

# Feng shui in your garden: practical tips from an expert



*SALLY TAGG/NZ GARDENER/Stuff*

This miniature waterfall in feng shui consultant Boon Yap's courtyard garden expresses the yin-yang of hard and soft, stationary and moving, and is also specifically placed to activate auspicious energies.

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There are many reasons why your garden looks the way it does. Hopefully, one of them is because you want it that way, in that it serves your purpose and enriches your life in myriad ways, whether that purpose is growing food, providing a safe space for your children to play or giving you room to show your creativity and artistic flair (or all of the above).

For gardeners who also want to invite good feng shui into this green space,

the first practical thing you can do is to ensure the feature plants look cared for, says Parua Bay-based feng shui consultant Boon Yap.

Remove dead branches, [control weeds](#), [keep plants well-watered](#), disease-free and thriving.

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Feng shui consultant Boon Yap.

“I’m realising that the hen and chicken ferns can’t take direct sun. It does get a lot of it in the main part of the day,” Yap cites an example. “It is suffering, so I might have to change that. And I worried about my three acers while we were away for a holiday, but they’re fine. They coped well with the dry.”

If you have to work with clothesline or garden sheds, keep these neat and tidy at all times, and in good condition.

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## **Easy-to-achieve design ideas**

Rather than a boxed-in look, create some gentle curved lines in your garden beds and pathways.

In well-trodden areas where grass won't grow (or grow well), use pavers to set off the garden.

It is also fairly easy to interpret the yin-yang look (according to the yin and yang principle, the universe is composed of two opposing but complementary forces). Boon cites examples of round hedged plants in squared borders.

Follow these easy, practical tips to get your garden looking its best.

## **Consider plant choices**

Apart from selecting plants that will grow well in your climate, remember that the size of plants is important. Big plants will make a space look smaller, so use [dwarf varieties](#) if you have a small garden.

If you have a large garden, a couple of [trees or shrubs](#) will bring a sense of seclusion into the space.

[Fragrance](#) is always considered to be good feng shui.



*Chris McKeen/Stuff*

Plants and flowers with fragrance is generally considered to be good feng shui; plants with sharp foliage and thorns are universally considered to be bad feng shui.

Plants with sharp foliage and thorns, prickly bushes and cactus are universally considered to be bad feng shui, “especially in areas close to the house and often-used walkways,” Yap adds.

You can also symbolise the Five Elements in your garden with flower and foliage colours. (In Daoist philosophy, all things are made from the Five Elements of earth, metal, water, wood and fire; the interaction of these elements and the yin-yang forces brings harmony and balance.)

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“If in doubt, do not be too bold in your use of water features or boulders,” Yap advises, then adding that it’s best not to use them at all without first consulting a feng shui practitioner.



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Some plantings in Yap's garden are used to symbolise the wood element.



*SALLY TAGG/NZ GARDENER/Stuff*

The white gravel symbolises the metal element.



*SALLY TAGG/NZ GARDENER/Stuff*

The acer symbolises the fire element.

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