



## Growing Biodiverse and Waterwise Gardens

Joanne Burgess is a former Sustainability Officer and Urban Forester at the City of Stirling and now volunteers with the Wildflower Society of WA at the Northern Suburbs Nursery and Friends of Kings Park in the Growing Friends group.

### Joanne's Tips

- **Replace your lawn/artificial turf with a biodiverse and waterwise garden:** Grass is not in danger of becoming extinct, but many of our local plants are. By removing your lawn and planting WA natives you can help conserve our beautiful flora, and importantly, have a beautiful garden that both you and your local wildlife and pollinators can enjoy.
- **Choose native plants suitable for your soil type:** This will make a huge difference to whether they will thrive and look beautiful or struggle. Plants which grow naturally in iron-rich clay soils are not likely to do well in coastal sand, for example. Plant labels will tell you what type of soil and how much sun each plant prefers, so read the label before you buy.
- **Diversity of plants:** Include as wide a range of plant species as possible, rather than several of the same species.
- **Healthy soil:** Add a handful of compost, a handful of clay and a sprinkle of slow release fertiliser when planting to help the plants transition smoothly from potting mix to native soil. Apply soil wetter to the ground around your plants twice a year, and water deeply to establish a good strong root system.
- **Do your planting in autumn and winter:** Plants put in the ground in spring and summer may not establish as well as those planted when it's cooler and raining, and will require more water in their first year.

Inspired to create your own biodiverse and waterwise garden or learn more about the benefits of green, waterwise and biodiverse gardens?

Visit our Waterwise Verge Gardens [page](#), read our [growing local native plant brochures](#) or sign up for [ReWild Perth](#).

### Visiting and Volunteering with the Wildflower Society of WA's Northern Suburbs Nursery

The nursery is located at Landsdale Farm School, Cnr Hepburn Ave and Evandale Rd, Darch and is open **Thursdays** and **Saturdays** between **9:00am-2:00pm** [Site Map](#).

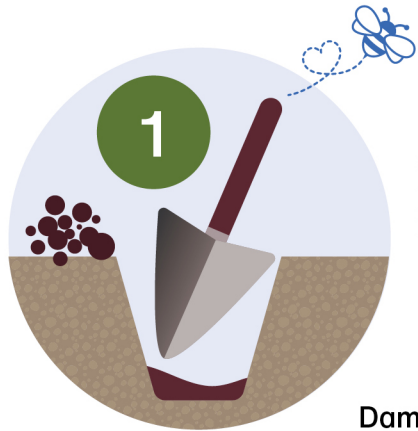
The range of plants for sale is constantly changing and there is always something new and exciting to discover. Volunteers are available during the nursery opening hours to help provide advice on growing and propagation.

New volunteers are welcomed. There is no need to let them know you're coming, simply turn up and introduce yourself. No prior experience is required, only an enthusiasm for native plants and a willingness to learn. Days and hours are flexible.

More information is available on the WSoWA Northern Suburbs Branch [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

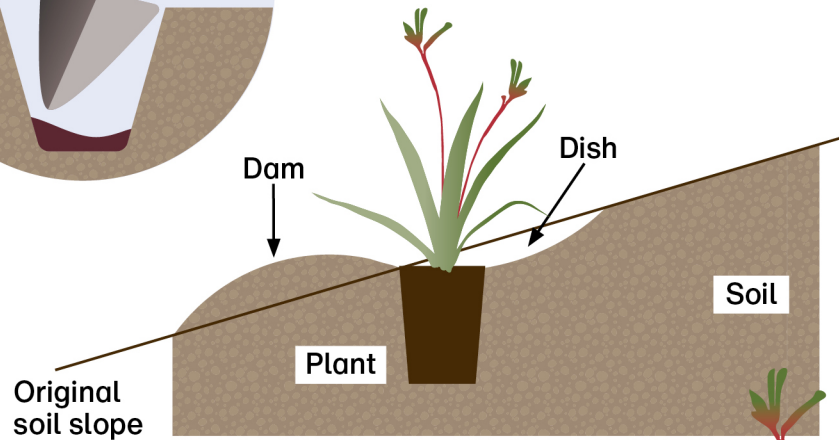


# Your Planting Guide for Success – Step by Step



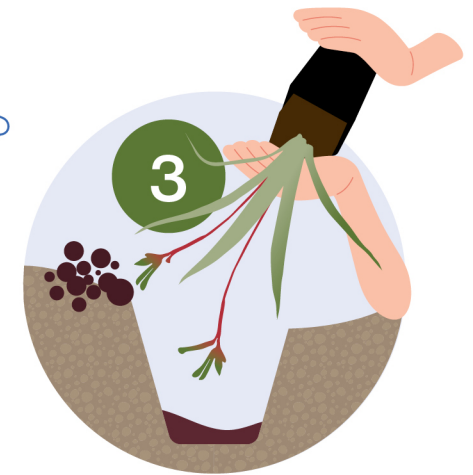
## Dig your hole

Dig a hole at least twice as deep and wide as the size of the pot. Create a 'dish' for the plant to sit in below ground level to collect rainwater, and a 'dam' to prevent run-off.



## Healthy Soil

Use a waterwise liquid soil wetting agent with low phosphorous and mix into the hole. Add waterwise native slow release fertilizer.



## Plant

Tip your plant gently out of the pot and place in the hole at the same level or slightly below the surrounding soil. Fill the gaps with soil and press gently by hand to create the dish. Add coarse open waterwise mulch, such as pine bark or whole tree prunings, around the plant (maximum depth 50-75mm) keeping the mulch away from the stem.



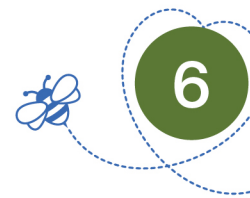
## Water

Help your plant settle into its new home by applying 5 litres of water per plant for the first year. If your sand is hydrophobic (e.g. water runs away and doesn't soak in) then apply some soil wetter.



## Aftercare – watch it grow and tweak as you go

Regular watering after planting is important while the plant is being established. Water every two weeks in Spring and Autumn, and every week in Summer. Add a waterwise slow-release fertilizer onto the soil around the plant every six months to a year, until established. Some plants may need pruning over time.



## Enjoy your verge

Sit back and enjoy your hard work and notice the benefits that your verge provides to making your neighbourhood a cool and green space for local wildlife and people on your street. You might even see a native bird species enjoying your new verge!

THE CITY OF JOONDALUP IS A PROUD  
PLATINUM WATERWISE COUNCIL

