

**Duncraig Edible Garden** is a Community Garden in the City of Joondalup based on Permaculture Ethics: Earth Care, People Care, Fair share.

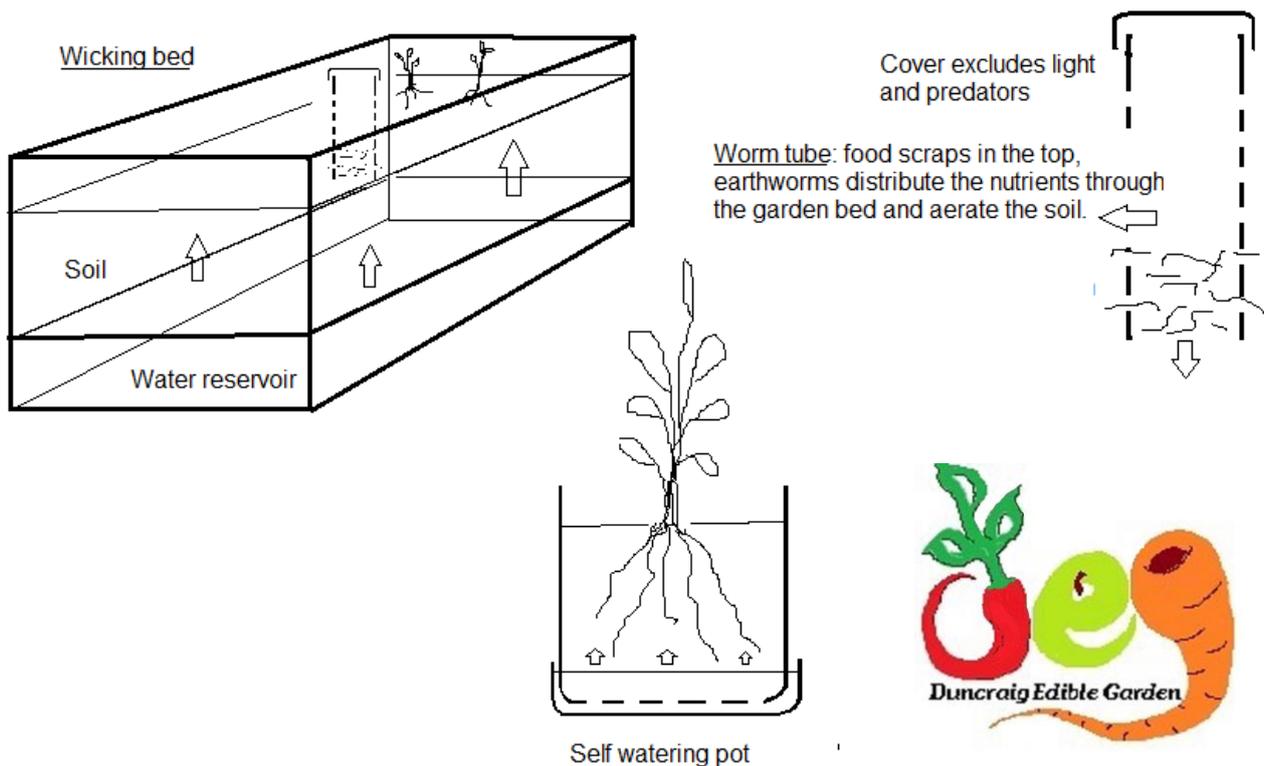
**Permaculture** is a non-depleting system of agriculture working with the built-in backups of diversity to give a yield and leave a better state each year. It is a design science, ecologically grounded and based on patterns observed from natural systems. It takes without depletion, is non-exploitative and regenerative: beyond sustainability! It takes in the long view, permanent thinking: we're living as if we are here for the long haul and want to help others to do so too.

Earth Care considers water, soil and air. Each element interacts contributing their outputs and taking what they need. Observe the dynamic stability and momentum of the natural systems. We exist with and in nature. It is not a war. Let nature be involved in your decision-making.

Caring for people: Inter dependence builds resilience and community using labour ,skills and resources with no waste. Every person and everything in a system has intrinsic value.

Fair share: When you are limits-aware you can give your surplus abundance back to the community. This is rewarding and builds self-worth. Enough is enough, we don't need bigger and bigger. We can continue to simply do things well.

One very useful technique is: wicking beds/ self watering pots.



Duncraig Edible Gardeners  
meet on alternate Saturday mornings (opposite weeks to Poynter Farmer's Market)  
at the garden outside the Duncraig Public library to work together in the open space.  
You are welcome to join us  
Talk to us in person, or contact us;  
email: [info@duncraigediblegarden.org.au](mailto:info@duncraigediblegarden.org.au)  
website: [duncraigediblegarden.org.au](http://duncraigediblegarden.org.au)

Facebook: Duncraig Edible Garden

**A Potting mix recipe** (Each "Part" is a 9 L bucket)

2 parts good garden soil

2 parts sand

2 parts compost

1 part coir

1 handful of each chosen addition (such as kelp, zeolite, blood and bone, rock minerals, troforte)

To make seedling raising mix, simply sieve the potting mix so there are no large particles!

Replenish the pot each year by adding compost to the soil.

This recipe is a bit like making a cake. The garden soil, sand, compost, coir and special additions such as blood and bone are like the amount of flour, sugar, butter, eggs, and the relatively small volume but significant contribution made by the spices.

What does your garden soil contain?

The composition of garden soils can be very different in one place than in another. The coastal suburbs of Perth have age weathered, deep alkaline sands with very low nutrient content. Local plants are adapted for these soils. The rich soils needed to grow many plants from other places kills some of the local species (banksias are very sensitive to phosphorus).

You can help to make your garden soil more suitable for growing the plants from other places by increasing the water holding capacity, correcting the pH, and adding trace elements.

\*Clay has fine particles which help hold more water in the soil,

\*Organic matter such as well made compost helps to correct the pH, making the nutrients available (not chemically locked)

\*Rock minerals add back some of the nutrients leached or weathered out of the ancient sands.

\*Kelp adds nutrients missing from land based plants.

When planting seedlings directly in the garden soil of the sandy coastal plain of Perth, adding a handful per seedling of premixed 1 part fine particle clay, 1 part coir and 3 parts compost will gradually transform the beds in which these seedlings are planted so they will hold more moisture and support flourishing growth of many species of plants.

Productive pH-balanced garden soils can be developed over a relatively short amount of time using this technique.

Notes: