Well-conditioned to Australian weather, durable, water-wise and low maintenance.
- Groundcovers or low growing species

   Require less trimming and leaf litter
   collection.
- Shade plants If the site of your verge garden receives little sunlight.
- Edibles Under the Guidelines, you can only plant edible plants in locations which do not have a high probability of acid sulfate soil risk as reported by the NSW Government. In any event, you can also determine the quality of your soil by using an "at-home soil test kit" which can be purchased from gardening/hardware stores and nurseries.

#### Note:

Contact Council (vergegardens@ georgesriver.nsw.gov.au) if you wish for any trees to be planted as part of your verge garden. Do not plant trees yourself which is not permitted under the Verge Garden Guidelines.

## 4. Maintaining your garden (for planting on grassed verges)

- Mulching With your soil level approximately 75mm below kerb/footpath, apply organic mulch to bring your soil level up to become flush (i.e. the same level) with the kerb/footpath.
- Pruning Routinely (e.g. every few months or as needed) prune your plants so they do not encroach on pedestrian or road accessways.
- Regular weeding Routinely (e.g. every few months or as needed) remove weeds from your verge garden.

## 5. Maintaining your garden (for all types of verge gardens)

- Watering Water your garden regularly with a watering can or garden hose. Some plants need to be water frequently (e.g. ferns), while other species need little water (e.g. cactus species).
- Work with others It is easier to maintain a garden with others than doing so alone. Consider working with others, such as your neighbours, to collectively maintain for a verge garden.

