

Gardening for Biodiversity

Where to start?



1. Mulch

- Use 7-10cm of coarse, chunky mulch to help retain water, stop weeds, and protect the soil.



2. Micro-habitat

- Add a log, branch, or a few rocks as homes for small critters. You could add an insect hotel or bird box as well.



3. Water

- Provide water in a shallow dish or birdbath. Clean regularly and include a stone or branch to ensure animals can exit easily.



4. Wildflowers

- Plant a variety of flowering natives of different shapes and sizes including shrubby, creeping, and strappy plants.



Visit [ReWild Perth](#) for customised suggestions for your suburb and garden.



Guide to Growing Natives

Choosing plants:

- Identify your soil type
- Visit the following resources for local plant suggestions:
 - SERCUL Grow Local Plants Brochures
 - Waterwise Plant Tool by Water Corporation
 - ReWild Perth
 - APACE Suburb Selector

Soil preparation:

- Call Dial Before You Dig to check for underground utilities.
- Lower soil level by 50-100mm, to make space for mulch. Be careful of tree roots.
- If needed, improve your soil by adding powdered clay (eg. bentonite or kaolin), soil wetting agents, seaweed solution. This only needs to be mixed in to the top 50-100mm of soil. Avoid additives that are high in phosphorous.

Planting:

- Plant in late autumn or early winter
- Dig a hole wider and deeper than the plant pot. Add a few granules of slow release native fertiliser into the hole. Squeeze the pot and tap the rim to gently remove the plant, Place in the hole and refill with soil. Create a well around the stem and water with ~2L of water. If water pools on top, add a pinch of wetting agent. Water every day for the first few days.

Mulching:

- Use 75-100mm of chunky, coarse mulch.
- Keep mulch 100mm from plant stems and 500mm from tree trunks.

Maintenance:

- Weed, prune and top up mulch as needed.
- Water at least once a week for the first summer. Watering less often, but deeply is best to promote strong root growth.

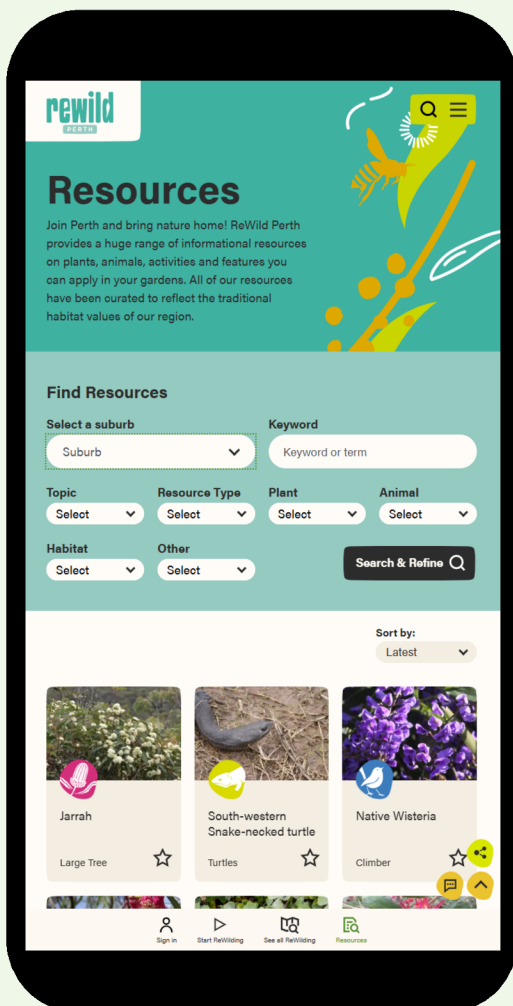


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