



A Green Gardening Future 2021

Increasingly we are witnessing extreme weather events including widespread flooding, powerful winds, intense fires, prolonged droughts etc. There is mounting evidence to suggest that humans are to blame for all of this by releasing heat-trapping gases from burning fossil fuels and from agriculture. These "greenhouse" gases are higher now than at any time in the last 800,000 years. It is clear that we must reduce the output of "greenhouse gases", otherwise the fate of the earth and all living things that reside upon it, hangs in the balance.

To this end we at Gardenridge believe strongly that everyone has a role to play in reducing their carbon footprint and address climate change. That is why we are implementing a more environmentally sensitive approach to our business which includes:



We have replaced most of our petrol motorised equipment with electric equipment which eliminates the use of fossil fuels and runs a lot quieter.

We chose Stihl electric equipment supplied by the knowledgeable team at Ashburton mowers. These machines deliver the same power and precision as a petrol motor without impacting the environment.

<https://www.stihl.com.au/stihl-pro-cordless-power-system.aspx>
<https://ashburton-mowers.stihl-dealer.com.au/en-au/stihl/en-au-39/>



We are using less systemic/topical synthetic herbicides and pesticides which are toxic to humans and harm biodiversity. We are using more natural plant-based herbicides and pesticides including Slasher an organic contact weedicide, and Pyrethrum an organic plant-based contact pesticide.

<https://ecoorganicarden.com.au/products/weedkiller/slasher/>
<https://www.yates.com.au/product/garden-pest-control/yates-pyrethrum-insect-pest-killer-concentrate/>

We note that these more environmentally sensitive products are not as effective at controlling weeds or insect attack compared to systemic products at present, but this can change now there is a will to use these types of products.



We are using less synthetic chemical-based fertilisers to feed plants and lawns which can harm soil micro-organisms, and they are more easily leached from the soil profile which is less benefit to the target plants and may end up in our water ways causing toxic algal blooms. We are using more organic fertilisers including Blood and Bone, Dynamic Lifter, Yates Agri Boost which provide slow-release plant nutrition as well as adding valuable organic matter to the soil.

<https://www.yates.com.au/product/garden-fertilisers/organic-based/yates-blood-and-bone-based-fertiliser/>
<https://ocp.com.au/product/yates-agriboost-pellets/>
https://www.bunnings.com.au/yates-15kg-dynamic-lifter-reduced-odour-organic-soil-improver-and-plant-fertiliser_p3010289



We have adopted a range of water efficient practices on our projects including capturing rainwater in tanks and then re-using the water on the garden; installing water efficient drip irrigation that delivers moisture directly over the plant roots; treating the soil with organic matter which helps the soil to receive and retain water; terracing sloped sites to reduce water run-off; mulching garden beds to reduce water lost to evaporation.

We are well supported on this front by the professional team at Burwood Smartwater.

<http://www.smartwatershop.com.au/>



We diligently manage sediment generated during a garden build to protect drains and our waterways. Sediment can be produced when heavy rain washes out a recently excavated site, or after a concrete pour, or when cutting bricks and stone etc. We often use hay bales to quarantine and filter the sediment laden water.



We sort all the waste that is removed from a garden including green waste, hard waste, and recyclables. There is a separate bin to receive each of these. Recyclables might include timber that can be re-purposed, plastic pots that can be re-used by plant growers, and plants that can be propagated and used on future projects. Taking time and effort on this front helps to reduce the pressure on our finite landfill sites.

We will continue to work towards more "green" gardening practices paying attention to new products and advances in technology that might assist us in this endeavor. On our own we will make a small difference and I am proud of this but joined by others we can change the trajectory of climate change.

Who?

We are committed at Gardenridge Pty Ltd to take care of the environment in any way we can whilst maintaining your garden. To this end please contact Adam Groves at:

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