

## Planning Your Garden – Getting Started

### Quick Checklist for Site Assessment

<b>Soil</b>	<p>What soil type do you have?</p> <p>(If you don't what soils type you have, take a sample with you. Many local nurseries, landscape suppliers and agricultural produce stores offer soil testing services).</p>	<p>Sandy Clay Silt Loamy Other:</p>
	Does your soil contain lots of rich organic material?	
	<p>Do you have good soils drainage?</p> <p>(ie. is your soil moist but not wet, loose or crumbly when you dig and readily absorb water when after rain or watering)</p>	
	Do you have wet boggy areas that take a long time to dry out after rain or watering or areas that always seem to be wet or mushy when you walk on them?	
	<p>Do you have good surface drainage?</p> <p>(ie. does water run off your property readily or does it form large pools of water that that cant drain away easily)</p>	
<b>Slope</b>	Slope – is your backyard flat or does it slope	
<b>Aspect</b>	<p>Aspect or Orientation of your yard –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What direction does your house and backyard face?</li> <li>• What direction does the morning and afternoon sun come from?</li> <li>• Are areas of the garden shaded for long periods of the day?</li> <li>• What direction do strong winds and bad weather come from?</li> </ul>	N, S, E, W

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<b>Additional things to consider</b>	Identify existing plants to be retained, transplanted or removed	
	Locate and identify underground and overhead services	
	What style of garden do you want to create (or is suitable for your conditions) eg. neat or formal with garden edges, natural with no formal edges or boundaries, tropical/rainforest style or drought tolerant.	
	Privacy and screening from overlooking of neighbours or the street	
	Screening of unattractive items like sheds and rubbish bins	
	Shading or potential future shading of any solar panels, veggie garden or clothes drying areas from trees or large shrubs	
	Specific family needs or requirements you may have ie. Location of kids play areas, entertainment areas, pool, pet enclosures etc.	

*A simple way to record all of this information is to draw a sketch of your property with each of these points marked on it. (Tip – various shaped arrows can be used to mark the direction of wind, sun etc)*