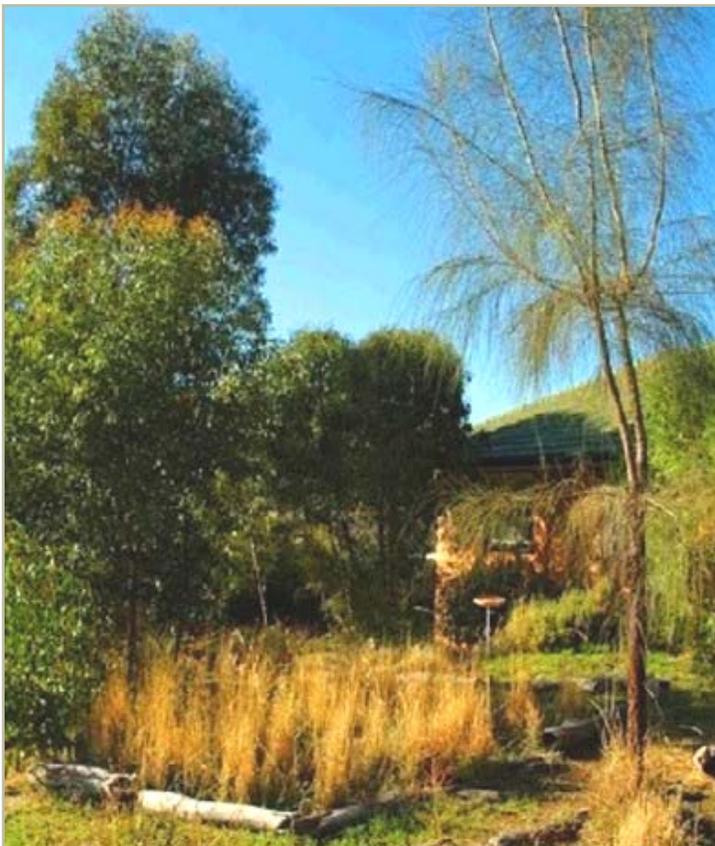


# Bush garden

## Backyards for Wildlife Garden Design Fact Sheet

### What is a Bush Style Garden?

A bushgarden replicates the type of vegetation and habitat that would have been found in your neighbourhood before it was developed as a suburb. It represents the original vegetation structure and provides a natural living space for a range of local wildlife.



### Create Your Bush garden Step by Step

**1. In the natural environment there is no fixed format for any natural element, such as location of rocks, plants or edges of ponds. Therefore, when you are planning a bush garden, avoid using any regular shape and straight lines. Always **outline your garden beds and borders of paths with curves** to mimic the natural environment.**

**2. Prepare the garden beds well before planting.** Good soil preparation can ensure a high successful survival rate. A well matured compost mix applied in your garden beds, will increase the water-holding capacity of the soil, which benefits both plants and your water budget.

**3. Select local plant species that used to occur in your area before European settlement.** As these species were part of the original vegetation association in this area, growing them can help restore lost habitat for local wildlife and help the original natural landscape to reappear.

**4. Distribute plants in a natural way.** Use a range of layers of plants to create structural diversity that would mimic pre-European Adelaide vegetation. Plant different species in irregular clumps, and grow a number of same species together when necessary to create a wild feel.

**5. Avoid using much paved surfaces.** A large number of artificial paving would reduce the activity space of wildlife sharing your bush garden. Most local fauna prefer a safer, ideally sheltered space, to live in or pass through your garden. **Exposed paved areas may become barriers to many terrestrial animals.** Narrow gravel or pebble paths and flagstones with groundcover plants among them are recommended for a bushgarden.

