

### Aldgate food garden renovation

We love building gardens in the Adelaide Hills. For this garden, instead of building a completely new one we were asked to renovate the existing veggie garden plot that had become unproductive.



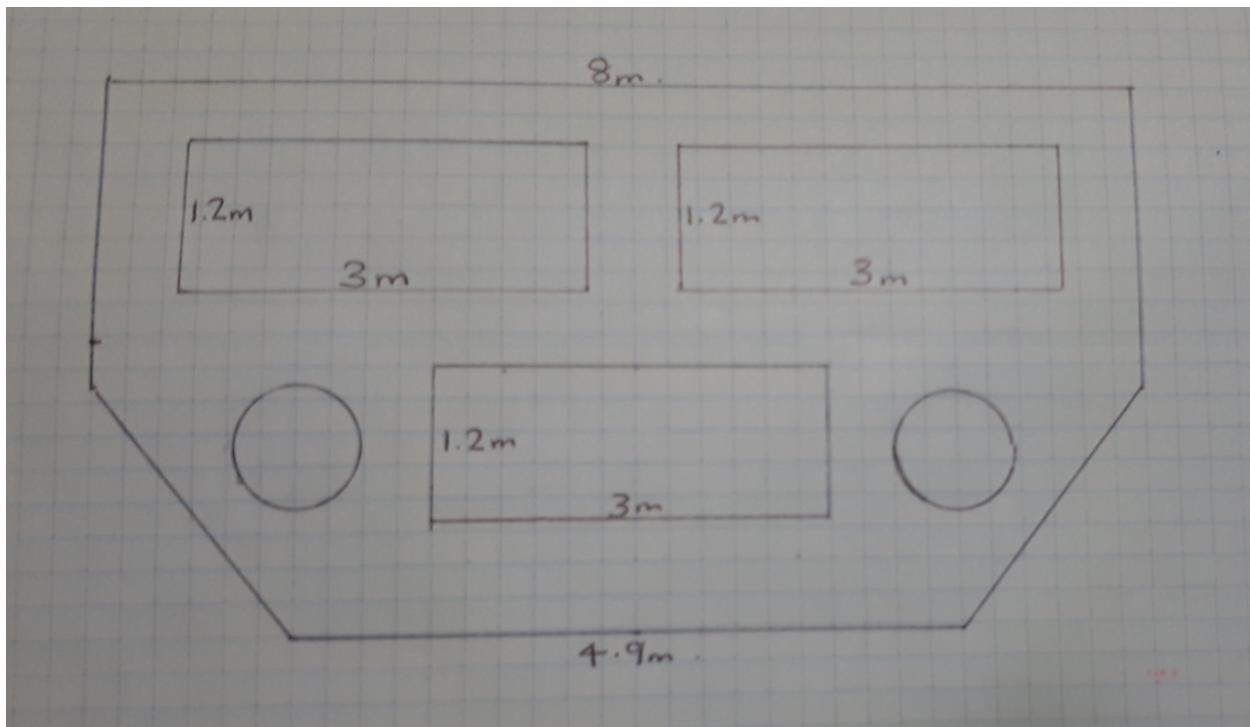
This home-made veggie garden is in a lovely spot with full sun. The trellising had been erected to keep the roaming chooks out of the garden.



However, due to the surrounding large trees, the garden soil had become severely depleted and enthusiasm for the garden was low.

### Design

We came up with a design that would maintain the trellis structure, but almost everything else would go. New raised beds containing our special soil would be installed and complete root barriers and weed control matting would protect the beds from invading tree roots.



*This simple design was determined by the shape of the existing fence structure...three raised timber beds and two round galvanised beds would make best use of the shape and available space.*

With the design plan established we know exactly where the beds will be placed so irrigation trenches can be dug, and pipes laid that will connect the veggie garden to the water source.



*The chooks are looking for worms in the freshly dug up irrigation trenches.*

After clearing the site of the existing structures, the sloping ground under the original garden was levelled out with a load of sandy loam.



*It's always a good idea to begin with a clear, level site. Sandy loam was brought in to build up a low area. Notice the large tree root in the bottom left corner of this image.*

Once the site was clear and irrigation pipes laid, it was not too difficult to move on to the next phase: laying root barriers, weed control mat and constructing the beds. All went smoothly. After filling the raised beds with our fantastic soil, a load of sawdust was brought in to cover the pathways.



*We certainly couldn't complain about the scenery at this job!*

With all the internal elements in place, we could now erect a new fence around the garden perimeter. Some of the trellis was removed and some of it was left at the request of our client, but we enclosed the entire garden with chicken wire and installed a lovely gate.

A couple of terracotta pots for the invasive herbs and a tepee for cucumbers added both practical and pretty finishing touches to this lovely hills veggie garden.



*The finished veggie garden, with tall stakes for the tomatoes, a trellis for climbing beans and a tepee for the Lebanese cucumbers!*

While working on the main garden area, we also had another little job to do. A bit closer to the house, we constructed a small garden bed, 40cm high, this one specifically for herbs. When you just want a bunch of parsley or a sprig of thyme, it's much more convenient to simply step out of the house and pick it, rather than traipse across the field to the veggie garden, especially on those cold, wet days in the hills.

We look forward to building more beautiful food gardens in the Adelaide Hills, so feel free to call us if you need some help!