EXPAND YOUR GARDEN
(without buying the house next door)

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Many of us have to make do with only a small area for gardening, but there are a number of techniques you can use to make your garden seem larger.
DARK COLOURED FOLIAGE PLANTS
- Allocasuarina torulosa – native tree with long, dark needle-leaves
- Gardenia – low-growing shrubs with dark green glossy leaves; fragrant white flowers in summer
- Gordonia axillaris (Franklinia Axillaris) – small tree with dark green leaves; large white flowers in autumn
- Raphoelepis indica (Indian Hawthorn) – medium shrub with dense, dark green foliage; white flowers
- Rhododendron var. – many varieties have large, dark coloured leaves
- Trachelospermum jasminoides (Star Jasmine) – climber with glossy, dark green leaves; white flowers
- Viburnum davidii – small shrub with dark green leaves
- And many conifers

LARGE LEAVED PLANTS
- Agapanthus praecox – evergreen bulb with strap leaves; purple or white flowers
- Berberis cordifolia – low-growing perennial with broad shiny leaves; pink flowers in winter
- Camellia japonica – many varieties have large glossy green leaves; showy flowers
- Canna Lily – herbaceous plants with narrow upright habit and large, broad leaves; showy flowers
- Clivia miniata – evergreen bulb with dark green strap leaves; orange flowers in winter
- Gunnera manicata – large herbaceous plant with huge rhubarb-like leaves; moist soils
- Hosta – clumping perennial with attractive large, broad leaves
- Mahonia aquifolium – upright shrub with broad, prickly leaves
- Senecio x hybridus (Cineraria) – annual with large, broad leaves; colourful flowers in winter; need shade

SMALL LEAVED PLANTS
- Buxus sempervirens – small to medium shrub with dense, small leaves; good hedging plant
- Ceanothus – low shrubs to small trees with small, dense, dark green leaves; blue flowers in spring
- Coleonema pusillum (Diosma) – small dense shrub with fine leaves; small pink or white flowers
- Myrtus communis – medium to tall shrub with small, dense, aromatic leaves; fragrant white flowers
- Syzygium (Lillypilly) – small dense shrubs to tall trees with glossy small leaves
- Westringia fruticosa (Coastal Rosemary) – native shrub with small, narrow grey-green leaves; white flowers
COLOURS
Dark colours make areas seem smaller and more enclosed. Using light colours will make an area seem larger and more open. So choose plants with light coloured foliage and flowers.

Combining light and dark foliage plants can create the illusion of depth. If you place light coloured foliage in the foreground and dark foliage in the background, the foreground will appear to be closer. The background will seem to move away, making the area seem bigger.

FOLIAGE SIZE
Plants with large leaves appear to be closer than they really are, just as plants with small leaves recede into the background. You can use this contrast to create depth in the garden. Use large leaf plants in the foreground and small leaf ones in the background and watch your garden expand before your eyes!

LIGHT COLOURED FOLIAGE PLANTS
• Banksia ericifolia (Heath Banksia) - native shrub, 2-4 m tall, with narrow, bright green leaves; yellow-orange candle-like flowers in winter
• Choisya ternata ('Mexican Orange Blossom') - Small shrub with glossy light green leaves; fragrant, white flowers
• Convolvulus cneorum - groundcover with silvery-green foliage; white bell flowers
• Festuca coesia (Blue Fescue) - clumping grass with blue-grey foliage
• Lavandula angustifolia (English Lavender) - Small shrub with grey-green narrow leaves; mauve flower spikes in summer
• And many variegated plants.