5 secrets

Matt Leacy – landscape designer, horticulturalist, TV host and founder of **Landart Landscapes** (landart.com.au) – shares his top tips

Tool of trade It's important to look after your back when gardening. Matt suggests using a **plumber's shovel**. "It's much easier to use because of its long handle – and it's good for digging, moving mulch or mixing mortar," he says.

spirited approach

My number one garden tool is my trusty **Stabila spirit level**. It can be used to level paving, decks, walls, slabs, grass, screens, fencing and so on. A job cannot be done without it because everything has to be perfect! Things can go wrong if you don't get the basics right at the beginning.

best to sketch

It might sound insignificant, but before I begin a job I find it essential to plan and trace my ideas on **tracing paper**. I'd recommend that everyone sketches some ideas before getting their hands dirty. It can save time and mistakes.

boots are made for working

Whatever I'm wearing, I don't leave the house without my **U Roads boots**. Made from recycled road tyres and leather, they suit all occasions and all weather and are shock-absorbent, slip-resistant and hard on the outside, yet comfortable inside. They seem to last forever.

soak your garden

In a drier climate, it is more beneficial to **water the garden** twice a week – and give the roots a deep, complete soaking – than giving a light, 15-minute watering 3 to 4 times a week. A good soaking encourages deeper root growth and healthier plants.

the people's plant

The ***Crassula* 'Autumn Joy'** is a hardy succulent plant that can adapt to many styles of garden – and types of owners! Even the most challenged of gardeners can work with this plant and watch it thrive.

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