

Fact sheet

Handy hints & gardening on a budget

When planning your gardening project, consider the following.

Equipment

Do you have a hose, shovel, spade, rake and other garden tools?

If not you may need to buy these with the voucher.

Don't forget that you will need to water any new plants regularly. Consider getting a timer on your outdoor tap so you don't forget to water and so that you don't waste water.



** A shovel is a handy tool in your garden can be as cheap at \$20.*

Expert advice

Get some advice from the Bunnings staff. Take in a photo or site plan of what you want to do and ask for their help to achieve it.



Make your money go further

Plants

Some plants like succulents, agaves, bulbs and agapanthus grow very well in our climate. They grow fast and you can take 'cuttings' easily or separate grown plants at their roots to grow it in other areas of the garden. This can reduce your plant costs. You could also ask neighbours who have plants like this if you can take cuttings from their gardens.



Grow Free carts are all around Adelaide and have FREE plants, fruit, vegetables, cuttings, seeds, seedling and so on available for anyone to take.

Find your nearest Grow Free Cart here:

www.growfree.org.au/cart-map/

www.facebook.com/groups/growfree/

* Grow Free began in SA and has grown to the point where it has different Facebook groups for different regions. The link above is for Grow Free SA, but you should also find the region you belong too; ie Grow Free – Adelaide Metro South, West, North etc.

Herbs and vegetables

Start a vegetable or herb garden. Buy the seeds in packets (so you can grow more plants). Some plants like silver beat, celery and many herbs continue to grow even after you pick their leaves or stalks to cook with. This means you can also cut your weekly food costs down.

You can even start new plants from your food scraps. Celery hearts, potatoes, pumpkin seeds are all good at sprouting during the right growing seasons. Why not dry the seeds of fruit and vegetables that you would have otherwise put in the compost and try to grow them.



A raised vege bed kit can be brought from Bunnings. Just add soil and plants!

Reuse & Recycle

Do you have old jars, tins and other items you want to throw out – they might be good as planters for pot plants or to sprout cuttings or avocado seeds in. Visit op shops to find low cost items to use in your garden.

Websites such as www.Gumtree.com.au might have free garden materials such as mulch, sand, cuttings or rocks you can collect and use in your garden.

Building sites (for timber, bessa blocks and bricks) in your area and upcoming hard rubbish collection both great places to obtain material to build your garden.

**Make sure you ask at building sites before taking anything.*



Using toothpicks or sewing needles, you can sprout and grow avocado seeds in water and an old glass jar.

Children's activities

Buy some plain pots and get your kids to help decorate them with paint, mosaics etc.

We might be able to help

If you want to do some maintenance jobs, ie: paint your front fence or fix a step – check with us first. It may be something we can do for you, already have planned or it may not be safe or suitable for you to undertake by yourself.

Local council

Check your local council's website before starting and purchasing materials. They may have sustainability programs such as free or discounted compost bins, free green waste mulch or cheap plant sales.

Each council is different, so check their website or give them a call.

Modification requests

If you are making large changes to your garden, adding a climbing and shading structure or need to put in a Council application for the project you have in mind, don't forget you need to talk to the Westside Maintenance Team first.

You may be required to submit a 'Modification Request Form' to us, so you can have written approval before starting. We can mail one to you or they are available on the website:

Contact the maintenance team by calling 8155 6070, Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm.

Help elsewhere

The Gardening Australia website has fact sheets to help you start your project:
www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/