



May 2022 Garden Club Printable

Every month we transfer all of the good bits from our online club platform, into a printable version for facilities.

Some sections may refer you back to the platform or online sources.



STREET GARDENING

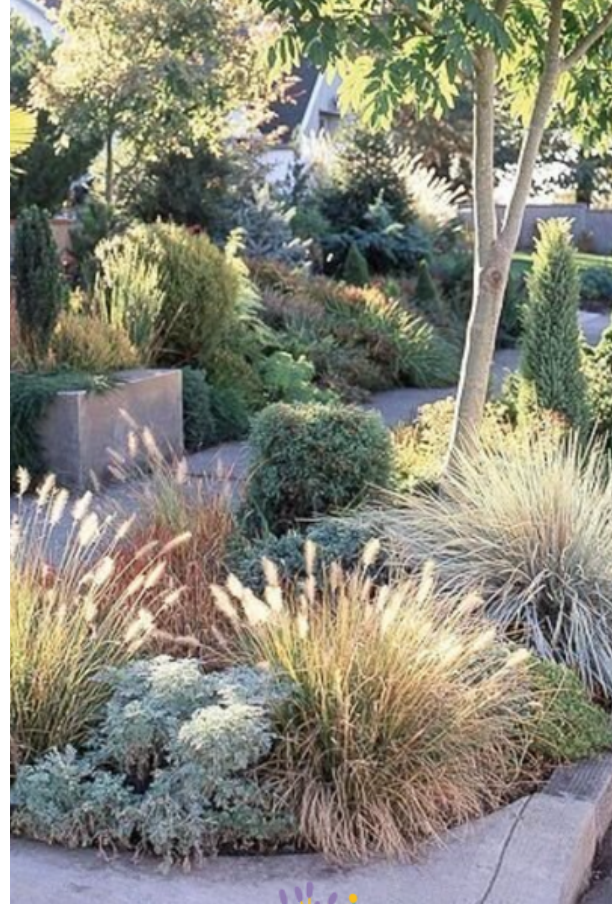
WITH THE WEATHER TURNING INTO THE PERFECT TIME TO GET OUT AND GET PLANTING, WE WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT WHAT MIGHT BE AN UNTAPPED AREA TO SPREAD YOUR GREEN THUMB GOODNESS - THE STREET.

"Street gardening is creating a garden in a public space (often by a resident outside their home) combining site awareness, observation and immersion with a particularly determined, generous, positive and community-centred mindset."

Did you know that in Melbourne, more than a third of all public green space is nature strips? That's quite something if you think about it and if looked at in a positive light, there is very real potential for the environmental and social benefits of gardens and gardening to have a profound effect on the wellbeing of cities and all things within them.

The best place to start is, of course, on your doorstep and in your local community and naturally, within local council constraints. Sometimes this process can be slow and difficult but don't lose heart - every little bit counts and if you focus on what you CAN do, rather than some of the challenges and obstacles that will inevitably arise, then you will be so incredibly proud of the impacts and results.

Scroll down for some more inspiration and information on Street Gardening to get yourself ready to make a big impact in your local area.



We hope you enjoy creating a special space for your community! Happy Gardening!

first

challenge of the month



TIMED DRAWING CHALLENGES

This challenge is a bit of a fun and something you can do quickly with your residents. This challenge curtesy of Annie Herron – the Timed Drawing Challenge.

Try to tie this in with your garden theme if the weather is nice head out into your garden for this activity and have a go at some fast drawings of something that takes your fancy outdoors! If there weather isn't ideal, you can easily bring it inside.

The time can be tailored to your group, so you can extend times as needed.

All you need is lots of paper, pens, a timer and some drawing ideas. Here are a few to get you started..."

TWO MINUTE: DRAW THE GARDEN

Sit near your facility garden and pick out five items. Focus on each one and draw them within two minutes.

THREE MINUTES: DRAW YOUR SHOES

Shoes are the one article of clothing that retain the character of the wearer when they've taken them off – all other clothes just drop in an ambiguous pile. This means our shoes have a personality and life of their own and are great subjects for drawing. Note that leather shoes are more interesting to draw than sneakers! Look for buckles, laces or any interesting details.

FOUR MINUTES: DRAW THE BOOKSHELF

Look around and find a shelf with some different objects on it. Start the timer. Draw what you see, starting from the front and working towards the back. Don't overthink it, just start drawing.

