



GeoCatch

# BAY OK GARDEN CRITERIA



**“A healthy bay begins in your own backyard”**

*GeoCatch's Bay OK Gardens program promotes sustainable gardening principles to create beautiful, healthy gardens that have a positive impact on the environment. A Bay OK Garden controls nutrient leaching, supports local biodiversity, provides a refuge for native animals and can even grow food. By following the Bay OK Garden principles below, you can help to protect our rivers, wetlands and the Geographe Bay marine environment.*

## Minimise Nutrient Runoff



### Effective & Responsible Fertiliser Use

- Apply hydrozoning principles - group plants with similar fertiliser needs
- Minimise the amount of lawn areas
- Only apply fertiliser when symptoms of nutrient deficiency become apparent
- Obtain a soil test
- Source controlled release or organic fertilisers
- Look out for 'Fertilise Wise' products
- Be conscious of the frequency, amount & timing of your fertiliser application
- Always follow the manufacturers' instructions
- Avoid overwatering
- Apply fertiliser to lawn areas only in Spring and early Autumn

### Nurture your Soil

- Improve your soil with soil wetting agents & soil amendments
- Use seaweed & fish based emulsions or worm residue
- Aerate compacted soils
- Maintain a consistent layer of coarse mulch at 75mm thick

## Conserve Water



### Water Efficient Practices

- Apply hydrozoning principles - group plants with similar water needs
- Mulch regularly
- Only irrigate priority areas
- Incorporate sub strata drip line irrigation to garden beds
- Source a weather based irrigation controller
- Consider installing a rain sensor
- Ensure you comply with rostered watering days

## Support Local Biodiversity



### Manage Pests & Diseases Responsibly

- Consider manual, biological, homemade or non-toxic pesticides
- Apply pesticides carefully to avoid leaching into the nearby water courses.
- Always follow manufacturers' instructions
- Remember that pesticides usually harm or kill beneficial insects and animals

### Incorporate Local, Native Plant Species

- Source local, native plants
- Avoid weed species which easily escape into nature reserves

### Encourage Biodiversity

- Increase the diversity of plants to attract a range of local fauna
- Plant native habitat trees
- Reduce amount of hard surface treatments
- Create fauna habitats with the use of logs and nesting boxes or providing water for wildlife