

28. Garden beds

28.1 Planning

The general purposes of garden beds should be to frame entries, frame views, create spaces, screen infrastructure, provide shade (tree planting) and create an edge along pathways and hard spaces.

28.2 Design

Topsoil for garden beds can be either ameliorated insitu topsoil or imported soil mix.

Imported soil mix:

Imported soil mix to AS4419, clause 4.6 'soil blend'.

Complying with the requirement of AS4419 sections 5,7 and 8 with pH falling within the range required for non-acid nor alkaline soils as defined by clause 5.6(a), with a phosphorous content suitable for phosphorous – sensitive plants as defined by clause 5.9 and the further requirements that the electrical conductivity when tested in accordance with AS4419 Appendix D, not exceed 1.2dS/m. Provide test certificate for imported topsoil mix prior to bringing on site.

Insitu topsoil:

Insitu topsoil is to be tested by a qualified soil scientist. Testing to be undertaken in a NATA accredited laboratory. Amelioration of insitu topsoil should be such that after amelioration it meets the specification requirements of AS4419, clause 4.6 'soil blend'.

Garden beds generally should not be narrower than 1.2 metres and should not have any acute angles.

Garden beds should not be placed in the way of direct paths of travel that will cause people to cut across or through them causing damage and wear.

At path intersections ensure that paths are truncated so that short cutting across corners will not create wear paths in garden beds.

Planting design in garden beds should be compliant with CPTED principals and suitable to the local environment and site conditions. Only coarse no fines mulch should be used in garden beds.

All garden bed/mass planted areas are to be contained with a fixed durable edge such as concrete, or recycled composite plastic edge.

28.3 Standard drawings

Comply with the following LDG standard drawings (use latest version):

[05-101 planting - tree and shrub planting detail](#)

[05-102 planting - street tree planting detail mulch and cultivation](#)

[05-104 planting - planting media profiles turf and garden](#)

[05-105 planting - planting minimum setbacks road verges, roundabout and media strips](#)