



# 7 steps to a great vegie garden

## 1 Location

Location, location, location! Just like real estate, you need to put some thought into the location of your vegie garden. It is preferable that your plants receive at least 6 hours of sun in winter. Any less and growth will be slower, and you may have more issues with pests and disease. In summer, sun protection is important – this is best provided by a shade cloth structure of some kind. It is also a good idea to have your vegie garden where you can easily see it. Tucked right up the back corner of the block may mean you won't get to walk past it and can't easily check progress.

## 2 Plan for intruders

The stealthy kind that come into your vegie garden from underground looking for all the moisture and nutrients you lavish on it. Tree roots, shrubs and even grass can have invasive roots – a problem often overlooked. Trees don't even have to be on your property – they will travel under fences for metres. The solution is to use a root barrier of some kind.

## 3 Start from the ground up

The secret to great plants is great soil. Whether you buy in soil, or work at improving what you already have; make sure it's a good mixture of sand, clay and organic matter. Add trace elements and a source of nutrition. Speak to us at The Green Life Soil Co for free advice. Soil is what we specialise in & our advice is free.

## 4 Start small

Yep. Rome wasn't built in a day. Begin with even a few things in pots if you're new to gardening. Many people are tempted to go all-out when they get bitten by the growing bug; but it's easy to over estimate your available time, and over spend your budget. If things don't work the first time it's bitterly disappointing. We don't want anyone discouraged. Build on your success, start with easy to grow things that you like to eat and your thumb will get greener every week, we promise.

## 5 Grow in season

Working with nature is the best way. If you try to grow out of season, you'll most likely lose your crops to the cold (or heat) and pests. Don't be fooled by the wide range of seedlings you can find at the big hardware stores. Many of these have been grown in special conditions that are nothing like the "real world" of your garden. Take the time to look online, get a garden app, good book or magazine (or see our website) for a 'what to plant when' list.

## 6 Water & Watch

Keep an eye on your garden and if there are any pests or diseases affecting your plants, you can get an early start on defence. Always easier to nip problems in the bud (so to speak) than wait until you have a much bigger problem. Ensure plants get adequate water; not too much (in winter) but if we have a dry spell, do check if plants need a drink. Watering your plants by hand from time to time is a great way to observe your garden & enjoy it.

## 7 Pest patrol

In the cooler months, pests to watch out for include slugs, snails, aphids and slaters. Cabbage moth & Cabbage butterfly also become active towards Spring. Thankfully, you don't have to resort to heavy chemicals. There are a number of simple treatments you can make at home that are safe & effective. See our website for more pest control recipes and more information.

No matter what you're growing, the right soil to suit your plants and conditions is the key to your success. Choose our tailored soil solutions for a thriving garden in Perth's unique climate. Benefit from long term savings and lower maintenance for a beautiful, enduring garden due to the permanent ingredients we use in our soils. Bring in a small sample of your soil and we will conduct a FREE pH test and give you our advice on how to improve your soil for the long term.

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