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MEDIA RELEASE



Gardening to beat the drought and climate change

Our changing climate will have consequences for all gardeners.

The Royal Botanic Gardens horticulturists and botanists will share their thoughts and ideas about the effects of climate change on home gardens in three sustainable gardening workshops during October and November

Two workshops are being delivered by the talented horticultural team from RBG Cranbourne. The workshops are aimed at intermediate gardeners and will focus on Sustainable Gardening.

John Arnott, Manager, Horticulture said: "Our aim is to give participants a range of innovative ways to create beautiful, sustainable gardens."

The workshops will look at drought-resistant plants, making the most of water resources and other crucial elements that help promote a healthy and happy garden.

The workshop on the 16 November is preceded by a specialist talk in the morning delivered by Roger Spencer and Rob Cross from the National Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The botanists will share their thoughts on how to garden during climate change, including ideas about how to design, construct and maintain a sustainable garden.

Rob Cross says: "There is no doubt the changing climate is presenting gardeners with challenges and opportunities. Some plant species will thrive in the changing conditions and others will be more difficult to grow."

"There is plenty that gardeners can do to ensure a sustainable garden, though."

Some of their ideas include:

- Plant long-term shelter to protect the garden from stormy weather.
- Improve soil with grit, gravel and organic matter to ensure drainage and nutrients.
- Build water collection and disposal measures into new hard landscaping, greenhouses and sheds.
- Invest in water features and ponds - they will benefit wildlife and will be appreciated in hotter, drier summers.

Workshop – Sustainable gardening for intermediates

When: Sunday 19 October
Sunday 16 November
Time: 1.30 – 4.30pm
Cost: \$34.50 adults per workshop
Bookings: Tel: (03) 5990 2245

Special Event: Sustainable Gardens by Rob Cross and Roger Spencer

When: Sunday 16 November.

Time: 11 – 11.45am

Cost: \$6.50 adult; \$5.50 child/concession

Tour/activity costs are additional to the Australian Garden entry fee.

Bookings: Tel: (03) 5990 2245

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