



VERTICAL GARDEN HANDBOOK



INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your new vertical garden!

To help your garden thrive and flourish for years to come, we've compiled the most essential care tips. By following these guidelines, you'll ensure that your vertical garden remains vibrant and healthy. The 4 essential factors to focus on are:

1. Irrigation
2. Fertilisation
3. Pruning
4. Disease & pest control

If maintaining your new vertical garden feels overwhelming, or you need assistance, please reach out to our friendly experts;

Maintenance 0417 478 208
VGA Office 1300 535 644

maintenance@verticalgardensaustralia.com.au

IRRIGATION

Your garden's irrigation line will be fitted with either a manual or bluetooth irrigation timer. Please refer to the owner's manual for instructions on how to use your model.

Outdoor Gardens

Irrigation timers are set according to the seasons as well as the aspect your garden is in and how much sun exposure it has. During winter less water is required and during summer the frequency is increased.

Duration will vary depending on how long it takes for water to filter to the bottom pots. This may change with the seasons as pots will dry out quicker in summer, therefore taking longer to filter through. Ensure water reaches the bottom row of pots.

During periods where temperatures stay above 30 degrees an extra manual watering run may be required.

Indoor Gardens

Irrigation timers can remain the same all year round except when air-conditioners or heaters are in use.

IRRIGATION

Helpful Tips:

Ensure dripper heads are checked and cleaned every few months to ensure even flow.

Check your irrigation timer batteries quarterly and change accordingly. Note - batteries will run down quicker in summer.

Do not turn your tap off.

Most plants don't like 'wet feet'. Ensure your plants have at least 1 day break from watering.

Early morning watering is ideal – only once per "watering day" except on hotter days for outdoor gardens.

Both over watering and under watering can harm your plants, look for signs like wilting or yellowing leaves and feel the soil in order to adjust your watering schedule accordingly.

Your Irrigation Schedule:

Season	Sessions per week	Timer duration
Spring		
Summer		
Autumn		
Winter		

PRUNING

Plants have different growth cycles, but regular pruning is essential for their optimal health. Pruning encourages growth and helps maintain the visual balance in your vertical garden.

The plants need to be carefully arranged and maintained to ensure that all of them receive adequate sunlight. This might involve adjusting the positioning of plants, trimming back overgrown areas, or rotating plants to avoid shading and ensure even light distribution.