FIVE MINUTES: DRAW THE VIEW THROUGH YOUR WINDOW

Draw the view out of your nearest window. Start with whatever you see first (even the window frame), then draw in the next closest thing – maybe it's a telegraph pole, a tree in the garden or something on the windowsill. Work back into the distance, making your lines lighter as you go to give visual perspective. If you have window panes, draw each pane as a separate picture.



SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Gardening is something that requires a good amount of local knowledge and this month our challenge for you is to share some of your knowledge with someone in your local community.

This can, of course be your facility community!



You can do this in small groups, when visiting with residents one-on-one or it can be done in large groups where residents can go around in a circle and share something. This activity is wonderful to stimulate memory and ignite passion for your green thumbs.

It might be as simple as sharing the type of shrub that is hardy in a particular location, or the secret to seedling that take - whatever it is, your kind words and wisdom will make a positive impact and encourage everyone to get out into the garden and onto the street to enjoy the wonders of the plant world. Try these ideas for questions to get the activity started!

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PLANT TO GROW?

DID THE WEATHER WHERE YOU LIVED EVER CREATE CHALLENGES FOR YOU? WAS IT COLD, HOT, DRY SOIL?

WHAT WAS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT IN A GARDEN

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST THING YOU EVER GREW

DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE GARDEN, IT MAY BE WHERE YOU ONCE LIVED, A PUBLIC GARDEN, A FRIENDS GARDEN

Facility staff can go first, share their own highs and lows, and ask questions. The idea is to use our mind, and conversation, to take residents back into the garden and what they loved.

The links to these resources can inside your Facility Hub online.

A book to read

HELLSTRIP GARDENING - CREATE A PARADISE BETWEEN THE SIDEWALK AND THE CURB
BY EVELYN HADDEN

Hellstrip Gardening by Evelyn Hadden, the author of the acclaimed Beautiful No-Mow Yards, is the first book to show you exactly how to reclaim this oft-ignored space. This comprehensive guide covers how to determine the city and Home Owner's Association rules governing the area, how to choose plants that thrive in tough situations, how to design pathways for accessibility, and much more. Gorgeous color photographs of hellstrip gardens across the country offer inspiration and visual guidance to anyone ready to tackle this final frontier.



A little blog to discover

The Heart Gardening Project is a community initiative bringing humans and nature together joyfully through street gardening. It's pretty awesome. Their blog is full of wonderful information, tips and tricks so it's a great place to start.



THE HEART GARDENING PROJECT

Some helpful info and links

Here is an article from ABC Everyday by Jane Canaway 'What you can plant on nature strips in Australia (and how to do it)'

What is and isn't allowed varies enormously between councils so be sure to contact them to see what is possible. Be aware that they may be better at informing you of what is not allowed and not as confident in providing information on what is possible. This article is a great place to give you some direction and insight into the movement and the councils that are making the most of the spaces they have.

READ IT HERE

A movie for a bit of fun!

A LITTLE CHAOS



HOME-MADE WREATHS FROM ANNIE HERRON

Here's the basic framework for a wreath you can make anywhere, any time of year. Start by finding some green bendy vines, grasses, branches, or garden cuttings (such as banksia rose, willow, grape or wisteria). Take one long, stronger piece and twist it together to make a circle, weaving the ends together, and then weave more pieces into the base shape so it grows and strengthens into a self-supporting circle. You can manipulate the wreath a bit with your hands, so push and shape it as you go.

Add decorations all around the wreath or in a bunch where the ends meet. Starting with a strong wreath shape allows you to adapt it all year round – add Christmas ribbons in December, weave in autumn leaves, tie in dyed blown eggs for Easter, or use branches with early blossom for a springtime celebration wreath.

WREATH TIPS

- When you're beginning your wreath, establish what is going to be the top and bottom. That way you can arrange the ends of your weaving materials to sit at the bottom, creating a nice asymmetry.
- Look out for garden, vineyard or park prunings, or twisty bendy vines in your garden, but collect and use them quite quickly as they are much easier to work with when they're still green. If they dry out, soak them in water in the bath to make them more malleable.
- If you're working with no-so-bendy material, tie florists' wire to twine or twine around the wreath at intervals to hold the shape. You can cover up the ties with ribbons, or tuck in pods, foliage or any decorations.



Contact



Remember, if you have any trouble implementing any of these activities or resources, just send us an email and we will be quick to assist!

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