



Sydney2030/Green/Global/Connected

CITY OF SYDNEY  2030 

# Preferred materials for use in community gardens

February 2016

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01

# Preferred materials for use in community gardens



This document identifies materials that the City of Sydney prefers community gardeners to use in the construction of their gardens and includes recommendations for garden beds, paths, storage and general garden materials.

Some community gardens in the City of Sydney are located within city parks. The City would like to maintain the presentation standards in these parks, and ensure that the construction of community gardens presents no risks to gardeners or to the community.

## Key characteristics of suitable materials

Materials used in construction of community gardens should be durable, inexpensive and low maintenance. A qualified tradesperson should be engaged for construction if required.

## Checklist of items for a community garden

A typical community garden will have some or all of the following characteristics:

- approved site
- garden beds
- pathways
- tool storage shed
- compost bins and worm farms
- water source (taps or rainwater tank)
- seating (in the area).

## Choosing materials for your garden

The choice of materials for community gardens should be guided by:

- the budget and funding of the group;
- their suitability to complement the ‘look and feel’ of the park or surrounds; and
- a preference for recycled materials provided they are free of termites, rust, risk and chemicals.

For timber construction choose ACQ (alkaline copper quaternary) rather than CCA (copper chromate arsenic).

If garden beds are already constructed seal the interior with plastic to reduce leaching of chemicals into the soil.

The City can advise on materials and contractors to construct garden beds.

## Garden safety

Before starting work on your community garden, project coordinators are encouraged to:

- inspect the site to identify any potential hazards;
- decide how you will remove, minimise or isolate the risks or hazards in the garden;
- brief all gardeners and helpers in your group on how to avoid injury;
- decide how heavy materials will be lifted so there is no injury;
- decide how to use hand tools safely and keep them well maintained;
- reduce hazards such as sharp corners or edges, or protruding wire; and
- brief all gardeners and helpers in your group on the importance of wearing sun protection, covered footwear, gloves and hats, and of keeping hydrated with water.

## Storing materials

When storing soil, manures and other materials on site:

- surround the storage area with a safety mesh fence to reduce accidents;
- ensure the soil, mulch and manures are stored properly away from vermin and to reduce wash out from rain;
- store tools safely and tidily in a shed to reduce risks;
- stack materials safely with the heavy materials lower on the ground and provide access for gardeners; and
- keep materials at least one metre away from neighbouring properties and existing tree bases.

## Size of garden beds

The City recommends building raised garden beds a minimum of 450mm high to lift the root zone of vegetables and herbs above any undetected soil contamination. The City may be able to assist with construction of your garden depending on the skills and insurance of the gardeners. Allow gardening space of one square metre per gardener for a minimum of 25 gardeners.

We recommend that at least one garden bed is allocated to herbs that local residents can pick as this will encourage residents to participate in the garden and share the open space, and will deter vandalism.

Gardeners should be able to reach all parts of a garden bed from the surrounding paths.

Rectangular garden beds are easiest to build and should be no wider than 1.2 metres. Reduce the size of garden beds specifically for children or for gardeners with physical disabilities.

If the beds are wider than 1.2 metres, construct narrow paths (minimum 900mm) within the garden bed by placing stepping stones flush with the soil, so all the parts of the garden can be reached.

Timber garden beds can be lined with a geofabric to reduce soil washing out between the boards.

