

10 Tips to Simplify Your Garden

Less stress and more enjoyment

These tips are intended to help you spend less time and money on maintaining your garden and more time enjoying your garden.

1. Choose an Indigenous Plant Palette

Replace exotic plants with Indigenous plants that are climatically suited to the conditions of your area. Indigenous plants require less maintenance, are less prone to pests and often require less water.

2. Reduce Lawn Areas

By reducing the amount of lawn in your garden you will save time and money spent on watering, mowing and maintaining the lawn. Flower beds require less effort compared to lawn.

3. Don't Plant Annuals

Annuals are often very colourful and strongly marketed by nurseries, but these plants die after a few months and need to be replaced seasonally. Rather plant perennials that will grow in your garden for several years.

4. Go Waterwise

Choose plants that do not have high water requirements. Spread mulch (bark chip or shredded wood) on all exposed soil areas to reduce evaporation and install rainwater tanks where possible.

5. Mass Plant

Sometimes planting only a few of many different species can create a 'fruit salad' look which can be confusing. By mass planting you create a strong visual effect that is also simpler to maintain.



6. Make Your Own Compost

Collect all organic matter from your garden and store in a compost heap, preferably out of sight. Turn regularly and you will have nutrient rich compost that you can reuse in your garden. With a bit of patience you won't have to buy compost again.

7. Define Beds with Edging

Edging can be done using pavers, bricks, steel or wood. By creating an edge to a garden bed you define where the bed begins and ends. This helps with maintenance and neatens the garden by providing structure and cohesion.

8. Grow Your Own Plants

Have a small table or an area in your garden with some pots (with soil you've filled from your compost heap) and propagate cuttings from existing plants in your garden. Succulents are easily grown this way. Once these are grown you can plant them into your garden to fill any gaps or give to friends. You can also grow plants from seed such as Clivias.

9. Embrace Diversity and Encourage Wildlife

Protect and encourage all creatures in your garden (plants, birds, insects, reptiles and mammals) and try to avoid chemical pest control if possible. Every garden creature has its role to play and often nature responds on its own to maintain a healthy balance.

10. Have a Masterplan

Having an overall landscape masterplan to work from saves you both time and money, especially when you are implementing upgrades to your garden in phases. It ensures you don't waste resources and gives you a vision to work towards.

Happy Gardening!

If you would like help with designing your garden feel free to book a site visit with me:

Gina Switala

gina@sproutlandscapes.co.za

www.sproutlandscapes.co.za