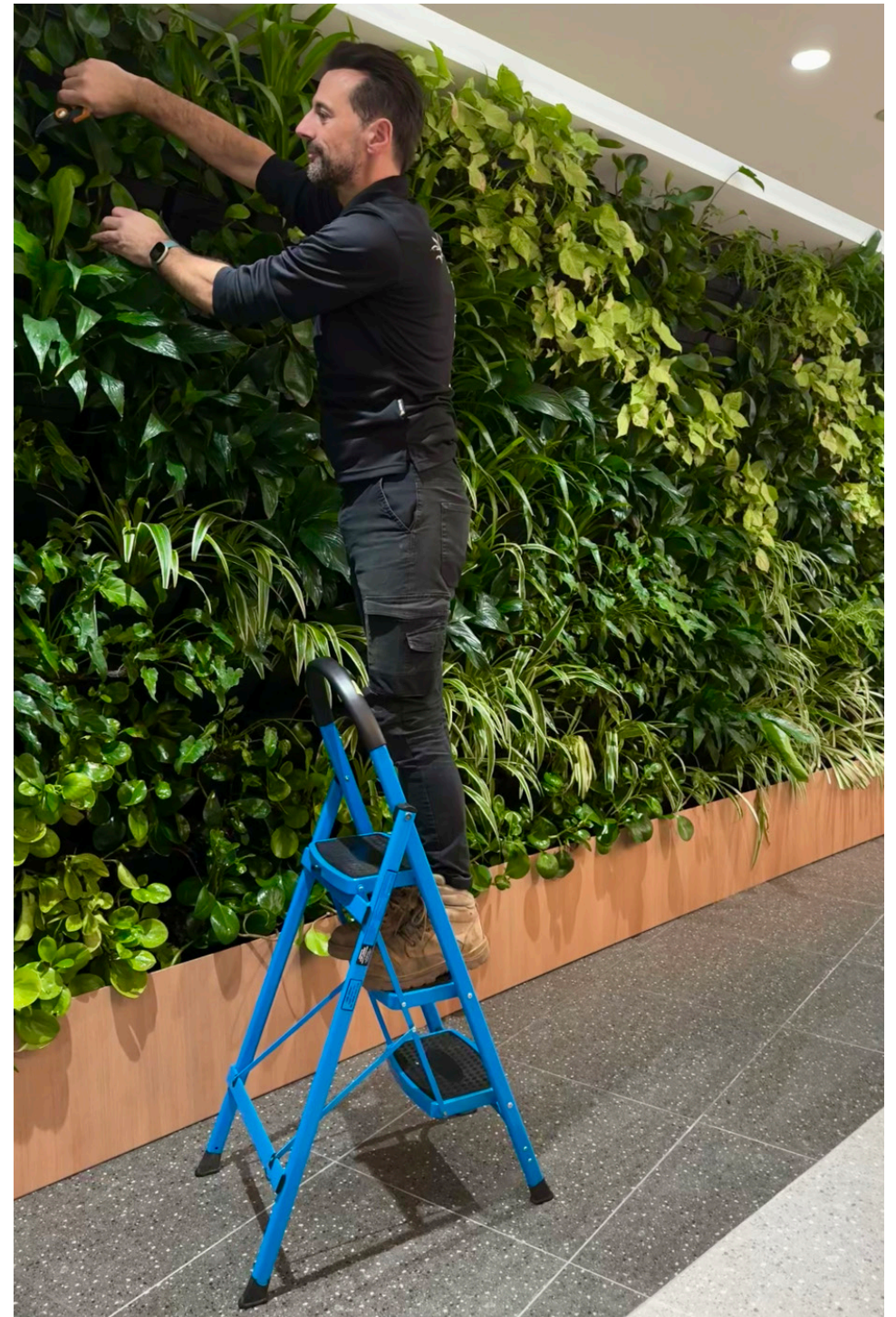
Spring and autumn are the peak growing seasons, so be mindful of plants potentially smothering each other. Winter is an ideal time for a hard prune, which opens up the plants for better air circulation and helps prevent disease.

Helpful Tips:

Clear leaf litter from pots; this improves air circulation, enhances the appearance of your vertical garden and reduces the risk of rot.

Remove and trim brown/yellowing foliage to promote growth, prevent disease and keep your garden looking neat and beautiful.

Remove and trim foliage impacting other plants to enable better light penetration and prevent overcrowding.



FERTILISING

Fertilising is essential for plant growth; without it, plants can't thrive. Liquid fertilisers provide nourishment for about two weeks.

In a 5L sprayer mix in the following:

Powerfeed 20-30ml

NPK Fertiliser -

(N) Nitrogen: promotes leafy, green growth.

(P) Phosphorus: supports root development and flowering.

(K) Potassium: for overall health, disease resistance & water retention.

Seasol 20-30ml

Plant tonic to help with plant stress and build strong growing media.

Neem Oil 5ml

Preventative pesticide.



Helpful Tips:

Spray both the soil and foliage thoroughly, plants take up nutrients through their roots and leaves.

*Please follow product instructions for product substitutions - these products are recommended by VGA however any balanced fertiliser and tonic will work.

DISEASE & PEST CONTROL

Garden pests are common but treatable, early intervention is key!

Snails: you can buy (pet friendly) pellets and follow pack instructions.

Possums: Speak with one of our maintenance team members or a possum expert for suitable preventions.

Caterpillars, mealy bug and other 'sucking' insects: use Neem Oil, it is organic and can be mixed in the same spray as your fertiliser and seasol fortnightly as a preventative.

If pests are present use 10ml per 5L weekly for 4 weeks. When spraying its important to spray on the underside of the leaves as that is where caterpillars usually live. Spray whole plants thoroughly as per your fertiliser spray instructions.

Powdery Mildew: a common disease for vertical garden plant varieties, which looks like powder on the leaf's surface. This will need to be treated with a fungicide. You can purchase premixed sprays or mix a concentrate.

DO NOT MIX FUNGICIDE WITH FERTILISER MIX.

Other tasks:

Gutter clearing and cleaning: ensure gutters are cleaned quarterly to remove plant debris and dirt.

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