## Examples of garden bed dimensions

### Eco treated timber ACQ

1200mm wide x 450mm high x 4800mm long

### Combination timber ACQ and corrugated iron

1200mm wide x 600mm – 800mm high x 3600mm long

### Corrugated iron oval

1200mm wide x 450mm high x 2400mm long

### Corrugated iron round

1000mm wide x 450mm high

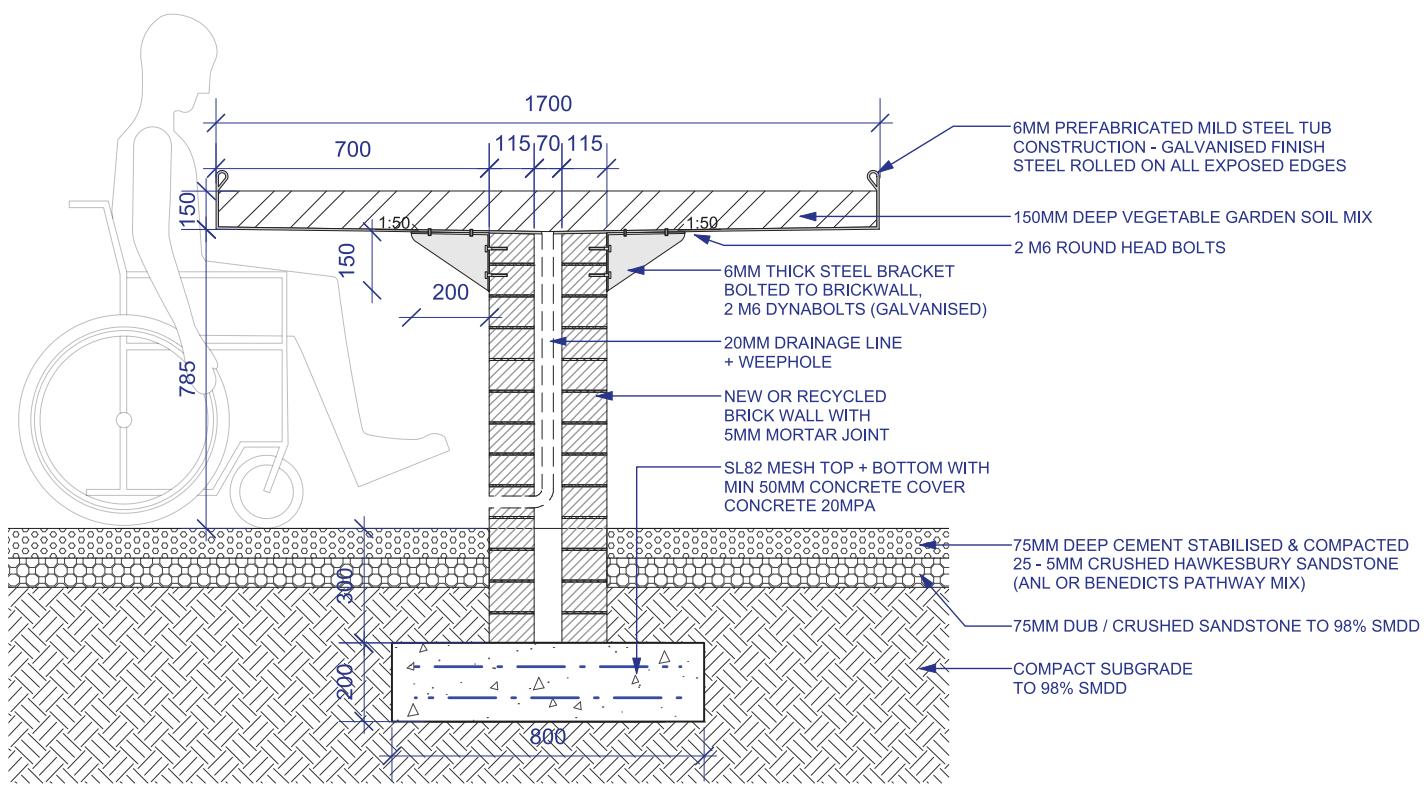
The diagram below provides dimensions and construction specifications for a garden bed that is accessible to gardeners in wheelchairs.

## Accessibility

If there are aged, less mobile or disabled gardeners in your group, consider making raised garden beds to allow easier access. You can find more information on making raised garden beds at [www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au](http://www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au)

The City encourages community gardens to provide at least one garden bed that is accessible to gardeners in wheelchairs or those that are less mobile.

## Accessible garden bed



# 02

## Garden bed materials

Garden beds are the most important feature of a community garden as they contain the soil and organic matter to allow you to grow your produce plants. They will be used for many years and are exposed to the environment therefore they should be constructed from materials that are durable (with no sharp edges or splinters) and can blend in with the natural surroundings or theme of the garden.

Some garden bed designs include a wide resting edge that can be used as a seat. Garden beds that require construction must be approved by the landowner and built by a qualified tradesperson who has their own insurance.

### Recycled timbers



Green Square Growers, Zetland

#### Benefits

- cheap
- prefer use of untreated recycled timbers
- recycled potato boxes are already constructed and need to be lined with a geotextile fabric to reduce soil leaching, or place a plastic container filled with soil inside the box with holes in the bottom for drainage

#### Disadvantages

- short life span
- if timber has been treated with CCA (chromate copper arsenate), creosote or other chemicals, then the inside must be lined with plastic to prevent any chemicals from the timber leaching into the soil

### Recycled timber sleepers



Salvation Community Garden, Waterloo

#### Benefits

- strong construction
- look natural

#### Disadvantages

- require qualified skilled trades for construction
- can be expensive
- can be heavy and hard to work
- if timber has been treated with CCA (chromate copper arsenate), creosote or other chemicals, then the inside must be lined with plastic to prevent any chemicals from the timber leaching into the soil

## Eco timber



St Helen's Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- long lasting
- sleepers can be bolted or nailed to a supporting structure to make a raised garden bed
- garden bed can be capped with a wide plank so it can be used as a seat, e.g. 200mm
- easy to work with and cheaper than other materials
- the timber is ACQ treated pine, free of arsenic

## Hardwood timber



Newtown Community Garden, Newtown

### Benefits

- long lasting
- sleepers can be bolted or nailed to a supporting structure to make a raised garden bed
- can be painted or stained depending on the desired finish
- top sleeper can be wide enough so it can be used as a seat e.g. 200mm

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive and hard to work with in construction

