

Template: the career garden

Gardening is something which many people enjoy in their retirement, but if they still have to level the site and plant the lawn when they retire, there isn't going to be much joy in it. Indeed, it may even be too big a task to face at that stage. Gardening, like building a career, starts from the first day we attempt to make it what it one day will become.

There are several other similarities between building a garden and building a career:

- It doesn't have to be a finished product straight away. In fact, it never is. But you can make a lot of progress early on.
- It takes time and effort.
- There are no mistakes, though there will be many changes along the way.
- There is no formula or plan to follow.
- You don't know at the outset what it's going to look like in the end.
- It will grow with you.
- Not knowing how it will turn out is part of the excitement.
- It should and can be fun.
- There can be many different areas and sections.
- The goal isn't just the harvest (making money); it's also to have something meaningful and enjoyable to do.
- The best time to start is now.

Use the template here to think about your career (or life after sport) as a garden, jotting down ideas for the following:

The fruit and vegetables: What things can you do to keep some money trickling in?

The tree house: What fun things would you like to do?

The fence: What are the things that can give your career security?

The tools: What skills and attributes do you already have that will help you in the future?

The water feature: What will give life to your career?

The lawn: What things can you do now to get you started?

The rosebed: What are the things that will take the most effort?

The weeds: What holds you back?

The relaxation zone: What things do you need in your life to keep yourself happy and healthy?

The trees: What are some of the key values that you would like to be constant in your life?

