

25TH
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



City of
Joondalup

A detailed illustration of various native Australian plants, including banksias, grevilleas, and a monarch butterfly, set against a light green background.

Native Plant Giveaway

Waterwise plants for wildlife

Frequently Asked
Questions (FAQs)

THE CITY OF JOONDALUP IS A PROUD
GOLD WATERWISE COUNCIL



joondalup.wa.gov.au



Native Plant Giveaway initiative

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do you have a few more questions?

Read our FAQs to see if it holds the answer for you. If not feel free to contact an Environmental Project Officer on enviro@joondalup.wa.gov.au or **9400 4544**.

Is there a list of the plants available for the Giveaway?

Plant lists for each of the five specially curated plant packs can be found [here](#).

There is a species list suitable for the area on our [growing local native plants webpage](#). The plants used for the initiative are drawn from this list but does not include all of them. More detailed native and waterwise plant lists for your suburbs can be found on:

- Water Corporations [Waterwise Plant Directory](#)
- ReWild Perth's [digital plant library](#)
- Apace Nurseries [native plant search tool](#)

In addition to plants, the structure of the vegetation in a garden is extremely important in supporting wildlife, as is ensuring sufficient food resources, such as water and insects.

If you wish to support small birds in your garden, read Birdlife's [tips for creating a bird-friendly garden](#).

Where do I collect my plants from?

During the application process you will have the opportunity to select your preferred plant giveaway event location. Closer to the events, the City will send a link to register and confirm your attendance at one of the plant giveaway events.

The four native plant giveaway events are listed on the application form. If you are not able to collect your plants on your selected date, contact an Environmental Project Officer at the City on enviro@joondalup.wa.gov.au or **9400 4544**.

Why do we hold the plant giveaway events in April?

Autumn is a great time of year to get your plants in the ground as you will be able to capitalise on seasonal rainfall through autumn and winter.

You may be able to apply for a [watering exemption](#) to help you get your new plants established if the hot weather persists.

How big will the native seedlings be?

The native seedlings will be approximately 5 months old when you take them home. They come in small tubestock pots, that are around 50mm tall. The good news is that digging the perfect sized hole will take less effort!

Why are the plants so small?

We choose tubestock or small pots for this initiative for two reasons. Younger plants adapt better and grow quicker in their new environment than plants that have lived in a pot for longer. They are also more affordable than buying mature plants, meaning we can provide you with more plants.

How long will my plants take to grow?

This is very dependent on the species, the plant itself and the conditions such as sun, the amount of water applied via watering and rainfall, the moisture retained through mulching, and soil type but they will generally take two years to establish into healthy young plants and several more years to reach their full potential.

Does my waterwise garden need irrigation and watering?

We recommend establishing a [rain garden](#) that does not require irrigation. If your waterwise garden needs a little irrigation help, contact your local [waterwise specialist](#) for advice on which system will best suit your plants' needs. While establishing your garden, you may be able to [apply for a watering exemption](#). Once established, native plants require very little watering as they are usually drought tolerant plants, adapted to our unique soil and climate conditions. We are also celebrating the WA Tree Festival in April.



How do I get free mulch and/or compost?

Residents can download the annual Waste Guide online and request your free mulch and compost vouchers. Another great resource for free mulch is MulchNet.com.

How to apply mulch?

Spread waterwise organic mulch or 'cut and drop' prunings in established gardens to an even layer of minimum 50mm to suppress weeds. Keep clear of the plant stem by 50mm or up to 500mm of tree trunks. Water in well after mulching.

How do I know if I live in an ecological corridor?

Check if you live in a habitat/ecological corridor here. Click 'Biodiversity Habitat Corridor' on the left-hand menu. [Joondalup > Property](#)

Can I create a waterwise garden on my verge?

Yes, if it's suitable! We even have a native plants giveaway pack option designed for verges! Please read the City's [Street Verge Guidelines](#) and more on our [waterwise verge gardens](#) webpage to get you started.

What should I do if a cat visits our backyard?