## Combined timber and corrugated iron



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- combination of different materials such as galvanised iron and timber is ACQ treated pine, free of arsenic
- timber ledge on top provides a resting seat area

### Disadvantages

- require qualified skilled trades for construction
- can be expensive

## Timber sleepers (ensure they are termite-free)



Joanna O'Dea Community Garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- long lasting
- sleepers can be bolted together to form a raised garden bed
- may be used edge-on-ground for lower beds
- easy to work with and cheaper than other materials

### Disadvantages

- if timber has been treated with CCA (chromate copper arsenate), then the inside must be lined with plastic to prevent any chemicals from the timber leaching into the soil

## Bricks



Charlie's Community Garden, Darlington

### Benefits

- long lasting
- new or recycled bricks can be cemented together to form a raised bed

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- require qualified trades for construction

## Besser blocks



Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- long lasting
- can be painted or bagged with coloured cement render
- can be topped with flat capstone for seating
- single blocks can be laid end on end to make a low bed

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- require qualified trades for construction

## Sandstone blocks



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- long lasting
- may be cemented together to add strength to garden bed
- single layer of large stones is suitable for lower gardens

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- require qualified trades for construction

## Galvanised iron planters



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- no construction needed, just add geofabric, soil and plants
- available in different heights, widths and colours
- can have lower garden beds suitable for children or higher beds suitable for less mobile gardeners
- rolled edging reduces sharp edges
- some require plastic top edging

### Disadvantages

- metal can be dented

**Wine barrels**

St Helens Community Garden, Glebe

**Benefits**

- suitable for growing dwarf fruit trees or edible flowers
- look great
- inexpensive
- easy to move when empty

**Disadvantages**

- the timber can age

**Concrete pipe sections**

James St Reserve Community Garden, Redfern

Sections of concrete pipe about one metre wide are cut to around one metre high.

**Benefits**

- suitable as planters for growing herbs or small fruit trees
- suitable as small gardens, especially for people with limited mobility
- long lasting

**Disadvantages**

- expensive
- heavy to move



James Street Reserve Community Garden – Community gardener

03

# Planter boxes for rooftop gardens

Planter boxes on rooftops can beautify a rooftop space that is accessible by the community and local residents. These planter boxes should have bases to contain the soil and organic matter, and castors so they can be moved around to suitable locations. The planter boxes should be light, durable and hard-wearing. When choosing plants take into account the heat and wind in the location and the reflection from other buildings.

## Fibreglass planter boxes on castors



Mission Australia Rooftop Garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- no construction required
- can be moved around to access the sun
- easy to maintain
- durable
- lightweight
- castors have brakes

### Disadvantages

- narrow beds
- may require blue metal within the planter box for drainage, and lining with geofabric

## Recycled hardwood timber



### Benefits

- durable
- can be expensive
- looks natural

### Disadvantages

- requires qualified skilled trades for construction
- not easy to move due to size and weight
- can be expensive



Mission Australia rooftop garden

### Recycled timber



#### Benefits

- can be light to move around to different locations
- can be already constructed
- lightweight when empty

#### Disadvantages

- might be short lasting depending on timber type
- may need to be lined or painted inside to prevent chemicals leeching into garden soil, depending on the timber used
- if timber has been treated with CCA (chromate copper arsenate), then the inside must be lined with plastic to prevent any chemicals from the timber leeching into the soil

