

Gilbert Aide-de-Camp

Your friendly Outdoor Assistant

What Plants Need

Plants need various combinations of Water, Sunlight, Air and Nutrients depending on the variety, and all will flourish with the fifth element: some tender-loving-care.

• Water

All life on Earth needs water to live, and our gardens and lawns are no different.

Plants mostly take in water thru their roots in the soil, but can also absorb moisture thru their leaves. Water is used in the leaves, stems and roots to give the plant strength. So if your plants are drooping or wilting, they urgently need a good watering.

Installing an irrigation system with sprinkler heads and a tap timer is a simple way to ensure your gardens and lawns are getting enough water to thrive. This system also saves you time and money in replacing dead plants.



• Sunlight

Leaves are the food factory of a plant and Sunlight is the power source for the factory.

Leaves use this solar energy to convert the water and nutrients from the roots and the carbon dioxide from the air to make the sugars and starches used by the plant as its food.

This process is called Photosynthesis, and the cells of the leaves that are the factories are called chloroplasts. Chloroplasts contain a pigment called chlorophyll, which gives the leaves their green colours.

If tree branches are overhanging lawns or gardens, then they will block much of the sunlight, and should be pruned back to allow more direct light onto the grasses and plants.

• Air

Plants take in carbon dioxide from the air to help with making sugars and starches the plant uses for food.

But plants also absorb oxygen from the air via their roots to help them gather water and nutrients from the soil. If the soil is hard and compacted, then little air can circulate thru the soil particles, robbing the plants of vital oxygen.

If the soil under your lawn is hard, then mechanical Aeration is a good way to allow air to get into the soil, and to revitalise your lawn. Mulch added to compacted garden beds encourages worms into the soil, and the tunnels they make help to aerate the garden soil.

• Nutrients

Nutrients are taken up by the roots from the soil, and are either mineral or organic matter. Most nutrients are found naturally in the soil, but in some cases the soil is lacking in nutrients either from being

used up by the plants or washed away during heavy rains periods.

Where soil is nutrient deficient, fertilisers can be added to improve the soil composition. Quick boosts like Seaweed extract can be sprayed onto the plants to give them an energy hit.

A longer term solution is to spread pellets of organic fertiliser over your lawns and garden beds, to provide a slow release of nutrients to the soil.

• TLC

A small amount of Tender Loving Care to your garden and lawns will pay huge dividends. But if you are like most people these days who are time poor and need some help, then let me be your "Outdoor Assistant".

Email:
info@gilbertac.com.au

Ph: 0481 261 922

Web:
www.gilbertac.com.au

Beresa Pty Ltd (ABN 14 093 561 703) trading as Gilbert Aide-de-Camp