



safe, secure and affordable housing

Garden Subsidy Scheme

The Garden Subsidy Scheme provides financial assistance to help you improve your garden.

A pleasant garden can help create a nice environment for you, your family and your neighbourhood.

Am I eligible?

You may be eligible to receive a Garden Subsidy if you:

- are a public housing tenant living in a house or unit with a yard or courtyard
- have not used the subsidy at your current property
- have no debt with Housing Services.

How do I apply?

There are two ways to apply:

- purchase plants and other materials from participating nurseries and contact your local housing office for a reimbursement form (please keep detailed receipts)
- apply at your local housing office for a voucher (order) made out to one of the participating nurseries up to the amount you are entitled to.

The voucher (order) must be handed to the supplier when you collect the plants and other materials.

How much am I entitled to?

The amount varies. Contact your Tenancy Manager or local housing office to see how much you are entitled to.

What can I buy?

The scheme covers trees and shrubs to be planted permanently in the garden, fertiliser, permanent irrigation, soil and gravel.

Your garden

If you live in a flat/unit/townhouse you may only plant in your courtyard; not in the common areas.

When selecting trees and shrubs think about how big they will be when fully grown. Trees which grow too big for your block or have surface roots should not be planted.

Give your plants a good start by planting them in suitable sized holes and keep them well watered and fertilised.

To save water it is recommended that you choose drought tolerant plants and apply mulch to decrease evaporation.

Unsuitable trees

Some trees are not suitable for suburban gardens for a number of reasons, including size at maturity, instability in strong winds, large surface roots and die-back branches.

These trees will not be covered by the subsidy:

- African Mahogany
- African Tulip
- Banyan
- Black Wattle
- Cheesewood
- most Eucalypts
- Gmelina
- Rain Trees
- Rubber Tree
- Weeping Fig.

Contact your local Housing Services office if you are not sure what to plant.

Species name/common name	Height (metres)	Spread (metres)	Comments (see legend)
Groundcovers			
*Grevillea formosa/Mt Brockman Grevilla	0.5	2-3	FS, NF
Phyllanthus multiflora/Waterfall Plant	0.5	1-2	H
Evolvulus pilosis/Blue Sapphire	0.3	0.5	H, FS
Russelia equisetifolia/Coral Plant	0.5-1	1	H, P
Zephyranthes candida/Storm Crocus	0.2	0.3	SS
Nephrolepis spp./Fishbone Fern	1	1-2	H, SQ
*Stenochlaena palustris/Climbing Fern	1	2-3	SS, SQ
Clumping/screening palms and cycads			
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens/Golden Cane Palm	5	3	FS
Cycas revoluta/Cycad	1	1.5	H, FS, SS
*Hydiastele wendlandiana/Tall Clumping Palm	10	5	SS, W
*Livistona benthamii/Fan Palm	10	5	SS, W
Livistona chinensis/Chinese Fan Palm	6	5	H, FS, SS
Phoenix roebelenii/Dwarf Date Palm	2	2	S, SS, FS
Sabal minor/Dwarf Palmetto	1-2	2	H
Tall palms			
Archontophoenix alexandra/Alexandra Palm	15	5	SS, FG
*Carpentaria acuminata/Carpentaria Palm	15-20	6	FS, H, SS
Caryota mitis/Fishtail Palm	5	10	W, FS
Cyrtostachys renda/Sealing Wax Palm	4	4	S, FS, W, FF
Wodyetia bifurcata/Fox Tail Palm	6-15	4	FP
Ptychosperma macathurii/Clumping Macarthur Palm	3-8	4	
Screening shrubs			
*Acacia gonocarpa	3	3	H, FS
*Acacia moutfordiae/Mountford's Wattle	4	4	H, FS
*Acacia umbrellata	1-3	2	H, FS
*Dillenia alata	5-10	3-5	FG,W
Ixora spp./Ixora	0.5-2	0.5-2	FS,H
Medium trees (planted no closer than 5m from building)			
*Alphitonia excelsa/Soap Bush	5-10	5	
Carallia brachiata	5-10	5	
Casuarina papuana/Weeping She-Oak	5-7	6	FS
*Euodia elleryana/Euodia	10	6	H,FG,W
*Leptospermum longifolium/Weeping Ti-tree	3-5	3-5	W
*Pongamia pinnata	10	6	H
Tabebuia pallida/Purple Trumpet Tree	8	6	H, FG
Plants for fragrance			
Cithaexylum subserratum/Fiddlewood	3-4	2-3	P
Gardenia radicans/Dwaft Gardenia	0.5	0.5	P
Lawson inermis/Henna	3	2-3	P
Murraya paniculata/Orange Jessamine	3	2-3	H

Comments legend:

FG - Fast growing

H - Hardy plant

S - Grows in shade

TR - Termite resistant

* Top End native plant

FP - Feature plant

NF - Do not fertilise

SS - Grows in semi shade

W- requires ample water

FS - Full Sun

P - Prune regularly

SQ - Spreads quickly