



primefacts

FOR PROFITABLE, ADAPTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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PRIMEFACT 543

Drought smart gardening using native Australian plants

Forests NSW Nurseries

Using Australian native plants in your garden will help reduce the amount of water you use in your garden, while still allowing you to have an interesting and colourful garden, even in the driest times.

A 'drought smart' garden not only saves you water, it is low maintenance, and will save you both time and money.

To create a drought smart garden using native plants follow these steps:

1. Correct selection: Choose the correct species for the garden, taking care to group your plants by their preferred aspect. If you wish to include some more water-needy species, then plant them in one area.
2. Improve soil: Improve your soil before planting. Adding compost will help increase the water holding capacity. Make sure the soil is thoroughly soaked before planting.
3. Planting: Remember to use correct planting techniques so that the plant is planted at the correct height, making sure the hole is twice the diameter of the pots. Add a small amount of slow release fertiliser to the hole.
4. Watering: After planting, you will need to water regularly for the first couple of weeks. Then begin to condition the plants to longer periods without water. A deep water once a week is far better than a quick water each day. *Remember the lower the watering regime, the more tolerant the plants will become to drought.*

5. Mulching: Once you have planted your garden, mulching is the most important factor. There are many types of mulch available - even crushed sandstone. It keeps moisture in the soil and the organic types will eventually decompose, further conditioning your soil.

6. Pruning: Native plants need to be pruned to keep their shape and to rejuvenate their growth. Late autumn or spring are the best times for this.

Forests NSW Nurseries are specialists in native plants. Some of our nurseries grow plants under a reduced water regime so that the process of drought-proofing has begun before you purchase your plants. This means they are more hardy once planted out.

Our nurseries sell a wide range of drought suitable varieties including grevilleas, bottlebrushes and wattles as well as some of the more unusual native grasses, ground-covers and rockery plants.

So come in and let our staff advise you on a drought smart garden!



Contact Our Nurseries:

Cumberland Forest Nursery (Sydney)

95 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills 2125

Ph: (02) 9871 3222

Fax: (02) 9872 7590

Dubbo Forest Nursery

Wellington Road, Dubbo 2830

Ph: (02) 6884 5319

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Gunnedah Forest Nursery

Cnr Martin & Mullaley Rds, Gunnedah 2380

Ph: (02) 6742 3126

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Muswellbrook Forest Nursery

New England Highway, Muswellbrook 2333

Ph: (02) 6543 2622

Fax: (02) 6543 1154

Narrandera Forest Nursery

Lake Drive, Narrandera 2700

Ph: (02) 6959 1223

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Wagga Wagga Forest Nursery

Olympic Way, Wagga Wagga 2650

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