

INDIGENOUS GARDENS



INTRODUCTION

Many schools and communities experience difficulties related to soil erosion. Areas subject to severe erosion are often impossible to cultivate due to the loss of fertile topsoil. Furthermore heavy rain causes the remaining soil to wash away leaving unsightly and dangerous “furrows” in the ground. This erosion also results in the undermining of building foundations as well as flooding that causes further damage to the property of communities that cannot afford cost of repairing the damage.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

To establish indigenous gardens at a school/ community with the following objectives:

- To control soil erosion arising from water run-off
- To improve the aesthetics of the school/ community thereby instilling pride in the environment
- To make available an educational resource for the transferring of related skills and knowledge

THE GARDENS

These gardens would be themed for educational purposes as well as for ecological purposes. We will utilise only indigenous plants for the project that are suitable to grow in the area. All gardens have an educational value that educators may utilise to teach around a number of concepts embedded in the area of natural science.

The themes for the gardens are as follows:

- Bird Garden to attract birds back into the community
- An insect garden to attract insects and their related predators
- A water wise garden for educational purposes
- A regional garden to showcase plants typical to this region.

The plants will slow the flow of water over the area and reducing the affects of soil erosion. Often, the soil in these area is severely lacking in nutrients and requires a substantial amount of compost to ensure that the plants will have access to an appropriate nutrient level.

FINANCES

To complete a garden at a school or community

Item	Amount	Unit Cost	Total
Indigenous Plants	100 (approximately)	R 28.00 Average	R 2800.00
Compost	12 Cubic metres	R 290.00 / cubic metre	R 3480.00
Management Fee			R 697.77
Total			R 6977.77

CONCLUSION

A project such as this holds many benefits for a school or community. It is a well known fact that people in disadvantaged areas generally have less pride in their environment due to the fact that often these environments are harsh and unwelcoming. The planting of gardens helps to lift the sense of pride amongst the community.