

## 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
  - o 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](mailto: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 watered 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 a verge garden.