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Making Garden Maintenance Faster and Easier

You can make any garden high maintenance, but you do not need to. Time poor gardeners can reduce maintenance by choosing a garden that fits their time constraints. Could you make design changes to make your garden easier to maintain? What other strategies can time poor gardeners use?

Planting

- Don't waste time tending plants that are marginal in your soil type or climate
- Accept that you cannot always grow what you want
- Avoid plants/crops that are magnets to pests
- Avoid plants that are excessively rampant growers



Keep your tools clean and sharp

- Choose hedge species that do not require excessive pruning.

Maintenance Strategies, Tools and Equipment

- Select quality tools and equipment, look after your tools and keep them sharp
- Keep hand trowels, secateurs, a pruning saw, twine etc in a tradesman's bucket organiser
- Use powered pruning equipment - hedge shears, secateurs etc.



Compost helps to retain moisture in the soil and improves soil structure

Compost and Fertilizer

- Use trench composting – it is quick, or make layered compost you do not need to turn

- Use one or two complete fertiliser 3-4 times each year - a fruit tree fertiliser for roses, hedges, lawns and exotics or lawn fertiliser for lawns and natives

- Buy enough to fertilise everything without smelly leftovers and apply when it is raining.

Weeding and Watering

- Mulching is quicker and lasts longer than just weeding
- Weed wands (organic or chemical) are quick for spot weeding
- Install a programmable watering system and buy quality hoses and fittings.

Lawns

- Rationalise excess lawn or pay someone to mow for you

Get Organised

- Schedule one small gardening activity to complete each day
- Set goals to achieve in a week, month or season
- Garden with a friend to keep you motivated
- Swap skills with friends and neighbours
- Prune little and often – chop and drop as mulch directly on to garden beds
- Use gardening as your exercise.