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**MEDIA RELEASE**



## **Sustainable gardening for beginners at RBG Melbourne**

How to garden through difficult climate conditions is a question testing many gardeners throughout Melbourne. The Royal Botanic Gardens is offering a program featuring sustainable gardening practices to help minimise impact on the environment and maintain healthy gardens in challenging conditions.

As the managers of one of the world's most renowned botanic gardens, securing water supplies and retaining the heritage landscape are urgent and complex problems, which staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne have worked very hard to address.

Gardeners now have the chance to learn directly from some of the Gardens staff and other experts about how to put some of these tried and tested ideas into practice in home gardens through two innovative programs.

### **Sustainable gardening for beginners**

A four-week program is being run on Tuesdays during April and the first week of May looking at garden design, composting, plant selection and water conservation.

The program will be run by experts including Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw, Horticulturist Lana Phillips, University of Melbourne Senior Lecturer in Urban Horticulture, John Raynor and Director, Melbourne Gardens, Richard Barley.

Participants can either attend all sessions or come along to individual sessions.

**When:** Tuesdays: 15 April (Garden design);  
22 April (Composting);  
29 April (Plant selection);  
6 May (Water conservation).  
**Time:** 10am – 12 noon  
**Where:** Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.  
**Cost:** \$150 adult (4 sessions); \$130 concession (4 Sessions); Casual rate: \$40 per session.  
**Bookings:** Tel: (03) 9252 2429

### **Autumn Gardens Workshop**

Water conservation in the garden – what is the best way forward? How do you make the most of the watering restrictions and at the same time, maintain a garden through the seasons.

The Royal Botanic Gardens in association with Australians Studying Abroad is offering a half day **Autumn Gardens' Workshop** on designing and maintaining a water conserving garden in your own backyard.

Gardens staff Andrew Laidlaw, Alison Rice and Richard Barley will explain the important qualities of a drought friendly garden and how to work out what's best for your garden.

The workshop is practical with plenty of chances to learn more about useful ways of achieving gardens that will thrive in Melbourne's hot, dry conditions.

**When:** Wednesday 9 April  
**Time:** 9.30am–12.30pm  
**Where:** Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.  
**Cost:** \$35 adult; \$30 concession (includes morning tea)  
**Bookings:** 03) 9252 2429

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