

# Tips for designing & planning a garden



**Yates® and Life Ed 'Growing Good Gardens Grants' are on again for 2022!**

**Designing and planning a school garden doesn't need to be hard.**

**Here are some simple steps to follow:**

- 1.** Choose an area in the school grounds that receives at least six hours of sunshine a day, as most plants prefer this amount of sun. It is best that this area is not a main thoroughfare, as plants and soil can be damaged by constant foot traffic
- 2.** Ideally there should also be access to a tap, so you can easily water your garden.
- 3.** Think of the type of garden you would like to create. This could include a series of raised vegetable garden beds, a small orchard of fruit trees or a bush tucker 'food forest'.
- 4.** Measure the area you have and then sketch this out, to scale, on some grid paper, as if you were looking at the site from above. Include the edges of the surrounding buildings or where existing trees, pathways or other infrastructure is, as this will help you visualise the space you have to work with. Also include the garden area's orientation (north, south, east, west), as this can help with plant selection. For example, a hot westerly facing position will not suit tender plants but is ideal for sun-loving citrus trees.

**5.** Using the grid paper, you can either draw garden elements directly onto the page or place simple hand drawn cut outs of garden beds and trees (also drawn to scale) on the page. This allows you to move things around in your design, to see where they might best be situated. The plan doesn't need to be a work of art! A simple plan can work very well.

**6.** A PowerPoint slide can also be used to create a garden design, using shapes as different elements in the plan, however it's still important to create it to scale.



Image: Example of garden design