Live Bayside

Plant Bayside

Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

Bayside City Council
76 Royal Avenue,
Sandringham. VIC 3191.
Tel: 9599 4444

www.bayside.vic.gov.au

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Green Gecko
PUBLICATIONS

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Contents

Introduction

What are indigenous plants?

Indigenous plants are the original flora, or plants that occur naturally, in a given location. Because they have evolved to the conditions within the local environment, indigenous plants are well adapted to the soils, topography and climate of the local area. Indigenous species also help to maintain the ecological balance of the local ecosystem, as plants and animals depend upon one another for their survival. In many instances, the loss of particular plants or animals from one area can result in the loss of other organisms in another.

The benefits of growing indigenous plants are that they:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate, and will thrive without fertilisers or sprays
- can withstand Melbourne's hot, dry summers and long dry periods with little or no watering
- grow quickly and often flower within the first season of being planted
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects and other animals
- reflect Bayside's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity
- offer you an opportunity to grow a more sustainable garden
- contribute to the preservation of Bayside's natural biodiversity
- can strengthen local wildlife corridors to help wildlife cope with climate change.

Indigenous or native plants

Many retail nurseries sell 'native' plants. This refers to any plant found in Australia, as opposed to an 'indigenous' plant that is specific to a region e.g. Bayside. Just like plants introduced from another country, native plants have the potential to become an environmental weed. For example the Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) from Western Australia was a popular native commercial nursery plant that is now aggressively invading bushland around Victoria. Hybridization is also a problem.

When two species crossbreed they can create a third species e.g. Horse x Donkey = Mule. Many native Correas have crossed with indigenous Correas to create hybrids that outcompete and displace indigenous Correas in the natural environment. It is therefore important to source your indigenous plants from your local indigenous nursery that uses locally collected seeds or cuttings to ensure the genetic form of the plant is from the Bayside region.

Indigenous plants in the garden

Many of Bayside's local indigenous plant species look great in any garden, providing spectacular displays of colour and texture throughout the seasons. Indigenous plants can be used successfully to create formal, bush-style or cottage gardens, contemporary garden designs or planted out in containers to create attractive courtyards or balconies.

Bayside's original vegetation communities

The vegetation of Bayside has changed dramatically since Europeans first settled in 1844. Well over 260 species have since disappeared, and many more are now considered rare or threatened. Large tracts of heathlands and woodlands were progressively cleared to make way for roads, market gardens, housing and industry. However, geological data, the location of remnant vegetation and historical field notes has enabled us to determine the location of Bayside's original vegetation communities. This information provides guidance as to the ideal location for various indigenous plants to thrive.

- Coastal Dune Grassland/Scrub
- Coastal Banksia Woodland/Dune Scrub
- Swamp Scrub
- Herb-rich Woodland
- Sedgy Swamp Woodland
- Heathy Woodland
- Heathy Scrub/Woodland
- Grassy Woodland

This map has been derived from the Victorian Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries Biodiversity Interactive Mapping Tool, pre-1750's mapping layer accessed on 9/10/2014.

Bayside's Natural Bushland Reserves

One of the best ways to find out how indigenous plants look and the conditions they thrive in is to go and see them in their natural environment.

- **Heathlands**
- **Foreshore**
- **Marine**

Get involved and learn

Many of Bayside's bushland reserves are supported by the local 'Friends of Bayside'. The 'Friends of Bayside' are community-based volunteers that meet at reserves to collect seed, plant, and help protect Bayside's remnant natural areas. It's a great way to learn about indigenous plants, help maintain Bayside's unique vegetation communities and meet wonderful people in your local community. Visit: **www.bayside.vic.gov.au/getting_involved**

Bayside Community Plant Nursery

The place to buy healthy indigenous plants for your Bayside garden. A great range of plants available as well as expert advice and guidance on indigenous plant selection and maintenance.

Open to the public from 10am to 12 noon on Thursdays and Saturdays. The nursery only sells plants from April to October each year as this is the best time to plant.

319 Reserve Road
Cheltenham
Tel: 9583 8408

The nursery also has a volunteer program that contributes to the propagation and running of the nursery and new volunteers are always welcome. For further information contact the nursery on 9583 8408.

Garden Design

Creating your indigenous garden.

If you are starting from scratch or redesigning a garden bed, one of the best things you can do is observe your garden for a year. This will give you an accurate picture of your garden through all the seasons when light and shade and moisture can vary enormously. Regardless of whether you have the patience to do this or not, the starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis of your garden. It allows you to identify the pros and cons, limitations and possibilities for your garden. It is also important to work with your site. If you know a section of your garden is shady and damp, select plants that are suited to those conditions rather than trying to change the site.

Create layers within your garden to add interest.

Main considerations

Indigenous plants can be used to beautiful effect in almost any style of garden. When deciding where and what to plant consider the garden as a whole, taking into account such things as:

1. **The style of garden** you are trying to create, and how you would like it to fit into your local landscape or neighbourhood. Examples include a bush garden, contemporary garden or cottage garden. If you already have an existing garden featuring exotic plants, think about how indigenous species could work with them.
2. **How you use your garden** – consider including features such as a bench under a tree to sit and relax, or a path that meanders through different areas within the garden.
3. **Design elements** such as feature trees and the inclusion of different layers of shrubs, grasses, flowers and groundcovers. Consider the colours and textures of flowers and foliage and how they will work together in the garden.
4. **Habitat elements** such as bird baths placed near prickly shrubs (for shelter), nest boxes in large trees, large rocks for lizard lounging, or a pond with refuge logs for frogs.
5. **The function, mature size and growing requirements** of each plant. Ideally, plants with similar growing requirements should be grouped together to maximise growth and efficiency of water use.

