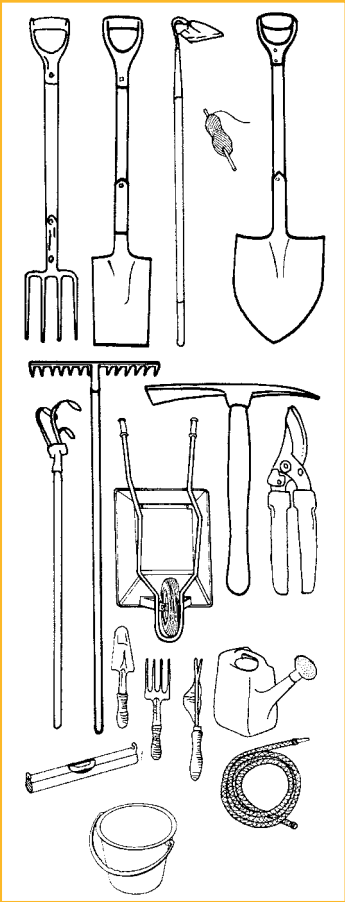


Tools for the job



- Fork

Spade

Shovel

Hoe

Cultivator

Mattock

Garden Rake

Heavy Duty Wheelbarrow

Hand Trowel

Hand Lawn Weeder
- Hand Fork

Secateurs

Stringline

Spirit Level or Stringline Level

Bucket

Watering Can

Garden Hose and Fittings

All the help you need

✓ Your Materials Checklist		
		PRICE
	Fertilisers	
	Seedlings	
	Shrubs and Trees	
	Lawn Seed	
	Top Soil	
	Insecticides and Pesticides	
	Sprinklers (Rotating or Pop-Up, Microspray and Drip Feed)	
	Drainage Pipe	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

Step 5: Caretaking

Gardens generally reflect the amount of care and interest their owners take in them. That's not to say you need to spend all your spare time looking after them. But there are a few general principles to ensure your new garden thrives and prospers.

Watering

It's a fact more plants die by overwatering than by underwatering. As a rule of thumb, water every one to two days in hot weather, every three to seven days in warm weather – and then for 15 to 30 minutes only. Early mornings or late evenings are the best. New lawns, young seedlings and newly planted shrubs need special care – they have small root systems that dry out quickly, so water evenly, lightly and often.

Feeding

Plants generally need only two applications of fertiliser or manure a year – in early Spring when they are growing strongly, and late Summer or early Autumn. Always apply fertilisers according to the manufacturer's instructions – too much could burn the roots.

Pruning

The harder you prune, the more a plant will grow. In some cases, young trees and shrubs for example, that's just what's needed. In other cases, it means new growth will come instead of fruit or flowers. So be careful and ensure your cutting tools are sharp to prevent damaging the plant.



Visit [www.mitre10.com.au](http://www.mitre10.com.au) for more MITREPLANS

10/10 handy hints to make the job easier.

- Good tools are an investment. Clean and dry them after use, even lightly oiling, to prevent rust.
- Keep spades, shovels and hoes sharp by filing against the sloping edge of the blade.
- When pruning, wash your tools with a weak household disinfectant between plants to stop the spread of any disease from one plant to another.
- Organic fertilisers are slow-acting, releasing plant food over a period of time. Inorganic fertilisers provide an immediate source of nutrients.
- When watering, keep the soil moist but not soaking – water gently so that it penetrates the soil without puddling the surface.

**IMPORTANT:** Not all Mitre 10 stores stock greenlife.

MITREPLAN



Plan and plant the perfect garden

**IMPORTANT:** This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any claim, cost, expense, loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of or arising out of or in any way connected with using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

**WARNING:** There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.



Your local MITRE 10 Store is:

MITRE 10  
All the help you need

MITREPLAN

Plan and plant the perfect garden



GARDEN PLANNER

An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a 10/10 result.

Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.

Including materials checklist.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is well worth your time to read through all steps first to be sure you understand what is required.

Mitre 10 is proudly Australian owned.

