

GARDEN

Water saving tips for summer



THE hot summer months are fast approaching and one thing we quickly become aware of over summer is just how valuable water is and the importance of conserving it. Did you know that the average household garden is the largest consumer of water? Here are some tips on how to reduce water consumption in your garden whilst keeping it looking at its best.

- Mulch your garden, preferably with organic mulch to a depth of 100-150mm. Mulch can reduce evaporation from soil by up to 70%. Mulch is like a blanket on the soil, it keeps the soil cool and it reduces evaporation because the soil is not exposed to dry air and drying winds.
- Apply a soil wetting agent to your lawn and garden beds. This will help prevent the soil from repelling water
- Add water saving crystals to baskets and pots.
- Install a water tank. During hot, dry summer months,

collected rainwater is ideal for use on the garden to help lawn and plants thrive under difficult conditions.

- Minimize lawn areas as they use large amounts of water. Only water them at night and use sprinklers which produce large droplets, rather than fine mist.
- Consider water efficient lawn alternatives, e.g. hardy attractive ground cover plants, mulches and paving.
- Install drip irrigation where practical as it is the most water efficient means of irrigating plants. Check all the sprinklers, drippers, sprayers etc on your preexisting irrigation system to ensure there are no blockages or water spraying onto paths.
- Water longer and less frequently. This encourages the development of deep root systems, which makes plants more drought tolerant.
- Select the right plants. Choose plants local to the area and group plants with similar water requirements.



Above: Joanne McIntosh of Bergie's Soils delivered mulch and congratulations to winners Lauren, Lindsay, Lynda Fosbery and Emily Fosbery.

Water Wise Garden Competition Results

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER'S annual Waterwise Garden Competition was another success this year with a great selection of local gardens being entered. The standard of nominations was extraordinarily high this year across many categories and the judges found it extremely difficult this year especially with the Residential - Owner Maintained category.

This year's competition particularly focussed on all aspects of creating and maintaining a Waterwise garden, the overall appearance, colour

and tidiness of gardens and verges. The Judges this year were particularly looking at the effort and love gardeners placed into the gardens.

The judges were particularly impressed with the amount of effort and planning which had gone into the many different gardens and the use of native species, mulch and weed free verges. Garden styles varied greatly, native, cottage, cactus/succulent, formal and informal gardens where presented for judging.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE WINNERS:

- RESIDENTIAL OWNER MAINTAINED** - LYNDA AND LINDSAY FOSBERY
- RESIDENTIAL OWNER MAINTAINED RUNNER UP** - JENNY ANDERSON
- RESIDENTIAL TENANT MAINTAINED** - MRS COLL BENSTED
- COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL** - CITY OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER FOR THE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

\$1200 worth of Bergie's vouchers and 6 trailer loads of mulch donated by Bergie's soils were won. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group

wishes to thank all the entrants for participating in the Waterwise Garden Competition and all the sponsors for making the competition possible.

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membership category: (tick one)

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no: Adults	no: Children
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 business \$100 (price includes GST)

projects I am interested in being involved with:

community tree planting days gardening with native plants
 junior landcare bushwalks
 bushwalks nightstalks
 busy bees on weekends other (please specify)
 displays and promotions



KBULG welcomes new management committee

KBULG held it's AGM on Friday the 2nd of October and after a brief summary of the years abundant activities and acknowledgement of our fantastic core sponsors the new 2009/2010 committee was elected. We are pleased to welcome Dee Thompson as our new secretary. Anne Petz has again filled the position of chairperson, Peta Osborne will continue on as Vice

Chairperson and Rod Botica has been elected Treasurer. A big thank-you to all the outgoing executives for your contribution over the last year, your assistance as with the other committee members during 2008/2009 has been greatly appreciated. The KBULG 2008 - 2009 Annual Report is available for download from www.kbulg.org.au.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VALUED SPONSORS



Our sponsors... helping to care for your local environment. Thank-you!