



A garden for the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc.

Hello and welcome to the 2023 Royal Adelaide Show. The Horticulture Committee of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia are pleased to be working once again with Sophie Thomson, South Australia's eminent organic gardener, author and environmental educator to present this amazing feature garden display COOL.

We are so excited again to be working with Sophie to present this show stopping display. It has never been more important to demonstrate to you how you can create a biodiverse, liveable, productive and 'cool' environment around your home. The urban heat island effect caused by increasing global temperatures, urban infill, the loss of habitat, biodiversity and tree canopy could spell disaster for our cities, suburbs and towns. It is not too late and we can stop this from happening. We hope this display will inspire and empower you to create your own 'cool' space, and if we all do this together, it will make a difference.

Thank you for coming and being part of the horticulture display - we hope you enjoy it! We really appreciate your support.

All the best from the Horticulture Committee at the Royal Adelaide Show.

I want to show practical ideas for gardeners and non-gardeners, on every budget, which are achievable and could be adapted to your backyard. As with all of my show gardens, I aim to create the WOW factor and they need to be over the top to grab your attention, with whimsy to appeal to those of all ages and stages.

A COOL⁺ GARDEN

- Feels cool and provides relief from the heat on a hot summer's day
- Makes your outdoor space more liveable, for you, your family and for outdoor entertaining
 - Feeds you and your family and improves your food security
- Saves money by reducing cooling costs in summer and your food bills for organic produce
 - Improves your property's value and benefits the planet
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions because you are using less power to cool your home
 - Mitigates the urban heat island effect
- Provides habitat for urban wildlife making your garden a biodiversity hotspot

COOL⁺ features a mixture of Australian native and exotic plants.

Always check with the knowledgeable gardening personnel at your local nursery or garden centre about the suitability of plants you choose for your garden.

Using deciduous climbers such as glory vine, wisteria or fruiting grapes over pergolas gives you shade in summer when you want to stay cool and when the leaves drop in winter you get the benefit of the sun's warmth. It's significantly cooler under a vine covered pergola than it is under a shade structure with a solid roof, such as a veranda or polycarb covered pergola, due to the plants' transpiration. Adding a misting system will drop the temperature significantly and mean that you can even enjoy this area on the hottest days. Misting systems are remarkably water efficient as reducing your shower by just one minute provides the same amount of water needed to run your system for two hours.

SHADE TREES

Nothing beats the cool feeling you get under a shade tree and, when space is limited, look to use a deciduous tree so that you can enjoy the winter sunshine. Evergreen shade trees can make small courtyard areas dark and gloomy over winter.

MORE TREES PLEASE

GREEN WALLS

There are a number of commercially available vertical garden systems, but in our hot, harsh, summer-dry climate, many do not work successfully without very regular watering and maintenance. Their success is linked to matching the right plants to the conditions, the soil capacity of the system and the ability to water it effectively. Their cost can be prohibitive, so using climbing plants may be a more cost-effective option.

VINE COVERED PERGOLA

NATIVE VERGE

When space is limited, consider the often under-utilised land out the front of your home - the verge or nature strip. Planting your verge will look great and inspire others to do the same. Adding native plants to your verge is a great way to help create biodiversity and habitat. You can use local indigenous plants or other climate compatible Australian natives. These plants are suited to your environment and once established will be able to grow without supplementary water. When whole streets do it, it improves the aesthetic appeal and property value of your area, and just like community gardens, verge plantings can help develop strong, healthy, connected local communities as people get to know each other. An added bonus is that increased foot traffic along the street decreases crime by increasing passive surveillance.

N.B. Always check with your local council about their verge policy and how you can be added to the 'Do not mow and do not spray' register.



5 STAR GARDEN RATING

- ✓ COOL
- ✓ LIVABLE
- ✓ HABITAT HAVEN
- ✓ SUSTAINABLE
- ✓ PRODUCTIVE

PLANT FOR THE PLANET

CHOOKS

Not everyone will want chickens in their garden but having them can be a win-win particularly when you want to grow vegies and herbs. A few chooks will give you a remarkably steady supply of eggs, become your kitchen scraps recycling and value adding system, reduce your garden pests, and also be delightful companions.

VEGIE PATCH

Growing at least part of your own fruits, vegies and herbs is possible whatever the space of your garden. When ground space may be limited, vegies can be grown in raised beds or pots. Vegies can be grown in green wall systems as shown in this show garden but you can also use climbing vegies growing over mesh to cool down walls or create shade. Check out my favourite vertical vegies at sophiespatch.com.au Make sure to include flowers in and around your vegie patch to attract pollinators and beneficial bugs like ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings.



GROW YOUR OWN

For further information on COOL visit the 2023 Royal Adelaide Show Feature Garden pages at www.sophiespatch.com.au