

# 5 easy plants to grow in your first home

## One of the best things about moving into your first home is that you can finally make it your own.

If you're lucky enough to have a front or backyard, then growing a garden is a great way to start. You can plant what you want and create an outdoor area that you'll truly enjoy. Plus, every time you look at your garden, you'll feel a sense of pride knowing that you grew it yourself.

Starting a garden is easy, but you also have to look after it. If you're a first-time gardener or just don't have a lot of time, then it's a good idea to think about plants that are low maintenance. Australian conditions can be tough and unpredictable, which is why tough plants are always a good choice. However, there are plenty of other options that not only look good but are also easy to care for.

### 🏠 Native plants

The best thing about native plants is that they pretty much look after themselves. They can grow almost anywhere and you don't have to water them too often. There are lots of species that grow beautiful flowers and also attract native birds into your garden. Think about banksia, grevillea, kangaroo paw and callistemon (or bottle brush).

### 🏠 Citrus trees

There's nothing like going out into the garden and picking fresh fruit off the tree you grew yourself. It's more convenient than shopping and you're saving money. Citrus trees are easy to grow and can handle very hot climates as long as you water them regularly. Consider orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit, mandarin or cumquat varieties.

### 🏠 Succulents

Give your garden a bit of wow factor with succulents. Their unique appearance and colourful flowers can turn an ordinary garden into something extraordinary. Plus, they thrive in dry climates and any type of soil. Cactus is a popular choice but there are plenty of other attractive options like aloe, algave, crassula, yukka and sedum.

### 🏠 Living mulch

If you want to quickly cover a bare patch in your garden, then living mulch is a must. It makes great groundcover that enriches the soil and keeps weeds down. Some good options are grevillea, myoporum parvifolium, scaevola aemula, and cerastium tomentosum. Plant them close together so they grow into each other for a lush green look.

### 🏠 Screening

You can add some privacy to your garden with screening plants. They're fast growing and easy to control. Like groundcover, you grow them close together so they form a dense screen to stop your neighbours peering over your fence or block-out an ugly block of flats next door. Some good options are lily pily, red robin, callistemon, orange blossom and bamboo.