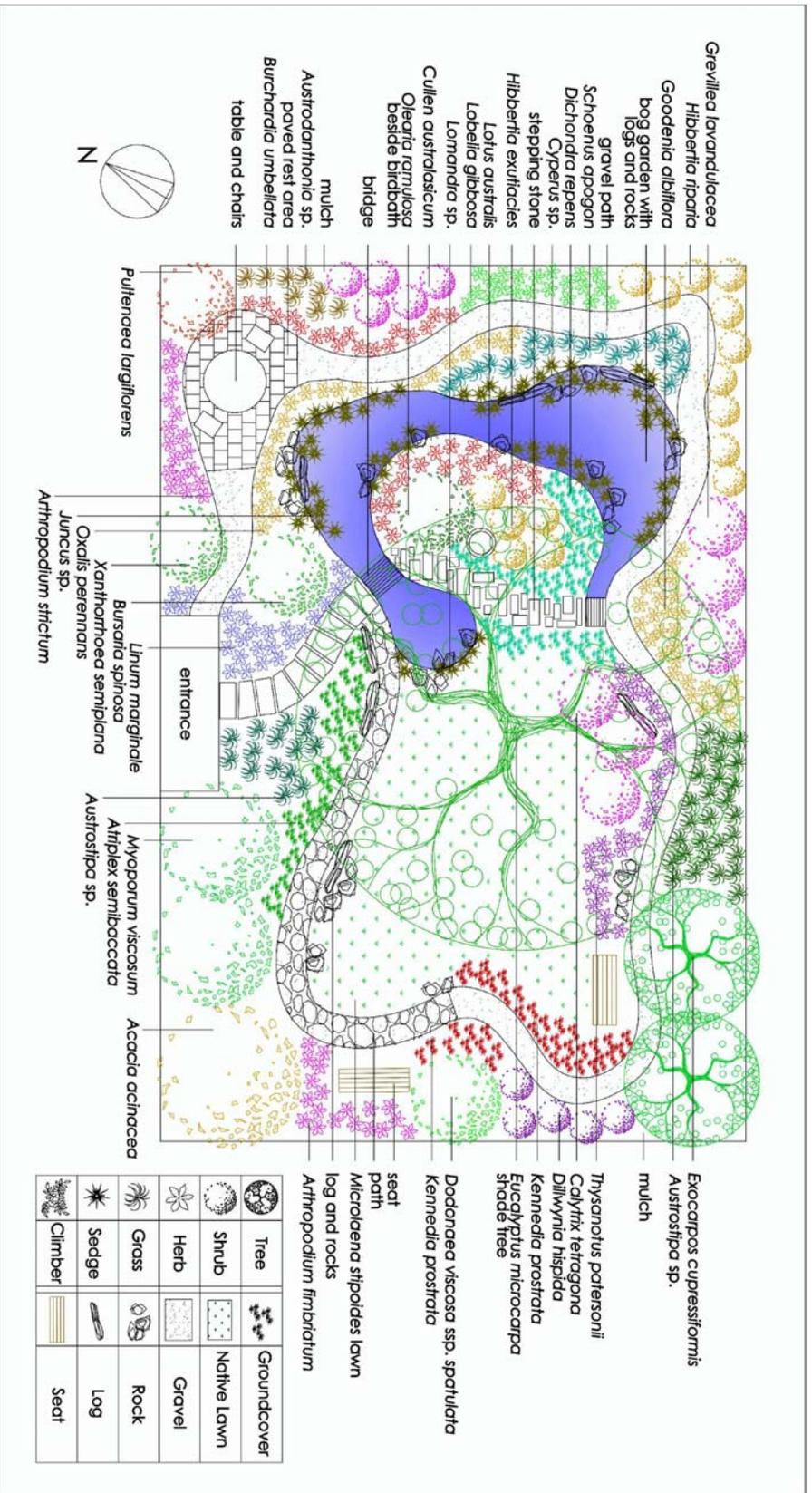
**6. Mulch your garden beds** to conserve water, prevent weed seed germination and keep the soil temperature constant.



**7. Add rocks and logs to your bushgarden.** Rocks in a depression area can form a creek bed in dry times and direct water to where it is wanted in winter. They also provide shelters for reptiles to hide in. Logs with hollows and fallen branches by shallow water features, rocks and dense shrubs will also create a safe haven for all types of fauna to rest, nest and breed.

**8. A little bit of maintenance will give your bush garden a better look.** Plant species local to your area usually do not need much care. However, simple maintenance such as pruning every couple of years can prevent the plants from becoming sparse and or messy.

## Example of a Bush garden using Grey Box and Blue Gum Woodland Species 15m x 10m



This is an example of a bush garden for locations which were once originally Grey Box and Blue Gum Woodlands. The plant species selected for this design are based on a plant list of this vegetation association. **If you are not sure about the association of your area, please visit the BFW website to find your list.**

There are over 80 species lists for different vegetation associations in urban north and south Adelaide throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges in SA. There is also a Native Grower's List and both are available on the BFW website [www.backyards4wildlife.com.au](http://www.backyards4wildlife.com.au)

Click on the interactive map or Nature Maps for your list. If you have a trouble finding your list, please contact the **Urban Biodiversity Unit** with your suburb.

You can also substitute plant species of each plant type with those on your species list if the plant you want is unavailable. Then you can create your own local native garden which benefits your local environment. If you would like to know more information about your local native plants, such as height and flowering time etc, please visit our **plant selector** through the BFW website.

Backyards for Wildlife is managed by the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, with support from the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the Australian Government.



### For further Information Contact

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