No. 34

[www.mitre10.com.au](http://www.mitre10.com.au)

MITRE 10 All the help you need



Create a bit of garden magic – with a little help from Mitre 10.

A garden is for plants and for people too. What could be better than sitting in a shady garden retreat on a sunny afternoon enjoying the peace and tranquillity. With flowers blooming, birds singing and everything right with nature.

The good news is that making special gardens or improving existing ones does not have to be difficult or cost huge amounts of money. Magic can happen in any garden, even the smallest one, if it is laid out to a plan. No matter what sort of garden you wish – cottage, formal or native – there is no substitute for good planning. It helps make the most of the land around your house and the plants you choose for it. And in this Project Planner, we outline some of the principles and steps to take in planning, designing and making a glorious garden to suit your lifestyle and to add value to your home.

All you need are the right tools and materials from your Mitre 10 store.



Step 1: Planning

Often, the best way to start planning is to sit outside with a sketch pad and work out a few lines, spaces and planting places. That way you can check on the spot and see if your ideas make sense.

Consider what you have

First, look at your house. Your garden must blend harmoniously with it to work its magic. For example, you might like the idea of a low-maintenance bush garden, but they aren't right for all architecture. Next, consider your land's physical contours. Is it flat or sloping or an odd shape? Does it have hills and hollows? All can be used to add character. For example, if it slopes, add different levels with a retaining wall or two and steps from one level to another. Retaining walls provide a great place to grow plants and can be built of a variety of materials, including wood, bricks, concrete and pine posts.

Sun and Shade

These are significant factors. So know where north is. You need to know where the hot winds blow from and where it will be shady. Shade on the south side of your home will cover a much wider area in winter than in summer, making some plants difficult to grow (Fig. 1). Shade loving plants like hydrangeas, azaleas and camellias are suitable here. Ferns are ideal on the southeast side of a house which gets morning sun and afternoon shade.

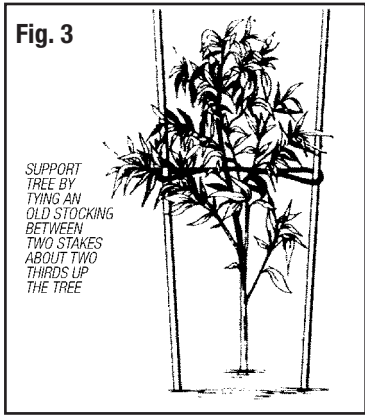
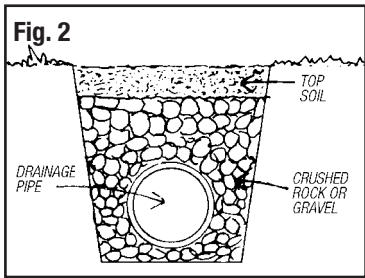
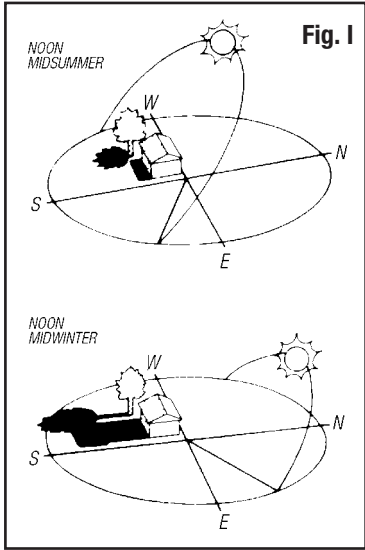
Garden Features

Does your house lend itself to a deck, patio, courtyard or terrace? They can all help extend indoor living outside. Or think about building a pergola – they give you an area to grow roses, wisteria, jasmine – all kinds of climbers. Paths are an attractive and practical feature. But if beauty is most important, paths can meander and be less formal. Here you can include paving stones, bricks, stepping stones of perhaps rough cut slate or interesting gravels. Barbeques and swimming pools are popular and best when planned adjacent to each other or integrated. Both should be close to the house for practical reasons and the pool in full sunlight for most of the day. If you have young children, remember their play area and sandpit needs to be near where you can keep an eye on them – close to a kitchen window is ideal. What about a water feature? Water and rocks certainly go together and a decorative pool adds beauty and interest. If you have the room, you might also think about putting in a vegetable patch. But remember, it wants to be in the sunniest part.

