

Helpful References

- *100 best NZ Native Plants for Gardens* by Fiona Eadie, Godwit
- *The Native Garden* by Isobel Gabites & Rob Lucas, Godwit
- *NZ Native flowering plants* by J.T Salmon, Reed Publishers
- *NZ Trees and Shrubs* by L.J Metcalf, Reed Publishers
- *The Gardeners Encyclopedia of NZ Plants* by Yvonne Cave & Valda Paddison, Godwit

NZ composting information

www.reducerubbish.govt.nz/compost/index.html
www.arc.govt.nz

Compost resource pages

www.oldgrowth.org/compost/compost.html
www.mastercomposter.com

Other useful websites

www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz
www.renewwasteexchange.org.nz
www.weedbusters.org.nz
www.aila.org.au/environment/materials-01.htm

Frequently asked questions about worm farming

www.wormsrus.co.nz

Information on planting natives

www.naturallynative.co.nz
www.bush.org.nz
www.garden-nz.co.nz

Manukau City Council
Phone: 262 5104
www.manukau.govt.nz

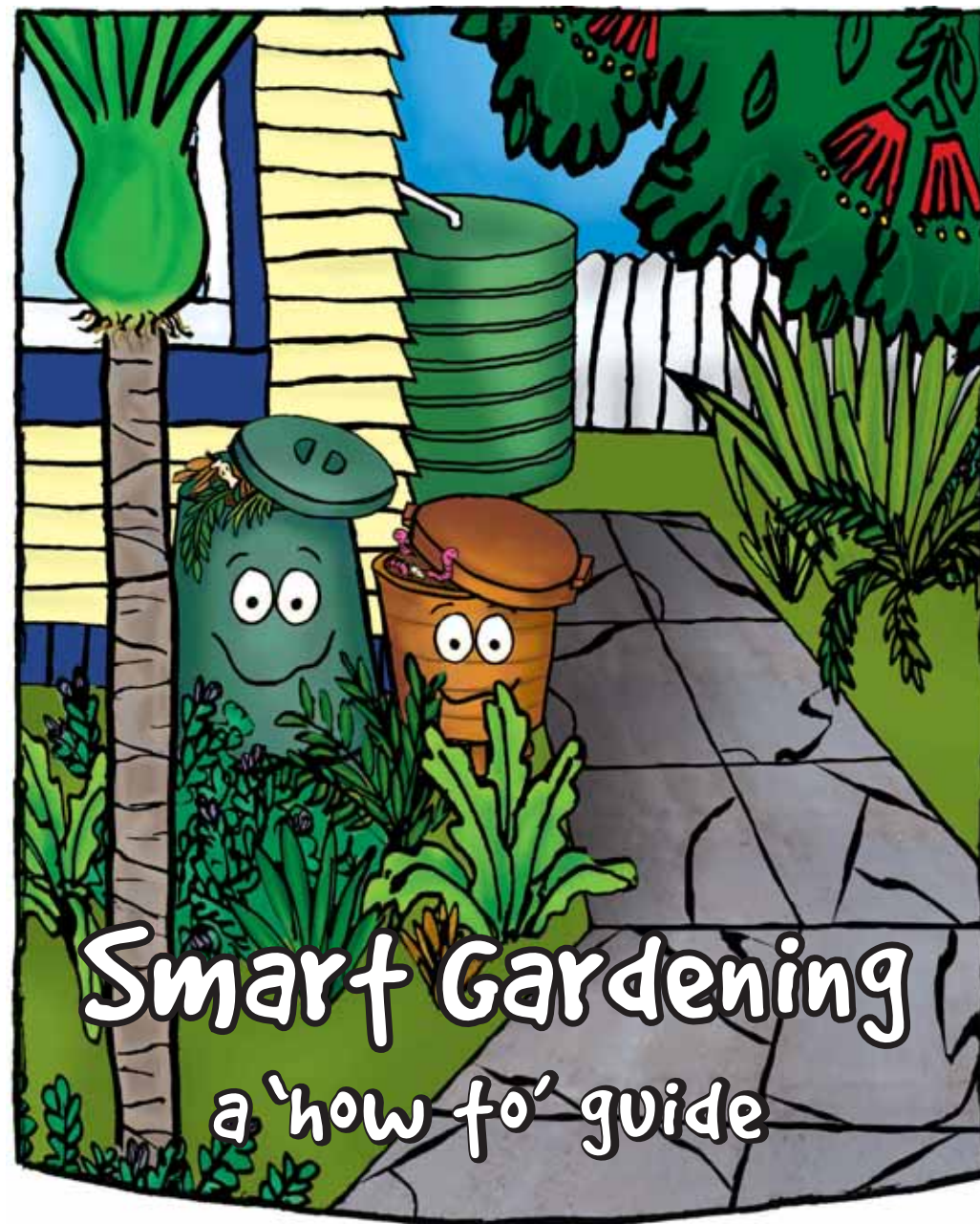
Papakura District Council
Phone: 295 1300
www.papakura.govt.nz

Auckland City Council
Phone: 379 2020
www.aucklandcity.govt.nz

Franklin District Council
Phone: 237 1300
www.franklindistrict.co.nz

North Shore City Council
Phone: 486 8600
www.northshorecity.govt.nz

Rodney District Council
Phone: 0800 426 5169
www.rodney.govt.nz





What is Smart Gardening?

Smart gardening uses techniques that are beneficial to the environment and will also save you time and money.