### Corrugated iron



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

#### Benefits

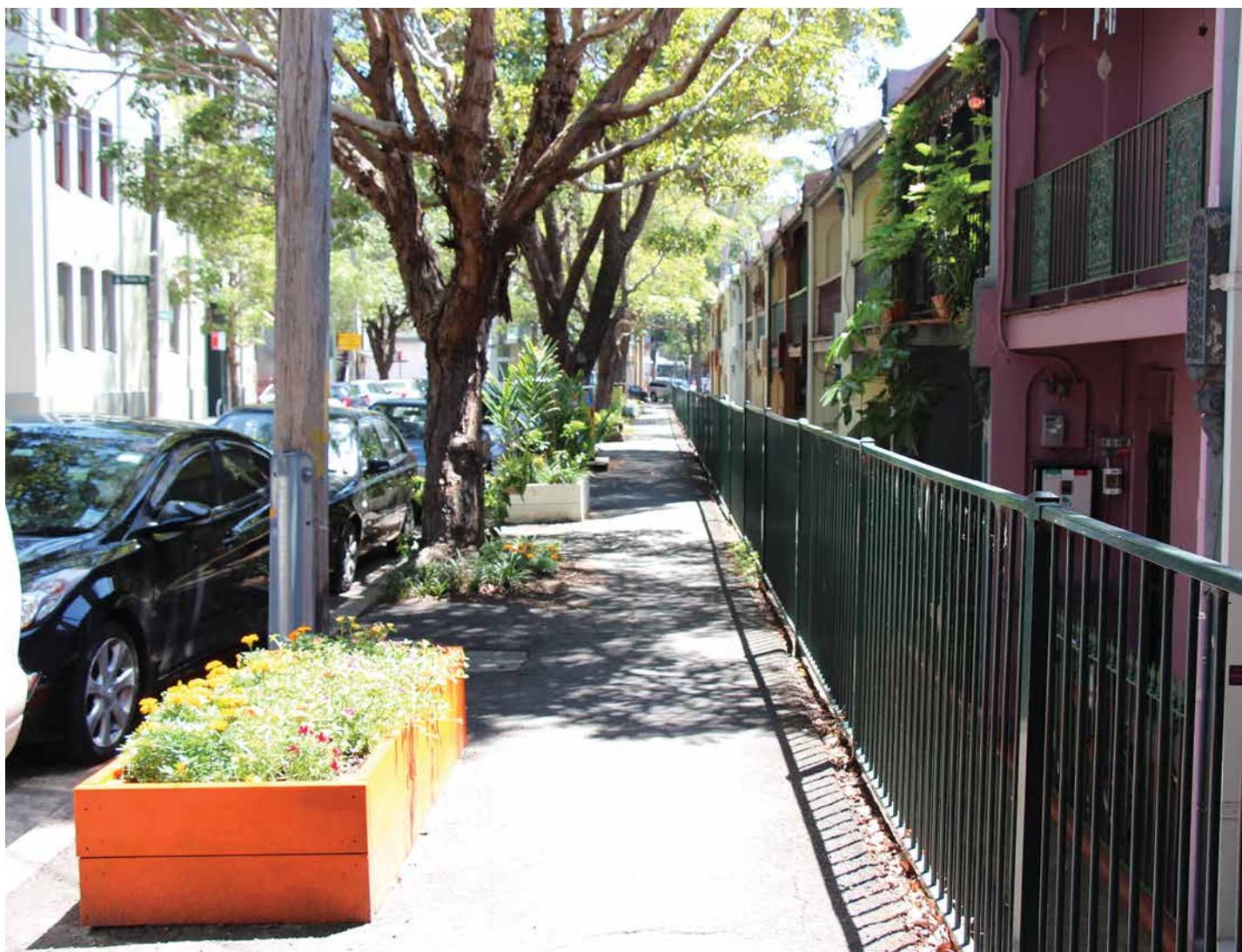
- no construction required, just add soil and plants
- available in different heights, widths and colours
- can be lower garden beds suitable for children or higher beds for less mobile gardeners
- rolled edging reduces sharp edges
- some require plastic top edging
- can be light to move to location
- some have self-watering system inside

#### Disadvantages

- metal can be dented

# 04

## Planter boxes for footpath verge gardens



Sustainable Chippendale footpath verge garden, Chippendale

Footpath verge gardens are a great way for a community to have a garden when space is limited. Residents can form a garden group, consult with the community and organise approvals.

These gardens should be designed to maintain visibility for footpath and road users and provide access and safety for all pedestrians, day and night. Planter boxes should be made from durable materials of contrasting colours with no sharp edges or splinters.

As there are risks involved in working near roads we recommend gardeners work from the footpath and not from the roadside, and that they wear brightly coloured clothing or safety vests so they are visible to pedestrians and road users.

When planning a footpath verge garden:

- ensure that you provide for car doors, garbage bins, pedestrians and wheelchairs;
- avoid plants that are prickly, poisonous or create allergies;
- make sure that tools and materials do not block access or become a trip hazard for the footpath users;
- choose plants that will grow no taller than one metre to preserve visibility for pedestrians and road users; and
- provide a minimum pedestrian clearance of 1.5 metres on residential streets, 1.8 metres on major streets and 2 metres on shared paths.

Note: Planter boxes are not suitable for footpaths narrower than 2.6 metres.

Planter boxes should be well maintained using safe work practices and kept free of rubbish and weeds.

Any unapproved facilities or gardens that are not maintained to the required standard may be removed at the City's discretion.

See Footpath Gardening Policy.

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/150051/6687\\_FA2\\_Footpath-Gardening-Update.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/150051/6687_FA2_Footpath-Gardening-Update.pdf)

### Recycled footpath planter box



#### Benefits

- looks great
- cheap
- can blend in with local theme of the area
- reduces the timber going into landfill site

#### Disadvantages

- can purchase already constructed or may require qualified skilled trades for construction

**Planter box – corrugated iron square**

Sustainable Chippendale, Chippendale

**Benefits**

- available in different heights, widths and colours
- rolled edging reduces sharp edges
- some require plastic top edging
- can be light to move to location

**Disadvantages**

- metal can be dented

**Timber**

Sustainable Chippendale, Chippendale

**Benefits**

- long lasting
- can be cheap
- looks great
- can be painted

**Disadvantages**

- require qualified skilled trades in construction
- if timber has been treated with CCA (chromate copper arsenate), then the inside must be lined with plastic to prevent any chemicals from the timber leaching into the soil

**Planter box – fibreglass**

Oxford St, Darlinghurst

**Benefits**

- already constructed
- looks good
- lightweight

**Disadvantages**

- smaller space to plant
- can break

**In-ground verge garden****Benefits**

- reduces water runoff
- looks great

**Disadvantages**

- ground soil will require testing for produce plants
- ground may need cutting which will require approval and may be expensive
- may be disturbed by dogs

# 05

## Paths



Paths can be expensive to build, and paved pathways require expertise in construction. The location of paths is important to ensure everyone has access to the garden beds.