You'll probably find you have more ideas than you have room for. So take your time and consider all the features of your block, both good and bad.

Step 2: Draw up the plan

Once you've noted the features and your ideas, the next step is to design a plan to scale. On a piece of graph paper, using a scale of 1:100 (1cm = 1m), mark in the boundaries, house position and all the services whether they be water, phone lines, electricity or drainage pipes. Mark any plants you may want to retain – you might have to alter a feature you're planning a bit to keep them. Also indicate any unsightly aspects to be screened or views you want to keep.



Then broadly sketch in defined areas of use for the garden. These are usually determined by the design of the house and the natural features of the site. Sunny areas are best for recreational activities and can include garden beds, shrubs, a barbeque and perhaps a swimming pool, Utility areas – places to dry the washing and for children to play – should be located near the house. Garden sheds and compost bins are best in a remote corner and screened with medium height shrubs. The decorative areas should include open spaces of lawn to give a low foreground to view ornamental flowers and shrubs and the garden an air of spaciousness.

Once you're happy with the broad plan, use tracing paper overlays to develop a more detailed final plan. Indicate where different types of plants are to go. Shrubs are very effective for boundary planting. Low growing perennials along shrubbery frontages provide a changing pattern of colour as they come into bloom. Flowering annuals not only give garden decoration but blooms for indoor vases, too. Climbing plants can hide a fence or shed from view or provide a background for other plants. If including any trees, choose carefully. It is important at this stage to consider the size of the trees in 10 to 20 years. And watch where you put them – it's not much good, for example, if they're going to shade your vegetable patch.

Step 3: Preparation

Whatever type of garden you're creating, it's essential to prepare the soil well before planting. Remove all perennial and annual weeds and work the soil over to break up heavy clay or to add organic matter to sandy soils. You can also reshape contours at this stage by constructing a mound if the site is flat, or terracing it if it slopes. Save any top soil removed from paved areas, pools, etc. for use in other areas.

Now is also the time to carry out any necessary drainage. So next time it rains, go outside and determine the natural run-off. Where water collects or is impeded, install some drainage pipe – terracotta, cement of polythene – embedded in gravel (Fig. 2).

Sandy soils can be improved by digging in organic matter such as animal manure, garden compost or green manure crops. Clay or heavy soils will also benefit from these, but permanent improvement can be made by spreading a 5-8cm layer of coarse sand over it and digging it well in to a depth of 15-20cm. Adding gypsum to clay soils (about a handful per square metre) can also help. And a little garden lime forked in can help neutralise any acidity.

Step 4: Planting

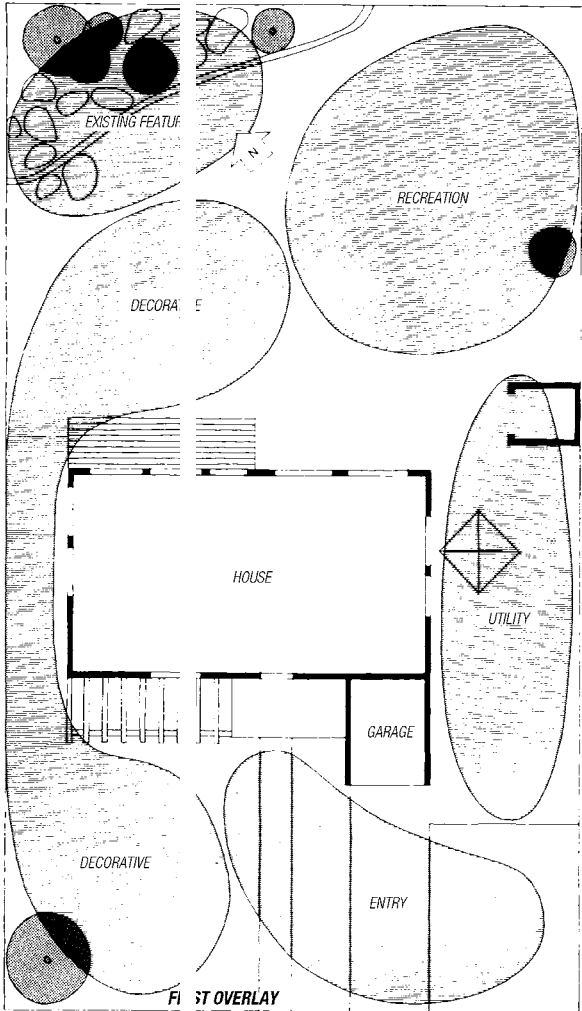
First, work the soil to a fine texture to a depth of about 25cm (60cm for bigger trees and shrubs). Add compost

