

DET Community Service Program School Fodder Garden Program



Overview

What is the School Fodder Garden Program?

Your school can help Perth Zoo by growing fodder and browse crops for our plant-eating residents. We can assist you with information on getting started, selecting the right plants and harvesting for use at Perth Zoo.



Perth Zoo's Involvement with the Community Service Program

The Department of Education and Training's Community Service Program requires students to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of community service during Year 10 and 11. Since the program began in 2007, we have received many requests for on-site work experience and volunteering opportunities. Unfortunately Perth Zoo is unable to accommodate on-site work experience for secondary school students.

As an alternative, Perth Zoo has established two unique opportunities (School Fodder Gardens and WCA Fundraising) for students to contribute to Perth Zoo, while fulfilling the requirements for the Community Service Program.

Fodder at my School

There are many ways your school can help Perth Zoo meet our fodder needs. You might like to consider establishing a designated 'fodder garden' in your school, integrating fodder species into your school environment or partnering with a primary school/ local council/vacant land holder to create a fodder source.

Each school can tailor their fodder project according to their needs. The program could be run across the whole school or in small groups (e.g. special interest groups or curriculum programs). Creating fodder gardens can be integrated across the curriculum or work as a stand-alone program. Furthermore, the program could be lead by teachers, school gardeners, parents, volunteers or the kids!



How to get started

Step 1: Complete the downloadable registration form ([www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/Documents/PDF/CSP Fodder Garden Registration Form.pdf](http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/Documents/PDF/CSP_Fodder_Garden_Registration_Form.pdf)).

This provides essential information to Zoo Horticultural Staff who will be liaising with you. It also helps you to scope out the Fodder project by assessing what resources you already have, will need and what expertise and support you many have on staff in particular school horticultural staff.

Make contact with your school gardener. Their expertise and support may be priceless in making this program a success.

How to get started continued ...

Step 2: Following receipt of your registration form, a Zoo Horticulturist will contact you to organise a site visit. This is important in order for Zoo staff to help assess your site for specific species, answer any questions that will help you establish a planting plan including timing of activities (reticulation, propagation, planting) and look at accessibility for harvesting.

Step 3: If you are establishing a new garden....

Zoo staff can assist you by providing new seedlings for your garden. A time can be arranged for you to collect these from the Zoo.

OR

You can propagate new plants from existing ones on your site. This is a great activity to do with your students. The following link provides you with a step by step guide to propagate new plants from existing plants.

If you have an established garden...

Organise the students to conduct an audit of what you have. This will include species identification, number and size. Zoo staff will help to get this started during the initial site visit.

Step 4: Optional step – Visit the Zoo

This is a fantastic opportunity to provide the real life context for your students hard work. Students can take a tour of the Zoo grounds in order to see how and by whom the fodder is used. They will visit behind the scenes areas and see horticultural staff at work. Part of this experience can also include a demonstration of propagation techniques by Horticulture staff. Contact the Zoo Education Office to make a booking on 9474 0365.

Step 5. Communication with Education and Horticulture Staff

Zoo Horticulture Staff are available to answer questions that arise about your fodder garden. Times will be arranged to organise collection of fodder. Zoo Education Staff will also be available for assistance and will contact you to see how your fodder program is progressing.

Step 6. Acknowledgement

Please contact the Zoo Education Officer who has been liaising with you regarding organising formal acknowledgement of your student's efforts by the Zoo. This will include a formal letter and certificate. This may be once the student/s have completed 20 hours of service (including fodder garden involvement).

Step 7,8,9... This program can be ongoing – the cycle begins again!

Once your garden is established, new students can take part in the program each year or two years. This can involve garden audits, workshops on propagation and pruning, Zoo Horticulture tour, planting new plants and harvesting.

More Information?

For further enquiries please contact:

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