It is a good idea to link the garden entrance to the garden beds with a single, main pathway which is wide enough to move a wheelbarrow along (a minimum 1.2 metres wide).

Wider paths and gathering points are also good places to conduct community education. Stepping stones are suitable to provide access in larger garden beds. Concrete squares are available commercially, or you can use smooth materials such as recycled bricks.

Paths work best when they:

- link commonly used installations such as tool storage, compost facilities, shelter/socialising area, allotments and shared garden areas;
- are wide enough for a wheelbarrow;
- are made of long-lasting materials;
- are cheap to maintain in terms of funds, time, specialist equipment and expertise;

- are free of weeds and other plants;
- do not have depressions where water can collect; and
- are well drained so the soil does not erode or become boggy.

### Safety

To provide a safe environment and reduce hazards paths should:

- be clear of obstructions and vegetation;
- be well maintained and weeded to preserve a smooth, level surface; and
- be free of overhanging branches.

We recommend main pathways be suitable for wheelchairs and walking frames and provide access to at least one garden bed for garden members with limited mobility.

## Decomposed granite



St Helen's Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- long lasting
- looks good
- low maintenance but does require weed maintenance
- expensive in comparison to wood chip

### Disadvantages

- surface can be eroded by heavy rainfall or water erosion
- will require maintenance and compaction
- usually only comes in one colour

## Wood chip



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- low cost, easily maintained
- recycles green waste materials

### Disadvantages

- needs frequent replenishing
- more difficult for people in wheelchairs or who use walking aids

## Recycled pavers



St Helen's Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- new or recycled bricks, pavers
- long lasting
- easy to maintain
- look good
- low maintenance

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- require qualified skilled trades for construction

## Gravel



Joanna O'Dea Garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- long lasting
- looks good
- low maintenance but does require weed maintenance

### Disadvantages

- expensive in comparison to bark chip
- more difficult for people in wheelchairs or who use walking aids
- not stable
- requires regular raking
- gravel can be used as projectiles

# 06

# Stepping stones

These can be used in between the garden beds if required. They should be made from a durable, hard-wearing material installed on a base of cement to reduce movement. They should be flush with the ground surface to reduce trip hazards. If placing stepping stones in garden paths or in footpath verge gardens be mindful of accessibility for garbage bins, wheelbarrows, wheelchairs and strollers.

## Round concrete stepping stones



Near Charlie's Garden, Darlington

### Benefits

- long lasting
- look good
- low maintenance

### Disadvantages

- expensive
- more difficult for people in wheelchairs or who use walking aids
- can develop a difference in level from ground level to stone thus causing a trip hazard

## Square concrete stepping stones



James St Reserve Community Garden, Redfern

### Benefits

- long lasting
- look good
- low maintenance

### Disadvantages

- expensive
- more difficult for people in wheelchairs or who use walking aids
- can develop a difference in level from ground level to stone thus causing a trip hazard

Note: Ensure stepping stones are flush with soil surface to reduce trip hazards.

# 07

# Fences

The City prefers to have gardens open to the community with no boundaries. Some locations in the City will be supplied with low metal fences with childproof gates for community gardens when required.

These fences help to prevent children running out of the garden and unwelcome dogs from wandering in.

Fences should blend in with the area surrounding the community garden. If the garden is located in a park, the fence should complement the park's overall visual appearance.

Depending on where the community garden is located and the surrounding landscaping, alternative materials and fence designs may be considered.

The City discourages high fences around community gardens located in public parks and open spaces as these can be perceived as intended to exclude people who are not a part of the gardening group. Visitors to the City's community gardens are welcome to come into the gardens as long as they do not obstruct the activities of the gardeners.

High fences would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

## Prefabricated metal fence



Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- long lasting
- looks good
- low maintenance

### Disadvantages

- expensive
- requires qualified trades to install

## Metal fence



Charlie's Community Garden, Darlington



Joanna O'Dea Garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- long lasting
- looks good
- low maintenance

### Disadvantages

- expensive
- requires qualified trades to install

# 08

# Composting systems

Composting is a method of recycling kitchen and gardening waste into a useful resource for building your soil and for decreasing the amount of waste going to landfill. Following are things to consider when including a compost system in your community garden:

- Start with a small system of three bins to ensure that it is maintained well;
- Locate compost bins at least one metre away from the base of existing trees and neighbouring properties;
- Ensure the systems are maintained to be free of smells, cockroaches and vermin;
- Encourage a group roster system to ensure the compost is maintained and turned regularly;

- Install signage on the compost bins describing the type of material that can be recycled and when the bin is full;
- Place compost bins on top of a garden bed, which will assist with soil enrichment. They can be relocated to improve soil in different beds;
- Plan what to do with excess compost, for example, sharing bags of compost with local residents. Please do not place it in parks or around mature trees in the streets;

Note: We do not recommend material from Bokashi bins to be placed into compost bins.

