

# CONCRETE TO JUNGLE

Create a lush landscape that you can take with you when you move



**T**ransforming a backyard from a bare, lifeless space into a lush, welcoming garden can seem impossible. The secret is not what you can put into the ground, it's about what you can do on top. A few attractive mobile planter beds, budget-friendly benches, plus a pergola to top it all off is just what you need to bring your yard to life. The best bit? Undo a few screws, pull out some bolts and you can pack the whole lot up. Perfect for renters!



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BEFORE



## PROJECT 1 MOBILE PLANTERS

These are the simplest planter boxes you will ever see! Designed around plastic troughs, they're just timber boxes stacked together and joined with cleats. Too easy!

### Gather your supplies

- 150 x 25mm x 2.4m sawn treated pine (8)
- 75mm fixed castors (2)
- 12mm high-strength rope
- 800mm plastic trough (2)

### You'll also need

Circular saw; drill; countersink bit; 100mm gal' batten screws; power plane; clamp; 50mm bugle head screws; decking stain in Beach House Grey; paintbrush; 13mm bit; plants; potting mix; swivel latch

### Components

#### Sides (6)

150 x 25 x 1570mm sawn treated pine

#### Ends (6)

150 x 25 x 415mm sawn treated pine

#### Divider (1)

150 x 25 x 365mm sawn treated pine

#### Feet plates (2)

150 x 25 x 415mm sawn treated pine

#### Cleats (8)

150 x 25 x 560mm sawn treated pine



STEP 1



STEP 3



STEP 2



STEP 4

### Here's how

**STEP 1** Butt sides into ends, then predrill and countersink through the ends using a countersinking bit. Screw together using 100mm batten screws. Repeat to create another 2 rectangular boxes.

**STEP 2** On one box, which will become the top of the planter, place divider between sides in the centre of the box. Predrill and countersink through sides, then screw together.

**STEP 3** Use power plane held on an angle to chamfer the outside corners on the top edge of the planter box with the divider.

**STEP 4** Construct the boxes upside down. With the top planter sitting on bench, with chamfered edges facing down, stack the remaining

boxes on top. Place the feet plates (see Step 7) on this assembly flush with each end and screw in place.



**STEP 5**



**STEP 7**



**STEP 8**



**STEP 6**



**STEP 9**



**STEP 10**



**STEP 5** Clamp the layers of the boxes to your bench to hold them tightly together as you join them. Use plane to chamfer all edges around 1 face of the side cleats. Place cleats against the sides of the boxes to cover the corners, with the end cleats overhanging to be flush with the face of the cleats on the sides. Screw through cleats into boxes using 50mm bugle head screws. Use 2 screws per box, staggering the position of the screws for greater strength.

**STEP 6** Apply 2 coats of decking stain to all outside faces and edges of the planter boxes.

**STEP 7** Screw castors into the feet plate at one end of the planter. At other end, place treated

pine blocks on the feet plate so the planter boxes will sit level.

**STEP 8** For rope handles, drill 13mm holes through the ends above where the blocks are attached to the feet plates. Thread the rope through the holes and knot together on the inside of the planter.

**STEP 9** Drop the plastic troughs

into the planter so the rims of the troughs sit on the top edges of the planter. Plant out using potting mix.

**STEP 10** Use a swivel latch to join multiple planters together.

## PROJECT 2 SLEEPER BENCHES

The easiest and cheapest bench seat you will ever make!

### Gather your supplies

- 200 x 50mm x 3m treated pine sleepers (2)

### You'll also need

Circular saw; power plane; drill; 5mm bit; 100mm galvanised batten screws; decking stain in Beach House Grey; paint brush

### Components

#### Cross piece (4)

200 x 50 x 330mm treated pine sleeper

#### Upright (4)

200 x 50 x 300mm treated pine sleeper

#### Bench pieces (2)

200 x 50 x 1680mm treated pine sleeper



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

### Here's how

**STEP 1** Chamfer all the corners on each of the components using a power plane held on an angle.

**STEP 2** Sit cross piece on uprights so they are flush with its ends. Predrill and screw together. Turn over and sit second cross piece on the uprights and screw together. Repeat to create a second leg assembly.

**STEP 3** Sit bench pieces on leg assemblies so they overhang equally at each side. Make the distance from the end of the bench pieces to the leg assembly 150mm. Predrill and screw together. Use 2 screws per bench piece, staggering the screws. Repeat to attach bench pieces to second leg assembly.

