



HOW TO SURVIVE THE SUMMER!

With last summer's drought still a recent memory, and this year's seasonal rainfall already below average, now is a good time to think about how you can prepare your garden for another dry summer.

Install a rain tank so that you can collect water when it's falling, to use when it's not. Check out nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting for some cool info and ideas.



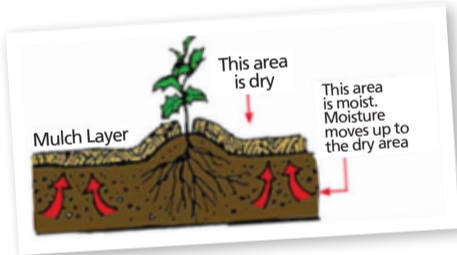
LOOK AFTER YOUR SOIL

Soils have different capacities for holding water. The ideal soil contains good organic matter which you can add in various ways.

As well as mulching, make your own compost to dig into your soil to a depth of about 15 cms. November is Kickstart Compost month, so get your composting underway now by making the most of our \$30 compost bin subsidy – go to nelson.govt.nz/compost to find out more.

DON'T OVERWORK YOUR SOIL – SOIL IS PRECIOUS!

Sow a cover crop when your garden is not in use – for example an off season vegetable garden. A green manure crop such as mustard or marigolds is perfect. Dig the green matter into your soil in springtime so that it can break down and add organic matter that will feed your plants.



MULCH, MULCH, MULCH

This will not only provide organic matter to enrich your soils and feed your plants, and help suppress weeds, mulch will really help in keeping some moisture around your soils. Avoid piling the mulch up around tree trunks.

LOOKING AFTER THIS LAND

CREATING SUSTAINABLE PLACES

Council's Healthy Streams programme funds our work to improve freshwater quality around Nelson. We do this through championing work to reduce pollution and erosion across many different areas of land use.

We've been working with landowners in North Nelson to support land management practices that will improve the health of the Wakapuaka River. Even if the land is a long way from the river, land management practices still have an impact.

We've been so inspired by the work North Nelson landowners have been doing, and by their enthusiasm that we wanted to share their stories with you.

We've made a series of video interviews with three local landowners

so you can see for yourself. They highlight the challenges and joys of land restorations as well as the difficulties, and the considerable commitment required. Check them out at:

nelson.govt.nz/looking-after-this-land

Applications for the second round of Council's Environmental Grants funding programme are now open. Applications must be in by 22 November to be considered for this round. The fund focusses on individual and community projects that do great things for our environment. For more info go to:

nelson.govt.nz/environmental-grants

PLANT DROUGHT TOLERANT NATIVE PLANTS SUITABLE FOR NELSON

- Flaxes – there is a flax for every size of garden. *Phormium cookianum* varieties (mountain flaxes) are the most tolerant species for dry conditions.
- Cabbage Trees – largely dry tolerant, though do get hit hard in a severely dry summer.
- Astelias are generally good for dry conditions – *Astelia nervosa* and *Astelia chathamica* make great garden specimens.
- Corokia species now come in a range of sizes and colours. *Corokia cotoneaster* is a local species to the Nelson region.
- Coprosma varieties love the sun! They come in a range of shapes and sizes, from ground covers, to shrubs to trees. Species such as *Coprosma virescens* and *Coprosma rugosa* are interesting specimens which add texture to the garden.
- Kowhai survive hot summers well – *Sophora microphylla* is the local species and a beautiful divaricated small tree. There are lower growing cultivars available for smaller gardens.
- Libertia varieties tolerate cold and sun, and add some interesting colour and texture to the urban garden.
- *Poa cita* – the silver tussock – is incredibly hardy and dry tolerant. Plant them and forget them!
- Muehlenbeckia varieties – *Muehlenbeckia astonii* is a non-local native that you will see in the roundabouts and roadsides in the region. It's a fascinating shrub that can be moulded and pruned at will and provides great ground cover for lizards.

