



# Verge Garden Tips

The City of Kwinana encourages residents to plant sustainable, native verge gardens. These gardens are attractive, low maintenance and provide homes for our unique local birds and animals. A low-growing native verge garden will use significantly less water than lawn.

This guide offers tips for you to get started on creating a beautiful verge garden while meeting the City's requirements. Please refer to the City of Kwinana Verge Policy available on the City's website before you begin landscaping your verge.

## When should I start?

The best time to plant your verge is late Autumn/early Winter. This way winter rains will help your garden to establish and you won't need to use as much scheme water to establish the garden.

## Who looks after my verge garden?

Your street verge is the area between the road and the front boundary of your property. The City encourages a level of ownership of verges by property owners. While the City is responsible for planting and pruning street trees, the property owner is generally responsible for maintaining a neat, tidy and safe verge garden.

### Verge gardens checklist

- ☒ Low-growing, native plants have been used.
- ☒ Clear pedestrian access is available immediately adjacent to the kerb.
- ☒ Visibility is not restricted for pedestrians or vehicles.
- ☒ The plants are not thorny or poisonous.
- ☒ The plants are not noxious weeds – check the **Declare Plants** page on the **Department of Agriculture and Food** website and the **Pest Plants Local Law** on the **City of Kwinana** website.
- ☒ Plants are not on top of services – contact **Dial Before You Dig 1100**.
- ☒ No planter boxes or built structures have been used.



# Verge Garden Tips

STEP    
  **1**

**Remove  
the lawn or  
weeds**

Your existing lawn or weeds will need to be removed, including roots and runners. This can be done carefully with a shovel or alternatively you can treat the lawn with an appropriate herbicide. Please follow all instructions carefully for your own safety and to protect the local environment.

Use caution when removing lawn around existing street trees. Feeder roots of some trees extend just 30cm below the soil and damaging these roots may harm or kill the tree. Aim to only dig as deep as required to remove the lawn.

**TIP:** Call Dial Before You Dig on 1100 to check for any underground pipes or cables.

STEP    
  **2**

**Prepare  
the soil**

Preparation is crucial to ensure your plants grow well and need minimal water. We recommend mixing compost and bentonite clay into the soil and following with a **Waterwise** or **Smart Approved WaterMark** wetting agent.

STEP    
  **3**

**Plant**

Low growing local natives are recommended. The City's Bushcare officers can provide advice on plant selection. Call 9439 0200.

STEP    
  **4**

**Mulch**

Apply a 50-75mm layer of mulch with large, irregularly shaped particles that hold little if any water. This is the best mulch for retaining water in your soil and reducing the amount you need to water. Other types of mulch may actually reduce the amount of water reaching your plant's roots. Chipped tree prunings or woodchips are ideal.

STEP    
  **5**

**Water**

With low growing local natives planted in the manner described above your verge will need to be watered twice a week for the first two summers to allow the plants to establish.

**You could be entitled to a free street tree.** The City of Kwinana offers free street trees to eligible properties. Planting a street tree will assist to reduce the 'heat island' effect that occurs in built up paved areas. It will help cool your house and add value to your property. Contact the City to see if your space is suitable.

## Further reading:

A step by step guide to creating a waterwise verge – Water Corporation [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)  
Plantsman soil recipe – [www.plantsman.com.au](http://www.plantsman.com.au)

**TIP:** Consider the positioning of utility assets such as water meters when planning your verge garden. Ensure assets are unobstructed and safely accessible for reading and maintenance. The water meter should be clear 30cm around every side, and have at least 120cm of open air above. Utility providers are entitled to dig up verges to gain access to their alignment for new services, and to upgrade or repair existing services. Rectification of verge treatments following this work is the responsibility of the resident.