If the cat is a pet, and you know who owns it, have a chat with the owner and ask them to keep the cat away from your yard. If the cat is not known to you or does not have any visible signs of ownership such as a tag, then you can call a Field Officer on **9400 4000**. Learn more about how to deter unwanted cats at your home [here](#).

Are foxes a problem for wildlife?

Reports of fox activity in the City have been increasing over recent years. Fox dens have been found in parks and seen in backyards and streets. Sighting 'hotspots' have been around Joondalup and Kingsley, but foxes have also been seen in Iluka and Craigie. Fox control is difficult in areas with high human populations, as control methods such as baits and traps cannot be used in public places. The City has undertaken den fumigations in recent years, with some success. If an active den is discovered, you can report it to the City for investigation as part of ongoing control programs. To deter foxes on private property don't leave pet food outside, and secure the lid on your compost and other waste bins. Fox sightings can be reported to [FoxScan](#).

What if my plants die?

Don't worry! It happens to all of us. Did you follow the planting and care instruction? Plants can be sensitive and sometimes they die for no known reason. Gardening is a bit of an experiment and sometimes we just need to trial different plants in a spot to see what works.

Can I get more plants if the first ones die?

As there are a limited number of plants available in the initiative and all the plants available under this initiative would have been allocated to other homes, no further plants will be available. You can however keep an eye out for future greening initiatives.

How were my plants selected to be included in the initiative or to a particular plant pack?

The City's Environmental Development team, Natural Environment team and Landscaping team selected the plants based on:

- Waterwise rating
- Growing conditions in our local area
- Supporting conservation through gardening
- Food and shelter that the plants provide for birds, insects and mammals
- Suitability for gardens (e.g. not too spiky, no sharp grass seeds to get in dog paws, allergies) and survival rate
- Ease of maintenance
- Availability at a local nursery

Waterwise plants are reviewed and co-funded by Water Corporation's Waterwise Greening Scheme.

Where can I buy more plants?

We are lucky to have so many incredible local places where we can buy waterwise native plants! You can find your local nursery by viewing these online directories via Water Corporation's [Waterwise specialists](#), garden centres and nurseries or the Wildflower Society's [WA Native Plant Nurseries](#).

Where can I get more information about waterwise and wildlife friendly gardening?

- [Growing local native plants](#)
- [Water Corporation](#) – native waterwise garden designs, advice on soil preparation and so much more.
- [ReWild Perth](#) – a website to provide you advice on how to build native gardens with local wildlife in mind and to improve biodiversity. They have a bounty of incredible resources and if you sign-up you can be part of the larger community and work through your action plan to create an oasis for local wildlife.
- [NatureLink Perth](#) - is a 'community of practice' of diverse stakeholders, working together to integrate nature into our city, to conserve and enhance our internationally-recognised biodiversity and provide a healthy, liveable city benefiting the economy, the environment and people. They have lots of great resources to help you green and cool your neighbourhood.
- [Birdlife](#) – a website dedicated to everything you need to know about Australian birds. Particularly the page on [creating a bird-friendly garden](#).
- [Apace](#) our partnering nursery have a range of articles on native gardening and plants.
- WA's [George Lullfitz](#) website on native gardening and related topics or challenges you may be facing, like finding native plants that are suited to the [shady spots](#) or [summer survivors](#) and even the plants you need to [attract more birds and insects!](#)
- Simon Cherriman from [The Re-Cyc-Ology Project](#) can show you how to build a nest box and has a range of incredible information on creating habitat for local wildlife.
- [Gardening with Angus](#) – Angus Stewart's amazing website on native gardening and lots of related topics.
- [Short video from the Birds in Backyard program](#) on creating habitat for small birds.
- [Backyard Buddies](#) – small bird and lots of other wildlife information.

How can I network with other wildlife and waterwise gardeners in the area?

There are a range of ways to connect with other gardeners in the area or learn more about local native plants and animals. Here are some ideas:

- Sign-up for [ReWild Perth](#) to be part of their wildlife and waterwise gardening program and community.
- Join your local [community garden group](#) or [friends group](#).
- Join or volunteer for the [Wildflower Society](#) of WA or their [Northern Suburbs Branch Nursery](#).





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This document is available in alternative formats upon request.