(Refer to Community Composting Guidelines)

## Worm farms – large



Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- can be tailored to your needs and site
- strong and long lasting
- can be painted or bagged with coloured cement render
- can be topped with flat capstone for seating
- single blocks can be laid end on end to make a low bed

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- require qualified trades for construction

## Worm farms – small



Mission Australia rooftop garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- cheap, easy and light to move
- produce both castings and worm tea fertiliser

### Disadvantages

- worm farming can be slower than composting if you do not have a large system
- legs can become weak when the farm is full

Note: Place worm farm legs into trimmed milk containers and fill with water to prevent ants entering the worm farm. Keep the worm farm in shade in summer and in sun in winter. Ensure constant supply of water and food that is cut up into small pieces.

## DIY compost tube/worm tower



### Benefits

- cheap
- use a small amount of space in the garden
- the compost nutrients go straight into the soil
- attract less vermin

### Disadvantages

- can compost only small amounts at a time
- may require a number of towers in the garden bed

## Compost bins – dome



Ada Place Community Composting, Ultimo

### Benefits

- can be placed on top of garden to give nutrients to plants
- need turning with worm tool
- best if placed in full sun
- cheap and simple to use
- easy to remove ready compost from underneath

### Disadvantages

- vermin may be able enter from underneath

Note: To reduce vermin place chicken wire inside the base before composting.

## Compost bins – tumbler



Mission Australia, Camperdown

### Benefits

- no leachate leaks as it is a sealed system
- less likely to attract vermin as it is off the ground

### Disadvantages

- cannot continuously add material – once the tumbler is full it is sealed until the compost is ready for use
- cannot fill too much otherwise it will not tumble

## Compost bins – besser block



Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- can be tailored to your needs and site
- strong and long lasting
- can be painted or bagged with coloured cement render
- can be topped with flat capstone for seating
- single blocks can be laid end on end to make a low bed
- can be expensive
- require qualified trades for construction

# 09

# Tool storage

Most community gardens require sheds and places for tool storage. These can be used to store hand tools, seeds, hoses, buckets and wheelbarrows, which are essential items for any community garden. Storage can vary in size depending on the size of the garden and space available.

Storage options include a closed shed with no visibility of its contents or one with mesh doors so people can see what is in the shed, and help to reduce vandalism. A combination lock on the shed can provide easy access for all community gardeners.

Ensure the shed is kept tidy to reduce vermin and risks to gardeners. The shed is also an ideal location for a noticeboard with the gardeners' rosters and records, and for a first-aid kit.

## Sheds – metal



St Helens Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- can choose from a variety of colours, shapes and sizes
- keep tools dry from weather
- can be cheap

### Disadvantages

- can be vandalised with graffiti

## Sheds – mesh/metal



Charlie's Garden, Darlington

### Benefits

- can see what is in the shed, reduces vandalism
- long lasting

### Disadvantages

- tools are open to the weather conditions
- can be expensive
- may require qualified skilled trades to construct
- vermin may be able to get underneath



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Sheds – besser block/mesh



Woolloomooloo Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

#### Benefits

- people can see what is in the shed, reduces vandalism
- can be made in different sizes
- can be used to protect a native bee hive from vandalism
- long lasting

#### Disadvantages

- tools are open to the weather conditions
- can be expensive
- may require qualified skilled trades to construct

### Sheds – recycled material



James St Reserve Community Garden, Redfern

#### Benefits

- can be made in different sizes and be a part of the park ‘feel’
- uses recycled timbers
- long lasting

#### Disadvantages

- can be expensive
- may require qualified skilled trades to construct

# 10 Water tanks



St Helens Community Garden – Community gardener

The City encourages the recycling of water as a sustainable activity for the future and to make your garden self-sufficient. Stored rainwater is ideal for watering gardens. Ensure that the water is not contaminated. Some rainwater tanks require electrical pumps therefore power will be required. Other tanks operate through a gravity feed.

