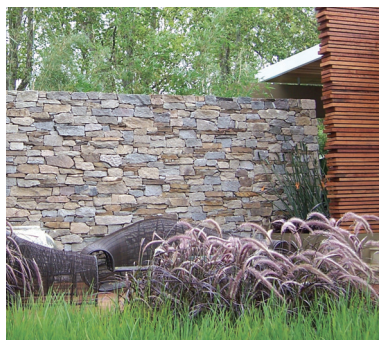
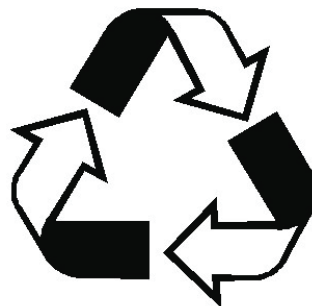
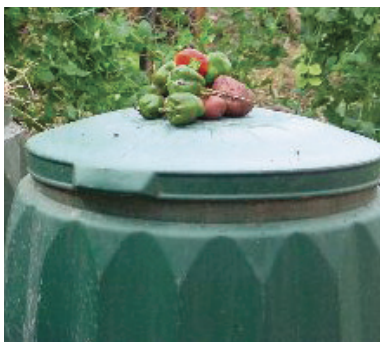




aurora

Landscape – Handy Hints & Ideas



YOUR LANDSCAPE AT AURORA

Welcome to the Aurora community.

By now you would have chosen your front garden landscape design from the 'Front Garden Designs' booklet.

So now is the right time to plan your rear garden to ensure a useable space that functions well as part of your daily life, and to ensure a high quality rear garden to match the character and style of your front garden.

Think of your rear garden as the starting point of what inevitably will become the highly personal centre of your life. Doesn't this make it worthwhile, and even critical, to plan your rear garden to suit your lifestyle and your needs?

If this sounds daunting, breathe easy. The following brochure contains all the information you need to plan the rear garden of your home, and a wealth of advice and guidance to help you choose from all the options and opportunities available.

CONTENTS

1. Basic requirements
2. Your site & needs
3. Designing your garden
4. Final design
5. Recommended plant list
6. Establishing your garden
7. Maintaining your garden
8. Further resources & references
9. Technical notes
 - i. Front Garden Designs
 - ii. Eco-selector guide
 - iii. Fencing Guidelines & Technical Notes

1. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Sustainability

Materials should be selected carefully to minimise environmental impacts. In some instances, the collection of rock for use in gardens may destroy the ecosystems from which they are removed. Use of old growth timber or rainforest timbers and river pebbles pose a similar dilemma. If we damage the ecology of wild landscapes in the process of creating gardens, our gardens are not sustainable.

The following questions should be asked when choosing materials:

- Where does the material come from?
- How well does the material incorporate the principles of “reduce, reuse, recycle”?
- What is the product’s impact on the environment once installed?
- What are the material’s maintenance requirements?

Refer to ‘Eco-selector : A Guide to Materials Selection For Aurora’ for further helpful information, available at VicUrban or at www.auroraliving.com.au

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD)

Water sensitive urban design and planting will help to minimise overall water use. We recommend the following:

- Plant drought-tolerant plants.
- Use recycled mulch to retain soil moisture.
- Use irrigation systems that provide water efficiently with minimum water loss through evaporation or run-off.
- Re-use grey water through approved diversion systems.
- Locate plants with similar water requirements in groups.
- Limit the use of high water use plants to small feature areas or focal points.

Fencing & retaining walls

To ensure a consistent streetscape is maintained, retaining walls that are visible to the public should be constructed in:

- Rendered masonry, or
- Local stone to match existing dry-stone and estate retaining walls.

Retaining walls more than 1m high should be stepped to allow planting areas to break the mass of wall. Railway sleepers or timber walling systems are discouraged where they are within the front setback area including corner lots.

Consider whether any retaining walls can be built to a height of 450mm in order to double as informal seating in the garden.

Enquiries should be made by contacting the City of Whittlesea for details relating to building permits if required.

Refer to the ‘Fencing Guidelines’ and ‘Technical Notes’ for further information and requirements, available at VicUrban or at www.auroraliving.com.au

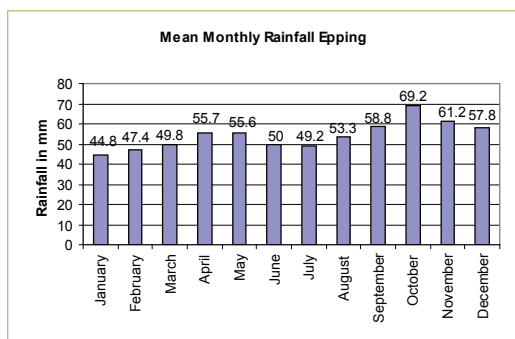
2. YOUR SITE & NEEDS

Before you begin any design for your rear garden, it is important to understand the physical environment at Aurora and on your property.

Climate

Annual rainfall in the area averages 655.5 millimetres. September, October and November are the wettest months of the year in the area and frosts are common in winter.

You will need protection from strong northerly winds in summer (hot) and winter (cold). Breezes from the south will offer relief from summer heat, but can be cold and rain-laden at other times of the year.



Soils

The soils of the area are mostly basalt derived, black cracking clays that, while relatively fertile, have poor drainage characteristics. Heavier clay subsoils may be close to the surface in some areas. Water does not penetrate the clay layer easily. In late winter and spring some soils can become saturated, due to build up of water in the soil during winter.

Drainage

Investigate drainage conditions on your property by digging with a spade at high and low points at wet and dry times of the year. If necessary, install sub-surface drains to remove water from important or low-lying outdoor areas. Which way will water run across your property? Plan to control the direction of surface water run-off in outdoor areas away from the house.

Services

Where are the services (gas, water, electricity, sewerage, stormwater and telephone) located on the property? You should avoid planting large trees close to service installations. Check your Certificate of Title for the existence and location of any easements. You may not be permitted to build or plant large trees on easements on your property.

Orientation and Views

What will you see from your future back yard, and from inside your home? Distant features such as mountains can add interest to the view from house or garden. Plan to retain your privacy. Plant to screen and soften unattractive views.

Lifestyle

Consider your lifestyle and needs now and in the future. Will your needs change over time? Do you have children? Try to anticipate how their needs will change over time. Do you have time to spend maintaining garden areas with flower beds, or does your lifestyle suit a low maintenance garden?

List Your Needs

Make a list of the things you want from the outdoor areas of your property. Write down everything that comes to mind. Try to organise the list as you go into the types of uses. A simple division is into service elements and leisure elements. You will almost certainly require some (if not all) of the following list. You may have special needs of your own which are not on this list.

Service Elements

- garden storage
- compost area
- rubbish
- recycling storage
- water tank
- clothes line
- paved pathways

Leisure Elements

- outdoor living and dining area(s)
- barbeque
- lawn area
- ornamental garden areas
- screen plants
- shade trees
- vegetable garden
- fruit trees
- herb garden
- greenhouse
- sand pit
- cubby house
- play equipment
- pet enclosure
- sunny courtyard
- pergola / arbour
- shady place
- studio
- water feature / pond

The list may be long, but a few simple rules of design can help you to organise the different elements into a sensible and attractive outcome. You have already commenced this process by organising your list into functional and leisure uses.