



Annual Home Garden Expo

The program for this year's 23rd annual Queensland Home Garden Expo, is bigger than ever and will include a variety of lectures, workshops and demonstrations from worm

farming and water-wise gardening to compost making, pet friendly garden designs and sustainable planting in order to develop and manage a water efficient garden. This year's site is set to double in size compared to previous years, showcasing a fully planted sustainable garden constructed on-site. For the first time, the area will also include an entirely organic food court with plenty of space for visitors to relax and enjoy the festival atmosphere and offering a range of exciting products from organic chilli's and chocolate to locally grown organic coffee and lemonade.

The environmentally-friendly display garden will exhibit an array of herbs, vegetables and fruit trees, complete with a frog pond which will feature at the entrance to the garden. This area will be crammed with bushfoods and native plants and include a chook run with plenty of chickens and ducks.

Learn to be water-wise... soon, we'll have no choice

Garden lovers across Maroochy will be wondering what impact the new Level 2 water restrictions from July 1 will have on their gardens.

Many of their questions will be answered at this year's Expo where experts will be sharing tips on how to prepare a garden for drought, what plants to choose when planting and how best to maintain them.

Event organiser, Marion Beazley, admits that this will probably be the biggest area of interest at this year's event with the drought firmly on the state and national agenda.

"We have a range of relevant exhibitors with water tanks, grey water diverters, water-wise plant selections as well as lectures regarding how best to prepare your garden which we expect to be very popular at this year's event."

Col Campbell, Annette McFarlane and Jade Woodhouse are just a few of the experts on hand who will be sharing valuable tips on how to minimise water use and how best to retain the water levels in your garden through mulching and other preventative measures.

Can you keep your garden beautiful... and have pets?

Have you often thought it impossible to have pets and a beautiful garden? Well, you can have both and you can learn how to train your dog and design a pet-friendly garden at this year's Expo.

Laurelle Earl-Oxley, from the Queensland Border Collie Club says there will be plenty of opportunities to learn how to create the perfect pet-friendly garden and avoid pets behaving badly through good garden design and positive dog training.

"People often assume that it is impossible to have a beautiful garden if you have pets and so I look forward to sharing some innovative ideas with visitors on how to design pet-friendly garden spaces for any yard - big or small," said Laurelle.

Guest speakers will provide expert advice on materials that work well with dogs as well as plant selection that can withstand even the most energetic canine. The program at this years Expo will also look at how to have a lush green lawn without harmful chemicals and offers tips for growing fruit and veggies for the entire family - including the dog!

If it's a coat you're after for your pooch, Happy Hound Dog Coats are exhibiting a large range of hand-made dog coats in all sizes to keep your special friend warm this winter. There will even be a fashion parade on-site with some of the dogs roaming around the Expo showing off the latest range of fashion coats and accessories.

Marion explains "The demand for exhibition stands has been higher than ever before this year and we have had to expand the size of our site to accommodate everyone."

The Expo will be held at Nambour Showgrounds from July 6-8 and will have information, products and advice for just about everyone who is interested in home gardening.



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