**STEP 4** Apply 2 coats of decking stain to the entire bench seat. Allow to dry after each coat.

## PROJECT 3 PERGOLA

As well as breaking up the harsh rays of the sun, a pergola creates an extra architectural layer helping to contain the space, making it feel more like an outdoor room rather than just planter beds plonked around the garden.

### Gather your supplies

#### • Posts

88 x 88mm  
primed treated pine

#### • Beams

138 x 42mm  
primed treated pine

• 'Ladder' rails 90 x 35mm  
H3 treated pine

• 'Ladder' rungs 70 x 35mm  
H3 treated pine

### You'll also need

Exterior paint in white;  
painting equipment; clamps;  
straightedge; spirit level; mitre  
saw; circular saw; drill; drill bits;  
100 and 125mm galvanised  
batten screws; 150mm M10  
galvanised cuphead bolts, nuts  
and washers (8); hammer;  
socket/ratchet; quick square;  
10mm plastic packers

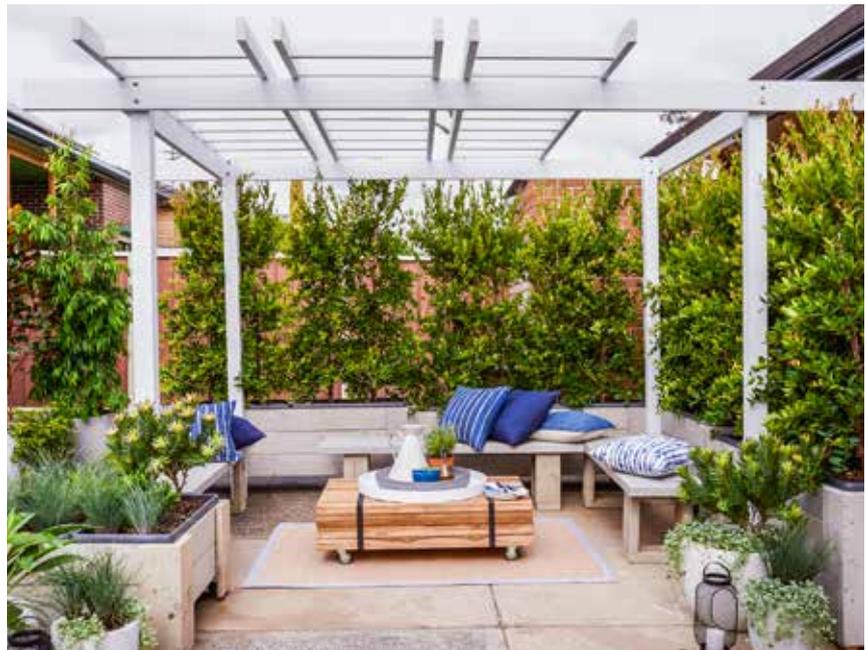
### For you to note

All timber painted with 2 coats of white exterior paint prior to assembly.

### Here's how

**STEP 1** With planter boxes in position, mark out for positions of posts. Erect uncut posts in position, make plumb and clamp. Use a straightedge and spirit level to draw a level line across all 4 posts about 2.1m from the ground. Remove posts and cut at this line using a mitre saw.

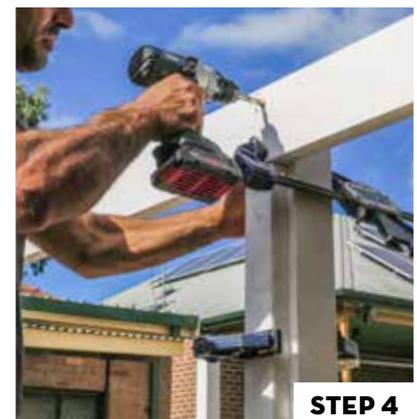
**STEP 2** Reposition post against side of planter with the planting trough removed. Predrill and screw through inside of planter into post using 100mm batten screws. Fix the post at top and bottom of the planter so it remains secure. Repeat for all posts.



**STEP 2**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 4**

**STEP 3** Cut beam to length so it overhangs posts by 465mm on each side. Lift beam up and position on posts, so it overhangs ends equally. A block clamped to the post 138mm from the top will hold the weight of the post as you bolt it to the posts. Clamp beam to posts.

**STEP 4** Drill two 11mm holes through the beam at each post. As the drill bit will not go all the way through, have a long drill bit handy so you can drill through the hole to the other side of the post, marking its position. Then drill from this side to make the hole go all the way through.