and wait a couple of weeks before turning again to give the compost a chance to mix in. Slow release plant food will also help the new plant through the new growing period. make sure the soil is well watered before planting.

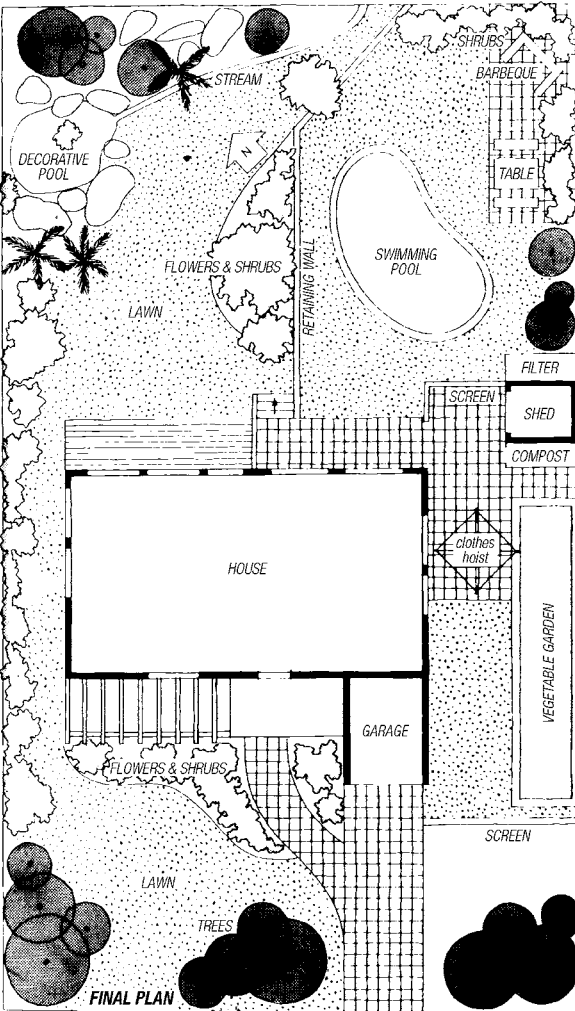
Tap each plant cleanly from its container and gently break the upper crust of soil from the main stem. Give the roots at the bottom a tickle to get them started and run your fingers up and down the sides of the root ball to break up the soil a little. Sit the plant in the soil at about the same level as it did in the pot. Fill the rest of the hole with soil and press the plant in firmly with your hands. Water well and perhaps add a little seaweed fertiliser (very weak).

For trees, it's best not to stake them unless you have to. If it's necessary, use two stakes placed outside the root ball. The tree can then be supported by tying a piece of old nylon stocking between the two stakes about two thirds of the way up the tree to prevent the ties digging into the trunk (Fig. 3).

If you're planting lawn, plan to do it in Spring or Autumn for best results – Summer and Winter are too extreme. A new lawn is also a good opportunity to install a permanent Pop-up watering system. It's easy and can save you time, effort and water.



PLAN SHOWING MAIN PURPOSE & ACTIVITY AREAS



PLAN SHOWING FINAL GARDEN LAYOUT