- Making and using compost in your garden
- Planting native plants or ground cover
- Using mulches and drought tolerant plant species
- Replacing lawn with low ground cover or grass-cycling
- Reusing rainwater and landscaping materials in the garden
- Avoiding the use of harmful pest and weed control materials
- Green purchasing for gardening requirements

This booklet will give you ideas for creating a beautiful, native garden that is easy to maintain for any size or type of section.

You can also use some of the techniques outlined here on your vegetable garden, fruit trees, exotic and ornamental gardens.



Composting and Worm Farming

Our garden and kitchen rubbish is a valuable resource we can return to our soils as a fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Composting

- Choose a warm, well-drained site for your compost bin
- Build your own compost bin or buy one from a garden centre
- Layer food scraps, garden clippings and paper to speed up the process
- Keep compost slightly moist and mix it once a month
- When the compost is dark and crumbly it is ready to use

You can also start up your own worm farm to use up your kitchen food scraps. Worm farms don't need much space and are ideal if you have limited space or a small backyard. Worm farms produce highly nutritious liquid fertiliser and compost for indoor and outdoor plants.

Contact your council for this free handy booklet 'Composting: a 'how to' guide', or for information on a free course in your area and other special offers on composting and worm farming.



Planting Natives



Native trees and shrubs are accustomed to New Zealand conditions and you will find one that will thrive in any part of your garden. Natives also attract NZ bird species such as Tui and Kereru. Here is a small selection of natives for your garden. For more details see your local garden centre or check out the books and websites listed on the back page.

For Wet Areas

Ferns

- Common Maidenhair or Makaka (*Adiantum aethiopicum*)
- Huruwhenu Whenua or Shining Spleenwort (*Asplenium oblongifolium*)

Ground covers

- Panakenake or Pratia (*Pratia angulata*)
- Kotukutuku or Tree Fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*)

Shrubs

- Harakeke or New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*)
- Koromiko or Hebe (*Hebe stricta*)

Trees

- Kahikatea or white pine (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)
- Whauwhaupaku or Five Finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*)

Please note that these large trees should be carefully sited.

For Dry Areas

Ground covers

- Pinatoro or New Zealand Daphne (*Pimelea prostrata*)
- Sand coprosma (*Coprosma acerosa*)

Shrubs

- Ti koraha or Dwarf cabbage tree (*Cordyline pumilio*)
- Climbing rata (*Metrosideros carminea*)
- Kumarahou (*Pomaderris kumeraho*)



Trees

- Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
- Akapuka or Broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*)

Exotic species can take over native vegetation, so be careful what you plant. Ask at your local garden centre for 'eco sourced' plants (seeds or cuttings sourced from local native forests).

Mulching and Grass Cycling

When considering what ground cover to use in your garden think carefully. Stone products like rocks and pebbles are a non-renewable resource. Organic mulches are better as they are renewable, retain moisture for plants and mimic natural processes.



Forget the catcher and feed the lawn; recycle your clippings by leaving them on the lawn after mowing to return vital nutrients to the soil. This retains moisture and reduces the number of times you mow and the time taken to mow. Remember to cut only the top third of the grass each time and consider replanting sections of your lawn with slow growing native ground covers.

Off Site Options



If you're too busy or have too much garden waste to compost at home then use a private garden bag or bin collection for composting. Garden bags and bins vary in size and you can choose how often they are collected. Check the yellow pages for garden waste collectors in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your council for information on a transfer station in your area.



Transfer stations take bags of grass clippings as well as car-boot loads and trailer loads of garden prunings. Your garden waste will be recycled into compost if you ensure it is separated from other rubbish, and it is also cheaper to dispose of it this way. Phone the facilities directly for prices and hours.

Water-wise Gardening

Rainwater keeps plants healthy. This can be easily collected from your roof in a plastic drum. Water the plant roots (not the leaves), water during cooler times of the day, limit the use of sprinklers and make sure you're not watering the driveway! When using water features in your garden reuse rainwater, making sure the water is cycled back, rather than wasted.

You may also wish to reduce the amount of water you use in the garden by:

- Planting natives that don't require regular watering
- Reducing the area of thirsty lawn
- Installing an irrigation (sprinkler) system, controlled with a timer
- Using surface mulch to retain moisture in your garden
- Avoiding the use of potted plants which need regular watering
- Using glazed flower pots or recycled-plastic pots where necessary
- Finding out about the water demand of different plants so you can plant 'like' types together

Landscaping

Plan your garden to maximise the sun and avoid planting trees where they will grow to obscure views or interfere with existing structures (balconies, fences, power lines and decks). Avoid the use of unnecessary landscaping and plant to suit site conditions. If structures are required use old recovered materials where possible: railway sleepers, old bricks, seats, tyres and buckets as garden ornaments. Items like these can often be found at second-hand stores or through the region's free waste exchange service www.renewwasteexchange.org.nz.



Weeds and Pests

- Remove invasive pest plants and replace with natives
- Use mulches and hot water treatment to suppress weeds
- Choose hardy, disease-resistant plants that are suitable to the site
- Practice companion planting to deter insect pests - use plants that smell, are naturally toxic, are naturally toxic to certain bugs or attract predator insects
- Use natural and organic alternatives to control weeds and garden pests
- Ask your local garden shop for alternatives to harmful chemical sprays and pesticides

The *Plant Me Instead* booklet identifies pest plants and provides alternatives for planting. The *Healthy Alternatives to Household Chemicals* booklet contains some recipes for natural pest control. Both are available from the Auckland Regional Council, phone 366 2000.

