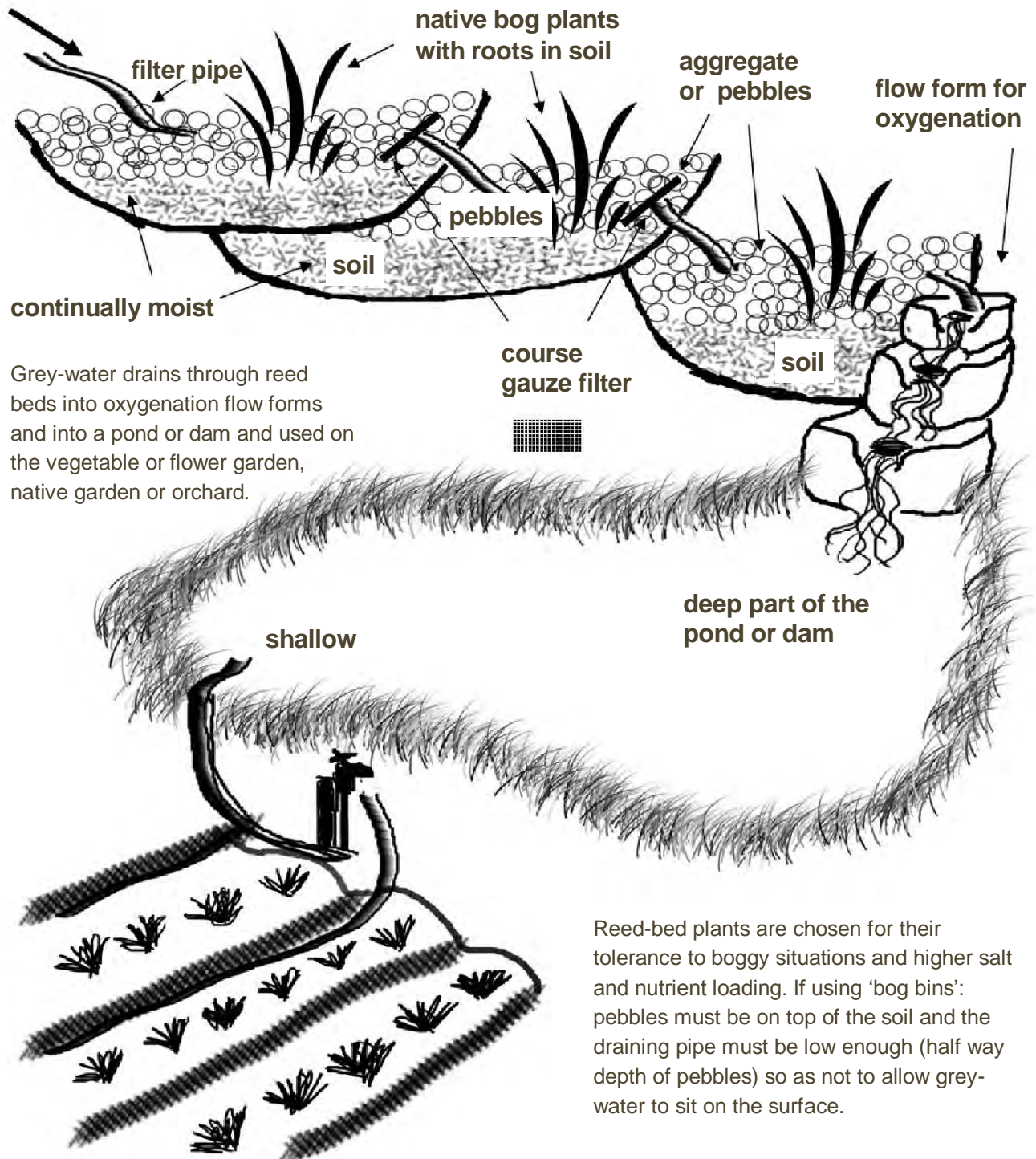




A Grey-Water Reed Bed Filter System

TIN Topic 12

Grey-Water

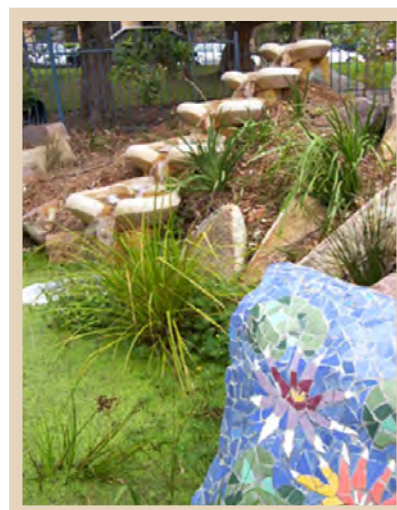


Grey-water drains through reed beds into oxygenation flow forms and into a pond or dam and used on the vegetable or flower garden, native garden or orchard.

Reed-bed plants are chosen for their tolerance to boggy situations and higher salt and nutrient loading. If using 'bog bins': pebbles must be on top of the soil and the draining pipe must be low enough (half way depth of pebbles) so as not to allow grey-water to sit on the surface.

The Finer Points of a Grey-Water Reed Bed Filter System

1. **Filter the food:** Initially food scraps and other material needs to be filtered off before it gets to the first part of the bog garden. A simple strainer over the plug hole will help catch most bits.
2. **No pooling of potential problems :** Grey water must not be allowed to pool on the surface of the bins or bog area as it can cause spread of disease and mosquito problems.
3. **The bigger the bed the better the filter.** The bog area must be big enough to cope with the amount of grey water needed to recycle.
4. **Bubbles are beaut for bogs.** It is necessary to run water from the bog garden into some kind of oxygenation area before it reaches the pond. i.e. a series of shallow channels snaking down a slope. Moving, bubbling water picks up more oxygen. There are some 'flow forms' that can be bought for this purpose as shown in the picture.
5. **Deliver to the deep end.** If possible the runoff should enter the pond/dam at the deepest part where any material in the water drops to the bottom.
6. **Send it out through the shallows.** The water should exit the dam or pond at the shallow end. This adds more oxygen to the system through the movement of the water. This is also good if the water is going to enter a creek as it gets filtered again at the shallow end through the vegetation.



Other TIN topics that are also helpful

TIN Topic #11 – Native Wetland Plants for stabilizing creekbanks, ponds and dams.

TIN Topic #6 – A Local Wetland Bushfood Garden