## Corrugated iron – self collection



Randwick Hub, Randwick

### Benefits

- no construction required
- available in different heights, widths and colours
- can be light to move to location
- captures water for short periods

### Disadvantages

- metal can be dented
- needs to be on a platform off the ground to reduce rusting
- does not hold a large amount of water and requires frequent rain to fill the tank

**Corrugated iron**

Woolloomooloo Garden, Woolloomooloo

**Benefits**

- no construction required
- available in different heights, widths and colours
- can be light to move to location

**Disadvantages**

- metal can be dented
- needs to be on a platform off the ground to reduce rusting

**Plastic round**

St Helens Community Garden, Glebe

**Benefits**

- available in a variety of colours, sizes and shapes
- UV stabilised
- can be cheap

**Disadvantages**

- can crack from damage
- requires a large amount of space for the tank size and electrical pump

**Plastic rectangle**

Newtown Community Garden, Newtown

**Benefits**

- available in a variety colours, sizes and shapes
- UV – stabilised
- can be cheap
- easy to place in a garden due the shape

**Disadvantages**

- can crack from damage
- requires space for the tank and electrical pump

11

# General garden equipment

Stakes are used in the garden to support climbing plants or tall fruiting plants. When the stakes are not in use store them in a dry area above the soil to increase their lifespan and deter timber rot. Use products that are durable and easy to use for all gardeners. We discourage gardeners from using star pickets which are metal and require a slammer to install into the ground.

If used they must have a cap on the end at all times. It may be necessary to contact Dial Before You Dig (<http://www.1100.com.au>) in some locations.

## Stakes – powder-coated metal



Mission Australia rooftop garden, Camperdown

### Benefits

- look great
- easy to install and come in different heights
- cheap

### Disadvantages

- paint can peel and metal can rust

## Stakes – hardwood timber



St John's Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- look good
- cheap
- a variety of lengths

### Disadvantages

- requires a slammer or to be hammered into the soil
- possibility of splinters
- a short life span

**Stakes – recycled plastic**

Mission Australia rooftop garden, Camperdown

**Benefits**

- look good
- cheap
- easy to install
- long lasting and no sharp edges

Note: Use zip ties or plastic-coated wire to attach mesh to stakes.

**Stakes – bamboo**

St Helens Garden, Glebe

**Benefits**

- cheap, light and easy to use
- natural product

**Disadvantages**

- short life span and break easily

Note : Side piece needs to be cut off to be flush with uprights to reduce risks of eye damage.

**Stakes – teepee (plastic)**

James St Reserve Community Garden, Redfern

**Benefits**

- look good
- cheap
- easy to install

**Disadvantages**

- can fade

Note: The pointed end goes into the soil.

**Stakes – star pickets**

Charlie's Garden, Darlington

We prefer garden groups use alternatives to star pickets because they can be dangerous.

If you must use star pickets organise a Dial Before You Dig check for your area before installation.

Ensure you zip-tie yellow caps on the top of star pickets.

**Mesh – plastic**

St John's Community Garden, Glebe

**Benefits**

- available in a variety of colours and sizes
- UV stabilised
- can be cheap
- no sharp edges
- flexible

**Disadvantages**

- needs staking as not supportive

**Mesh – metal mesh**

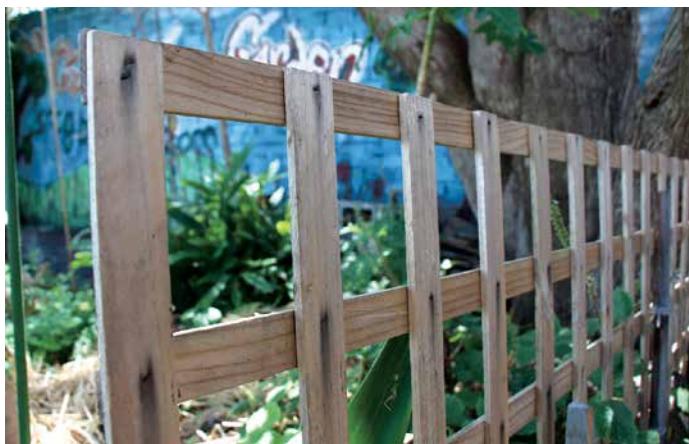
Mission Australia rooftop garden, Camperdown

**Benefits**

- very supportive
- looks good

**Disadvantages**

- is not flexible
- can be expensive
- can sometimes have sharp edges

**Mesh – treated timber**

James St Community Garden, Redfern

**Benefits**

- natural looking
- can be cheap
- no sharp edges
- very supportive

**Disadvantages**

- is not flexible

**Mesh – pea and bean netting**

St Helens Community Garden, Glebe

**Benefits**

- natural looking
- biodegradable
- cheap
- easy to install

**Disadvantages**

- can be too flexible

## Fruit and vegetable netting



Charlie's Garden, Darlington

### Benefits

- protects produce plants from flying animals and possums
- light and easy to use
- cheap

### Disadvantages

- can be expensive depending on the size of tree

Note: To ensure native animals and birds do not get tangled choose netting that you cannot poke your finger through. Daily checks of mesh are required in case butterflies, birds or animals are caught inside the mesh area.

