

# DELIVERING WATER TO YOUR PLANTS

## KEY POINTS

Make the most of rain

Five simple steps to delivering the right amount of water to your plants

Useful devices – controllers and sensors

How to water-proof a medium-sized garden

Not so long ago in most of Australia, it was possible to apply to gardens as much water as was needed to keep them lush. Sprinkler systems hooked to electronic controllers could be programmed to deliver water when needed, without restriction. Much of the drudgery of watering during months of rainless heat had been removed.

The combination of drought and rising population has radically changed all this. While watering by drippers is still allowed in many parts of the country, there are increasingly large areas where buckets filled with greywater are all that stand between drought-sensitive plants and death.

You are reading this book because you want a garden. You like to tend plants; you like the way plants keep your house cooler on hot days; you like the relaxation that you

experience in your garden. You know that you are likely to live longer and suffer fewer illnesses if you garden than if you do not. But with restrictions on the use of water, how can you continue to garden? The good news is that you can, but you probably will need to make some changes to your garden and the way you manage it.

This chapter is about getting the most out of both the rain that you do receive and the water from the municipal supply that you are allowed to use on the garden.

## Make the most of rain

You must make sure that:

- as much as possible of the rain that falls onto your soil actually soaks into it (see the section on infiltration on p. 47).