**STEP 5**



**STEP 6**

**STEP 5** Insert cuphead bolts into the holes and tap into the beams so the bolts embed in the timber.

**STEP 6** Place washers and nuts on the bolt and tighten using a socket and ratchet.

**STEP 7** Cut cross beams to run between the beams already installed. Place against posts so they butt into the beams, then screw into the posts using batten screws.

**STEP 8** Cut rails of top 'ladders' to length. Mark the position of 1 side of the rungs using a quick square. Mark the side of the line that the rung will sit on with an X. Space rungs 300mm apart.

**STEP 9** Cut rungs to 600mm long. Butt against rail so the side of the



**STEP 7**



**STEP 8**



**STEP 9**

rung meets the marked line. Sit the rung on a 10mm plastic packer so it sits centrally on the rail. Pre-drill and screw through rail into rung using 100mm batten screws. Repeat to attach all rungs, then the other rail to the open ends of the rungs.

**STEP 10** Lift ladders up on top of the pergola and place them in your desired position. Here, they were offset to one side and spaced 100mm apart.

**STEP 11** Pre-drill and screw down through rails of ladders into beams using 125mm batten screws.



**STEP 10**



**STEP 11**

### Stockists

#### Project supplies Bunnings

**bunnings.com.au** Northcote Pottery 800mm plastic trough, \$40. 150 x 25mm x 2.4m sawn treated pine, \$8.50. 75mm fixed plate castors, \$3.50. Grunt 12mm x 10m high-strength rope, \$30. 200 x 50mm x 3m treated pine sleepers, \$16.90. 100mm galvanised batten screws, \$21.50/pk100. 50mm galvanised batten screws, \$10/pk50.

Cabot's deck and exterior stain, \$99.90/4L. 200 x 50mm x 3m treated pine sleeper, \$16.90. 88 x 88mm x 2.4m treated pine, \$54. 138 x 42mm x 4.8m primed treated pine, \$90. 90 x 35mm treated pine, \$4.71/m. 70 x 35mm treated pine, \$3.72/m. 125mm galvanised batten screws, \$15.70/pk25. 150mm M10 galvanised cuphead bolt and nut, \$4.10 each. **Shopping details**

**Adairs, adairs.com.au** Malmo denim linen cushion 50 x 50cm, \$64.99.

**Freedom, freedom.com.au** Bisque tray 70cm in White, \$49. Yumi grey plate, \$69. Linen blue bow 15cm, \$12 each. **IKEA, ikea.com.au** Innehlisrik cushion 50 x 50cm, \$19.99. Strimsporpe cushion cover, \$4.99. Toppig lantern, \$14.99. **Spotlight, spotlightstores.com** Koo Home Koko jute rug with cotton grey border 120 x 180cm, \$85. Rustic and Trend Furniture and Homewares Slats coffee table, \$699.

# what we PLANTED



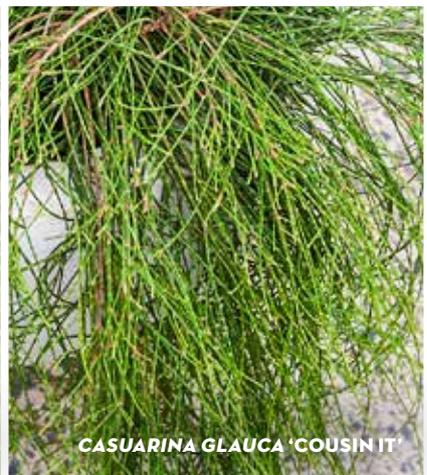
For fixed garden beds, enhance what is already there – a row of beautiful bay trees – with what has been put in the mobile planters so the overall look of the garden is cohesive.



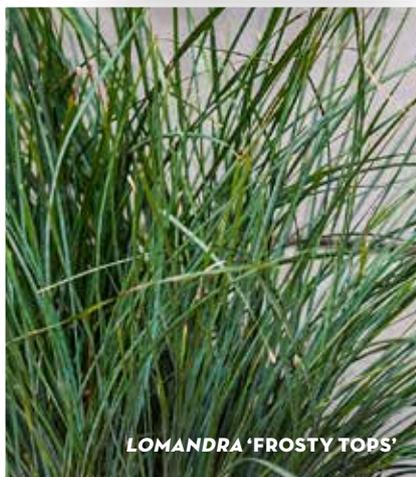
**LEUCADENDRON SALIGNUM**



**DICHONDRA 'SILVER FALLS'**



**CASUARINA GLAUCA 'COUSIN IT'**



**LOMANDRA 'FROSTY TOPS'**



**PITOSPORUM 'MISS MUFFET'**



**ARTHROPODIUM (RENGA RENGALILY)**