



MEDIA RELEASE

Water Efficient Native Gardens

Central Australian residents who have habitat-based gardens could be saving more water than those residents with traditional native-based gardens.

Alice Springs Desert Park botany curator Gary Dinham said habitat-based gardens at the park not only use about 20 per cent less water than native gardens, but also require less maintenance.

"I think it is great that people are taking the time and effort to do what they can to preserve water and look after the environment by using Australian flora," Mr Dinham said.

"Native gardens create wildlife corridors in our growing towns and cities and allow our native plants and animals to survive urbanisation.

"Native gardens are certainly more water efficient than non-native gardens, but having a garden similar to surrounding habitat could be more water efficient and require less work, if that is what people are striving for."

Mr Dinham's comments coincide with National Water Week, which is celebrated this year from 15 October to 21 October.

He said the Desert Park does have a mixture of habitat-based and native gardens that require different amounts of water and work.

"At the Desert Park's sand country habitat you will only find plants, and animals, that you will encounter on the sand dunes in southern NT," Mr Dinham said.

"The Park's habitats are still weeded after rains and very occasionally pruned although by comparison, the Park's native gardens usually require a bit more work.

"If people require more information they are more than welcome to visit the Desert Park and we will do what we can to answer their questions."

Mr Dinham said Territorians can still obtain a Territorian Pass, allowing Territorians up to 12 months access all for the cost of one admission.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Gary Dinham on 8951 8769

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