## Hose stand – retractable



The Eden Community Garden, Waterloo

### Benefits

- easy to store hose
- can be cheap
- reduces trip hazards
- keeps the hose tidy and can be stored away

### Disadvantages

- cost
- may require a tradesperson to install

## Hose reel



Bourke St Community garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- easy to cart hose around
- can be cheap
- reduces trip hazards
- keeps the hose tidy and can be stored away

### Disadvantages

- needs compacted ground to move

## Signage – fence or wall mounted



Bourke St Community garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- long lasting
- provides a blackboard for the group to write about what is happening in the garden
- provides additional contact information for residents or new gardeners

### Disadvantages

- blackboard open to weather conditions

## Signage – corflute



Ada Place Community composting, Ultimo

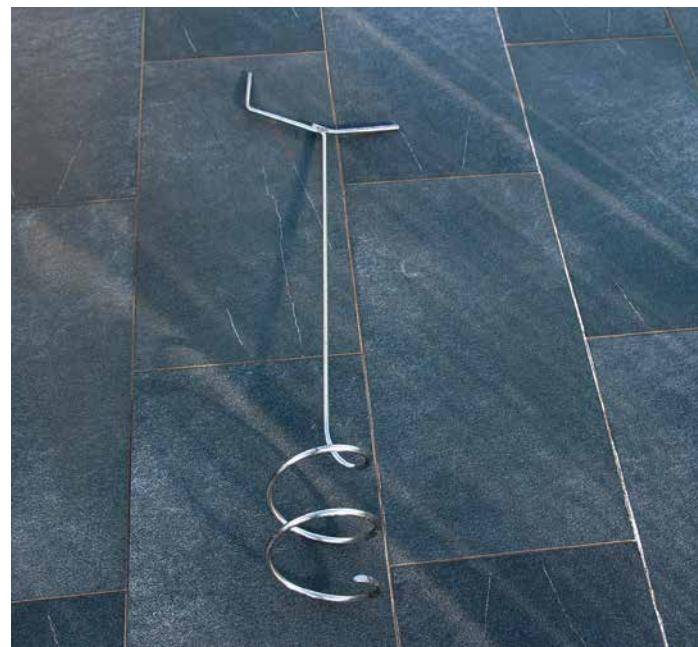
### Benefits

- cheap
- great for temporary projects on trial

### Disadvantages

- can be easily damaged by weather conditions or vandalism
- short-term signage

## Compost turner tool



Ada Place Community composting, Ultimo

### Benefits

- ideal to provide aeration into the compost
- easy to store and use
- lightweight and cheap

### Disadvantages

- cheaper version may rust or paint may peel off

## Tap – vandal proof



St Helens Community Garden, Glebe

### Benefits

- reduces vandalism

### Disadvantages

- requires a qualified plumber to install
- cost of tap and tap key

## Tap – standard



Bourke St Community Garden, Woolloomooloo

### Benefits

- can be used by all gardeners and visitors

### Disadvantages

- potential water waste if tap is not turned off properly

# 12

# References

The information contained in Preferred Materials for Use in Community Gardens is provided as a general guide only. The Council of the City of Sydney does not accept any responsibility for any injury, loss, costs, expenses, demands or liability, whether directly or indirectly arising or in any way connected with the use of this guide.

## **City of Sydney**

Information about community gardens in the City of Sydney

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/participation/community-gardens>

City of Sydney Community Garden Policy

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/participation/community-gardens>

City of Sydney Community Garden Guidelines

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/participation/community-gardens>

Preferred Materials for Use in Community Gardens

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/participation/community-gardens>

City of Sydney Community Composting Guidelines

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/206791/7848\\_Community-Composting-guidelines\\_DE4.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/206791/7848_Community-Composting-guidelines_DE4.pdf)

City of Sydney Community Composting Management Plan

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/207326/7826-Composting-Plan-of-Management-A4-FA1-LoRes.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/207326/7826-Composting-Plan-of-Management-A4-FA1-LoRes.pdf)

City of Sydney Community Composting signage

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/206903/7866-Organic-Composting-System-200x300-FA1-worm-farm.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/206903/7866-Organic-Composting-System-200x300-FA1-worm-farm.pdf)

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/206904/7866-Organic-Composting-System-300x300-FA1.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/206904/7866-Organic-Composting-System-300x300-FA1.pdf)

Getting Started in Community Gardening

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/92130/GettingStartedincommunitygardening.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/92130/GettingStartedincommunitygardening.pdf)

Footpath Gardening Policy

[http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/150051/6687\\_FA2\\_Footpath-Gardening-Update.pdf](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/150051/6687_FA2_Footpath-Gardening-Update.pdf)

Sustainability and workshops

<http://www.greenvillages.com.au/upcoming-workshops/>

## **Useful websites**

Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network

<http://communitygarden.org.au/>

Royal Botanical Gardens

<http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

Horticultural therapy

[www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au](http://www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au)

The Green Living Centre

<http://www.greenvillages.com.au/community/the-green-living-centre-newtown/>

Wildlife friendly netting and fencing

<http://www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Netting.html>  
[www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com](http://www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com)



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