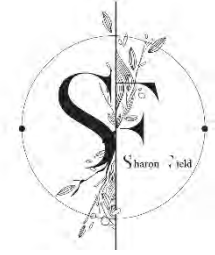




**Ginninderry
Conservation Trust**



For Our Future

My Action Plan



WHAT CAN I DO?

What can be done?	What I'll do ✓	Why do it?	When will I do this?
Don't mow the lawn quite so often – let it grow longer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps the soil cool • Allows the grasses and dandelions to flower – food for insects and bees • Provides habitat for lizards and pollinators • Uses less lawnmower fuel • Gives you a bit more “down time”! 	
Plant a few clumps of native grasses (eg. Themeda triandra [Kangaroo Grass])		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These grasses look good all year round • They provide structure in your garden • They provide habitat for little critters 	
Get a few pots and grow some lavender		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lavendar looks good and smells good • It is a great food for bees and other pollinators 	
Make sure you have plants of different heights in the garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds, pollinators and small lizards need vegetation of different heights to feel comfortable and safe • And a variety of heights in the garden looks so lovely 	
Think before you buy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast fashion is a massive contributor of waste in Australia. 	
Move your money		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many banks, super funds and share portfolios invest in fossil fuel projects. By placing pressure on your bank or moving your money you are stopping financing for the fossil fuel industry. 	



WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY FAMILY? (CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN)

What can be done?	What I'll do ✓	Why do it?	When will I do this?
Plant a tree		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tree provides shade to sit under, play in and will help keep your house cool 	
Let the dandelions flower in the grass		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides food for pollinators and birds 	
Put some rocks and small logs in a corner of the garden for lizards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides habitat for little skinks and other small lizards and beetles • Water will collect on the rocks providing moisture for birds and bees 	
Leave the leaf litter from deciduous trees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use it as mulch on your garden (cheaper than taking it away and then buying a bag of mulch) • Leaf litter provides protection and warmth for the soil over winter • Leaf litter provides protection for insects • Leaf litter helps keep your soil moist 	
Get an insect hotel for your garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A little hotel is great for the kids to observe • Pollinators and other insects will thank you because you are giving them a safe place to live 	
Start composting your food and garden waste		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are turning your waste back into a rich mulch for your garden • You will be buying less compost as a result! 	
Grow a few vegetables amongst your flowers (eg. chives, onions)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables amongst your flowers will look great, and if you companion plant, will help deter some insects that eat your flowers and veges • Chives and leeks look great in a flower garden • There are many herbs that are just perfect for including in your garden 	



WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY NEIGHBOURS?

What can be done?	What I'll do ✓	Why do it?	When will I do this?
Leave the flowering weeds until they seed on the footpath		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps the soil cool • Allows the grasses and dandelions to flower – food for insects and bees • Provides habitat for lizards and pollinators 	
Plant native flowering shrubs in the garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides habitat for birds • Provides food for birds and pollinators • Looks good! • If you cooperate with your neighbours in doing this, you will extend the safe place for birds and pollinators 	
Increase the variety of plants in your garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you cooperate with your neighbours in doing this, you will extend the safe place for birds and pollinators 	



WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY COMMUNITY?

What can be done?	What I'll do ✓	Why do it?	When will I do this?
Join a community garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many community gardens have specialists/people with lots of knowledge you can learn from • A great opportunity to share skills, seeds & produce • A great way to meet other gardeners 	
Join or start a bushwalk		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra has many bushwalking groups • Gets you out in nature • Learn about your local environment 	
Volunteer in a Landcare/conservation group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every set of hands helps • Planting, weeding, watering, fencing- all helps to sustain our environment. 	



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some gardeners choose native plants to attract and support helpful insects. Often, however, those native plants are surrounded by vast expanses of lawn. To an insect a nice tidy green lawn is a desert.

The vast majority of insect species find blades of grass as unappetizing as we do. Yet, lawns sprawl out across many public and private spaces. NASA estimated in 2005 that lawns covered at least 50,000 square miles (128,000 square kilometres) of the U.S. – about the size of the entire state of Mississippi.



Entomologists have a recommendation: Dig up some fraction of your lawn and convert it into a meadow by replacing grass with native wildflowers. Wildflowers provide pollen and nectar that feed and attract a variety of insects like ants, native bees and butterflies. Just as you may have a favourite local restaurant, insects that live around you have a taste for the flowers that are native to their areas.



Chillier mornings and higher heating bills aren't the only signs of the changing seasons. Common insects, too, are having to adapt. One day we see them in our gardens and parks, the next they appear to have disappeared. But most are still here – they're just harder to find. Overwintering is an adaptation that many plants, insects and other invertebrates undergo in temperate climates. It's how they survive cold times of the year when food sources are scarce.

Make insects feel at home. While flowers rich in nectar and pollen are crucial for insects to forage when they emerge from overwintering, dead and decaying plant matter is the lifeblood of the invertebrate world during autumn and winter.

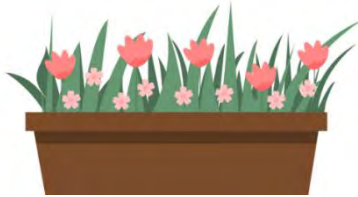


FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Not every yard can support a meadow, but there are other ways to be a better, more considerate neighbour to insects. If you have a shady yard, consider modelling your garden after natural landscapes like woodlands that are shady and support insects.



What's important in landscaping with insects in mind, or "entoscaping," is considering insects early and often when you visit the garden store. With a few pots or window boxes, even a balcony can be converted into a cozy insect oasis.



If you're gardenless, you can still support insect health. Try replacing white outdoor lights, which interfere with many insects' feeding and breeding patterns. White lights also lure insects into swarms, where they are vulnerable to predators. Yellow bulbs or warm-hued LEDs don't have these effects.



Another easy project is using scrap wood and packing materials to create simple "hotels" for bees or ladybugs, making sure to carefully sanitize them between seasons. Easiest of all, provide water for insects to drink – they're adorable to watch as they sip. Replace standing water at least weekly to prevent mosquitoes from developing.

