

Gardening for a Changing Climate

This year has once again reminded us just how quickly the weather can change. Prolonged dry periods and intense heat can be followed by sudden, heavy rainfall, presenting new challenges for our gardens.

For gardeners, this means it may be time to think differently. The traditional approach of simply watering more during dry spells or improving drainage when gardens become waterlogged may no longer be enough. Instead, our gardens need to become more adaptable, capable of coping with whatever the seasons bring.

At Mimosa Garden Services, we believe it is possible to create gardens that look beautiful throughout the year, whether faced with sunshine, drought or downpour. However, achieving this requires a change in how we think about garden design, planting and maintenance.

One increasingly important approach is climate-resilient gardening. Rather than allowing rainwater from roofs, patios and other hard surfaces to disappear immediately into drains, gardens can be designed to work with the water that naturally falls on them.

Rain gardens, inspired in some cases by natural wadis and swales, are specially designed planted areas that temporarily capture and slow heavy rainfall. This allows water to gradually soak back into the ground. For the rest of the year, these areas simply form an attractive and carefully planted part of the garden.

Combined with drought-tolerant planting, nutrient rich soils, mulching, rainwater harvesting and carefully considered irrigation, this approach



can help gardens cope with both increasingly dry summers and wetter periods.

The way we garden needs to evolve. Traditional gardening practices developed around seasons that were often more predictable than

those we experience today. That doesn't mean our gardens need to suffer. Quite the opposite. It gives us an opportunity to rethink how we create and care for them.

Over the coming years, successful gardens will increasingly need to follow three simple principles: capture water when there is too much, retain it within the landscape and reduce the amount required when conditions become dry.

At Mimosa Garden Services, we are actively developing these ideas as part of our garden design, planting and improvement services. The future of gardening is not about fighting the weather, but working with it, and creating beautiful, resilient gardens that can flourish whatever the climate brings. ■

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