



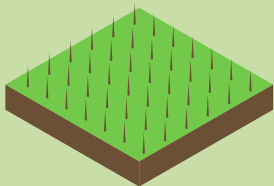
GARDENSTAR

Homeowner garden biodiversity assessment

Private gardens often make up a large area of many towns and cities and can be green spaces that support natural biodiversity of plants and animals. How good a private garden is for biodiversity depends on the area left uncovered by buildings and pathways, the type and amount of vegetation, the things you do in your own garden, and other features of your garden and neighbourhood. Using this simple assessment, you can evaluate the biodiversity value of your own garden.

There are four sections; in each section you will estimate a score, and then sum all four scores to get a final overall value for your garden. This value can be considered as a percentage out of the absolute best possible garden. Don't worry if your score is not close to 100% - a 100% garden would have to have no buildings and be covered entirely in native trees.

1 How much land is available for biodiversity?

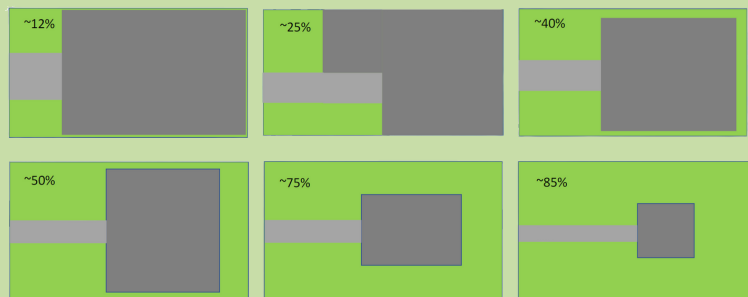


Method: Estimate (approximately) the proportion of your total property that is NOT covered by a hard surface such as a building, driveway, paved path, patio, or courtyard, and give your property a "habitat extent score" between 1 to 5 using the categories below. Tip: use Google maps for an aerial view of your property.

Estimating the area of a property NOT covered in buildings or hard surfaces

Habitat Extent Score
(max 25)

Uncovered %	Score
0 - <20%	5
20 - <40%	10
40 - <60%	15
60 - <80%	20
80 - <100%	25



2 What type of vegetation do you have?



Vegetation Score
(max 35)

Method: Imagine you are looking down on your property from above. Estimate what proportion of the permeable surface (the land available for biodiversity from (A) above) is covered by any of the five layers:

- i. Bare ground or mown lawn
- ii. Flowers, vegetables, long unmown grass, non-native vegetation <30cm high, or rock piles
- iii. Wood piles and rotting logs, leaf litter, or native ground cover <30cm high; exotic shrubs between 30cm - <2m
- iv. Shrubs (30cm to <2m in height) - mostly native shrubs, or mostly exotic trees >2m high
- v. Trees (greater than 2m in height) - mostly native trees

Cover type	Cover %	Multiply by	Weighting	Final score
i.		x	0.2	
ii.		x	0.4	
iii.		x	0.6	
iv.		x	0.8	
v.		x	1	

Use the same categories for (1) above to assign a score to each type of cover and fill in the scores in the table above. Sum the final scores, then multiply by 0.35 for an overall vegetation type score.

Hint: for overlapping layers count only the tallest



3 Do you help biodiversity in your property?

Answer the following questions and assign points as indicated in the table:



Biodiversity Score

(max 20)

Questions	Points				
	-1	0	1	2	4
Do you control pest animal species on your property? (e.g., rats, possums, hedgehogs)		none	1 species	2 species	>2 species
Do you own one or more cats? If you do, are they free to roam?	Yes	Yes indoors at night			No or indoors only
Do you try to attract wildlife to your property? (e.g., sugar-water feeders, insect hotel, plantings, lizard habitat)		no	Yes 1 activity	Yes 2 activities	Yes >2 activities
Do you use chemical products? (e.g. pesticides, herbicides)	Yes regularly	Yes rarely			no
Do you have a compost heap? If so, what sort?		No	Yes open	Yes closed	Yes pest-proof

4 Do you have a nature-friendly neighbourhood?

Answer the following questions about your neighbourhood and assign a score from 0 to 4 for each:



Neighbourhood Score

(max 20)

Questions	0	2	4
a. How many street trees >2m in height are within 20m of your property?	None	A few (1 or 2)	Many
b. Do any of your immediate neighbours have trees >2m in height?	No	A few (1 or 2)	Many
c. In your own garden are the tree and shrubs in clusters?	Isolated	Some cluesters	Dense clusters
d. Is there a reserve or park with lots of trees nearby?	No	>500 m away	<500 m away
e. Is your neighbourhood part of Predator-free 2050?	No	No	Yes

Calculate your overall Gardenstar score!

Total of Feature Scores

%

This is the % of the best possible score

Feature	Score	Maximum Possible
1		25
2		35
3		20
4		20



Send your score to us so we can show you where yours sits relative to others!

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