

# fact sheet

## Water smart garden design in Alice Springs

### Your garden design

How you design your garden will have a big impact on how water smart it is, as well as the general wellbeing of your plants.

Here are some helpful hints on designing a water smart garden.

#### Review the layout of your house block

- We all know the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, but did you know the best place to plant thirsty plants is on the eastern side of your house block? Here they will receive less of the hot western afternoon sun and therefore will require less water.
- Plant your summer vegetable patch on the shadier eastern side too. Your vegetables will love the cooler morning sun. Winter vegetable patches will do well in the more sun exposed, North West positions that receive winter afternoon sun.
- The sun moves further north in winter so if you plant a big shade tree due west of your house you can also protect your home from the hot summer afternoon sun. As the sun tracks north in winter, you will let in more sun in the cooler months.

#### Group plants together

- How you group your plants in the garden is crucial to saving water. Group plants with similar water needs together. For example, group native plants separately to fruit trees. If they are near each other they can be easily grouped on the same irrigation line and given the water they need.



- When you have your fruit trees spread out all over your block and on the same irrigation lines as natives, either your fruit trees will be over watered or your natives over watered.
- Take for example an orange tree. They need about 20 times more water per year than a local native species.

**See our irrigation fact sheet for more information to make your garden water smart.**

#### Key information:

- Plant thirstier plants or a vegetable patch on the eastern side of your block to reduce the hot summer sun they receive.
- Group plants with similar watering needs together so the irrigation lines are easier to organise.
- Use mulch to reduce evaporation.
- Use appropriate irrigation equipment.