

# Contemporary Garden

## Backyards for Wildlife Garden Design Fact Sheet

### What is a Contemporary Style Garden?

A contemporary garden, also known as a 'modern garden', can be defined by the use of 'clean' design lines and hard materials such as stone, hardwood or even steel. It reduces organic features to a large extent and incorporates geometric forms as well as relationships between geometry elements.



### Create Your Contemporary Garden Step by Step

**1. Modern means "simple"**, so it is important to keep things straightforward and orderly if you would like to develop a contemporary garden. Consider geometric shapes when you design the layout for your garden. Make sure the overall structure is unified by using similar shapes repeatedly instead of one of everything.

**Different shapes have different visual effects, so select accordingly.** Linear forms allow gardens to follow walls and fences, while circular ones can be used as focal points. Rectangular garden beds can help you save space to the greatest extent (see sample garden template on next page).

**2. Choose suitable materials.** In contemporary gardens, inorganic elements usually constitute more than 80 percent of the entire area, so selecting hard materials correctly is essential. The materials could be reflective and should be able to catch the attention of the viewer easily. Good choices include, but are not limited to, polished rock surfaces, masonry elements, granite walls, marble decoration, polished limestone structures and stepping stones.



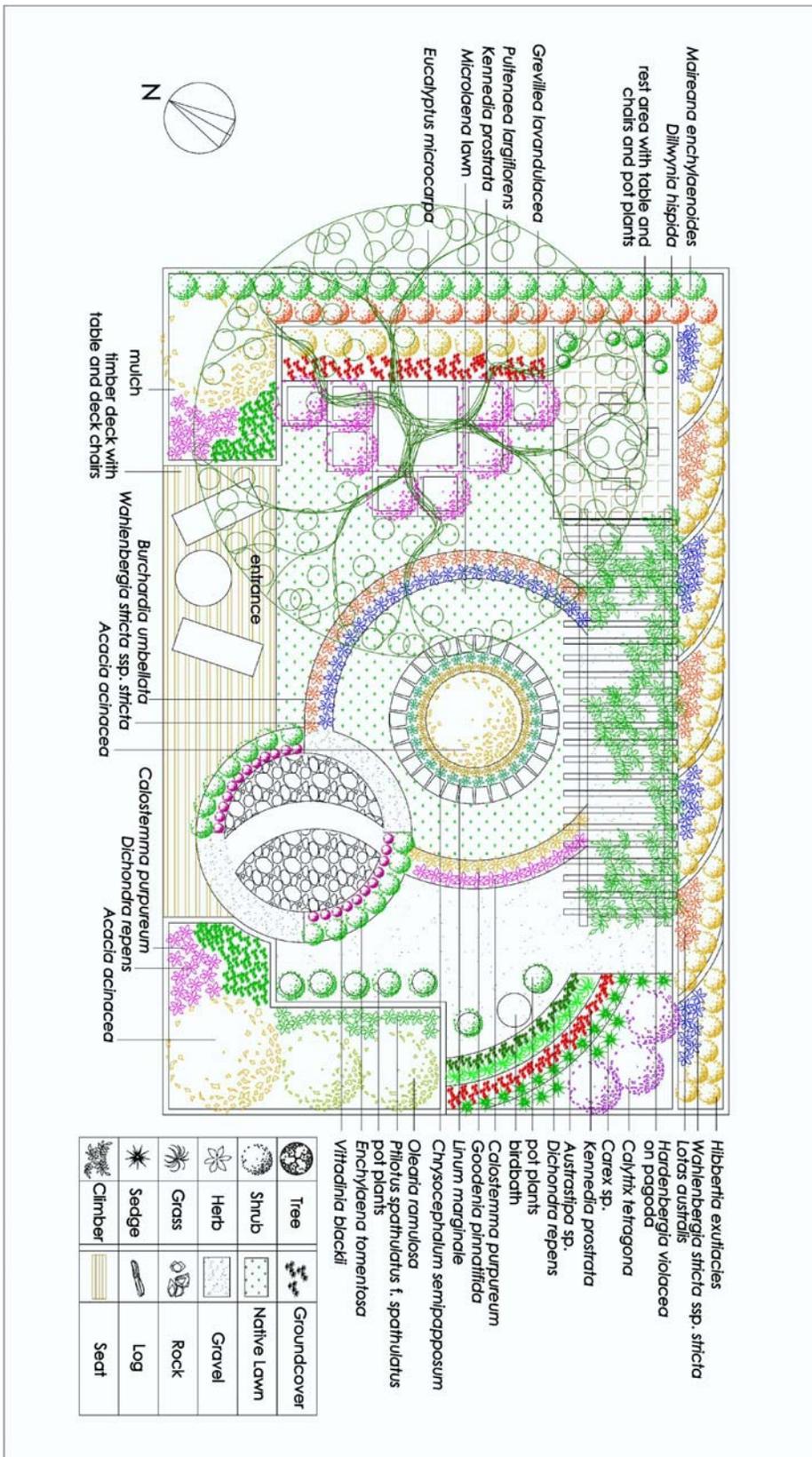
**3. Choose native plants that will save you both space and time.** The planting style in contemporary gardens should look simple and clean, so choose native plants that are easy to manage, and in the meantime decrease the variety relative to traditional gardens. Avoid using plants that will overwhelm the whole gardening space. Hardy, striking plants with bold colours or strong dominant forms are recommended.

Grasses are a popular choice for contemporary gardens. Many **native grasses and groundcovers** can be used as colourful and interesting low-maintenance alternatives to common lawns.



**4. Add one or two decorative features** such as a sculpture or a water feature to your contemporary garden. It can be as big or as small as you want, depending on the size of your garden.

**Lights are also a great idea.** They can add drama to your garden during the night, either by showing the colour and glowing themselves or highlighting other structures such as paving, walls, patio or a water features. Solar powered lights are highly recommended.

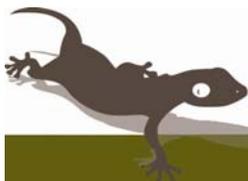


This is an example of a contemporary garden for locations which were once originally Grey Box and Blue Gum Woodlands. The plant species selected for this design are based on a plant list of this vegetation association. **If you are not sure about the association of your area, please visit the BFW website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

There are over 80 species lists for different vegetation associations in urban northern and southern Adelaide. 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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