



City of
Belmont



Verge Garden Makeover Guide



Plants for Locals

Our selection of plants is drawn from our beautiful native streetscapes palette and habitat plants for local fauna.

	Sc. Name	Com. Name	Info	Sun	Flower Season	Height	Width	Attractor
	Conostylis candicans	Cotton Heads	This perennial has strappy grey-green foliage with small clusters of yellow flowers. It is drought tolerate and will last in the garden for several years.	Full sun	Spring	30 cm	50 cm	Birds
	Dampiera teres	"Little Blue Boy"	A beautiful shrub with a bright blue flower which blooms over a long period. It has slender grey-green foliage.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring to Summer	50 cm	50 cm	Bees and other insects
	Dianella revoluta	Blue Flax-lily	A tough clumping plant which can be suited to most conditions. It has small purple flowers which turn into edible berries.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring to Summer	75 cm	150 cm	Birds, Bees, Frogs and small mammals.
	Hemiandra pungens	Snake bush	This hardy groundcover has small white to purple flowers. It can be used in area to prevent soil erosion.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring to Summer	10 cm	200 cm	Insects and reptiles
	Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman	A highly attractive groundcover which has bright red pea shaped flowers. It is a great plant to cover any large gaps in your garden.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring	10 cm	300 cm	Birds, Bees, Frogs and small mammals.
	Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	This small, rounded shrub create a cushion of silver foliage and has small yellow flowers. It is tolerate of drought and most soil conditions.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring to Summer	75cm	100cm	Insects and reptiles
	Orthrosanthus laxus	Morning Iris	A native iris-like plant which has attractive spikes of multiple blue flowers. It will spread out in clumps.	Full Sun / Part Shade	Spring	50cm	40cm	Bees



Your role

Verge treatment maintenance is the responsibility of the householder of the property adjacent to the verge. We are responsible for the planting and maintenance of street trees on verges.

The City's verge policy and guidelines require plants to be:

- under 75cm height to maintain driving sight lines
- not poisonous or thorny (for pedestrian safety)
- planted in the ground or in a shallow raised bed (up to 35mm)
- not planted within 1.5m of the kerb unless there is a footpath on your side of the street.



← For more information, scan the QR code to our Verge Greening Guidelines.

Grass/weed removal:

The hardest but most critical part of creating your verge garden will be the removal of any existing grass. There are a number of ways to remove grass lawns, depending on your time and budget:

- removing with a turf cutter or shovel.
- smothering
 - cover with newspaper/ cardboard and add >5cm of compost on top to aid breakdown (newspaper/ cardboard can draw water out of the soil) and to add nutrients to the soil underneath.
- applying an organic herbicide (e.g., pelargonic acid based).

Soil Preparation

To correctly prepare your soil, you need to know what your soil type is. In the City of Belmont, we have two main soil types.

Central Coastal Plain	Eastern Coastal Plain
Rivervale, Redcliffe, Cloverdale, Kewdale, most of Belmont.	Most of Ascot and portion of Belmont closest to the River.
Grey to pale brown sandy soil.	Variable soil types from sandy, loamy, and clayey soils.



Map of soil types by area ↑

Soil water retention

Improving water retention in the soil is an important step to benefit your plants. Perth's soils can be hydrophobic (water repellent) and are highly permeable. This can prevent water from soaking in and water drain through the soil so quickly it cannot be absorbed by plants.

Use an environmentally friendly soil wetter to help improve water retention. There are additional ways to improve water retaining, at each planting hole:

- Mix bentonite/kaolin clay into the existing soil
- Add and mix organic matter through the soil (native friendly compost)

Soil level

You may have to adjust the level of your verge soil to ensure that once a 5-10cm mulch layer is added the overall ground level is sitting flush with the kerb. This is to avoid overspill onto the road/ footpath and to retain water within the verge garden.



Planting

After all the hard work of preparing your garden, now the fun part!

1

Spread your plants out and consider their mature size when planting. Remember, great gardens take time to grow. Placing plants too close together can affect their growth, cause overcrowding and eventually “shade out” other plants.



2

Dig the hole at least 2 – 3 times larger than the width and depth of the pot.



3

Remove your plant from the pot and place your plant in the hole, the soil level of the plant should be the same as the natural soil level. Push the soil back around the plant to fill in the hole, then making a fist with your hand, gentle push the soil around the roots of the plant making a “well” around the base of the plant to create an area for water to pool and slowly sink into the soil. Water your plant in well and if you have some kelp or a seaweed solution include that also at this stage.



Mulch

Applying a coarse layer of mulch, 5-10cm thick, will retain soil moisture by preventing evaporation, provide organic matter and nutrients for soil microbes and plants, lower the soil temperature, and will also suppress weeds.

- Ensure you leave space around main plant stems and street tree trunks.
- Make sure the mulch is level with your kerbs and footpath, this will prevent spread or flow onto footpaths or into stormwater systems.



Ongoing Maintenance

After Planting

It is important to keep your plants watered while they settle in to their new homes. In the event of no rain, a good 2 litre drink every week should suffice. Adding a kelp or seaweed solution into the water will greatly assist with transplant shock and the success of your plant establishment.

First summer

Water your plants 1-2 times per week in their first summer with 1-2 litres of water per plant each time. In their second year it will really depend on how they are progressing, but general rule of thumb is a good water every 2 weeks through the hotter months around early November to late March.

After establishment

Yearly application of an organic, pelletized low phosphorous fertilizer for native plants followed by 50 – 100mm of organic mulch will all help to keep your plants and soil microbes healthy.

Need help?

Visit our website or contact our Parks, Leisure and Environment team on environment@belmont.wa.gov.au or (08) 9477 7257.



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