Before you start to plan your new garden remember to look up for powerlines and check for services below ground. It may be a wasted effort to plant extensively in easements where access for maintenance and other works may be required.

Habitat Gardening

One of the many benefits of indigenous plants is that they can attract a large range of wildlife, including insects, birds and lizards. With some thoughtful design, you may be surprised at the types of animals you can attract to your garden, even in suburban areas.

Select a variety of plants to create a complex and natural structure, including large trees, small and large shrubs, groundcovers, grasses and sedges. Plants that produce flowers and seeds provide food for many of our native birds and mammals, whilst prickly shrubs provide them with a refuge in which to build their homes or escape from predators. Dense prickly shrubs and mature trees such as *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and *Leptospermum continentale* (Prickly Tea-tree) can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird and mammal species.

Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native fauna. Take notice of any wildlife that visits your garden before you remove any dead trees or shrubs, as they may be providing a source of food or habitat.

In addition to dead shrubs and trees, leaving a few logs (particularly those containing hollows), sticks and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

Attracting birds

Australia has a rich and diverse range of bird species found nowhere else in the world. Indigenous gardens provide a safe haven for our native birds. Many bird species will prey on garden pests such as caterpillars and aphids, contributing to non-chemical pest control in the garden. To create a bird-attracting garden consider the following points.

Shelter

Birds need shelter from predators such as cats and Noisy Miners. By providing prickly or dense plants at various levels in your garden you can provide a safe place for them to retreat to and create nesting sites.

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will attract birds to your garden. A birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help birds feel secure.

Hedge Wattle

Birdbath

Bird Icons

The following bird icons appear in the Indigenous Plant List pages 28-60. The icon appears with those plants that provide food or shelter for different bird groups.

Honeyeaters
such as Spinebills, Wattlebirds and Honeyeaters

Large Birds
such as owls, Tawny Frogmouth and Kookaburras.

Small Birds
such as Wrens, Robins and Fantails

Parrots
such as Rosellas, Lorikeets and Cockatoos

Frogs

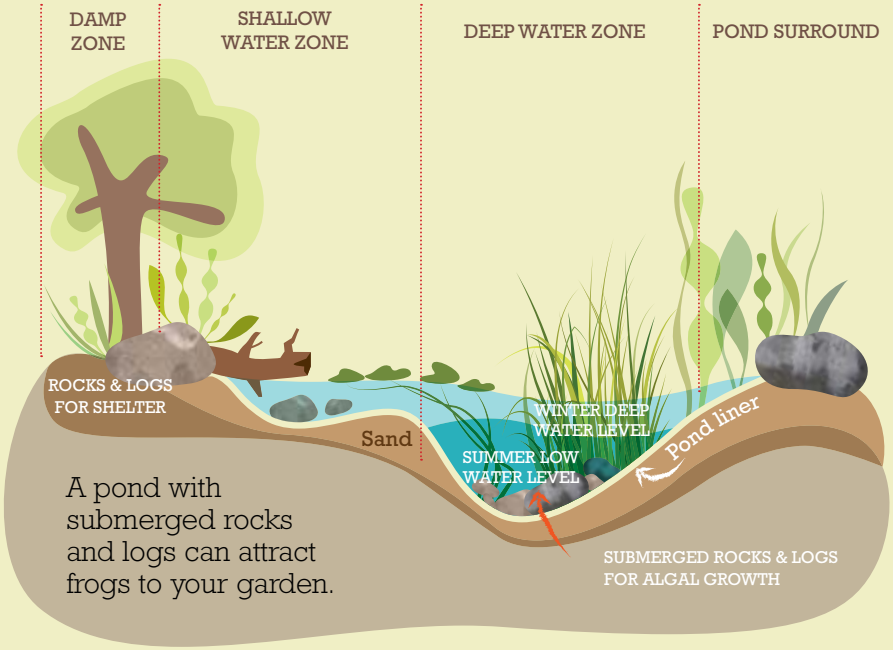
What could be lovelier than being serenaded to sleep by singing frogs? They also feast on mosquitoes, flies and slugs. An excellent non-chemical pest controller in the garden.

You can attract frogs by installing a pond in your garden, especially if you live near a wetland or waterway. It is illegal to collect frogs from the natural environment. You need to create a permanent, frog-friendly garden and hope they move in.

Building a frog pond

Locate your pond in a low-lying section of the garden that has around 70% shade. You can buy ready-made ponds or dig you own and line it with a heavy-duty pond liner. Ensure your pond has varying depth that includes a shallow entry point and a deeper section (30-50cm) to place potted aquatic plants. Cover the bottom with washed gravel. Add rocks and logs to create climbing spots. Allow your pond to fill with rainwater and then add your plants.

Cross-section of Frog Pond



A pump should not be necessary as tadpoles and eggs can be destroyed. Avoid floating surface plants such as Azolla and Duckweed as they can quickly cover a pond reducing light and oxygen levels. Do not introduce fish into your pond as they will snack on tadpoles.

Plants to attract frogs

Deep water zone:	Shallow water zone:	Damp zone:	Pond surround:
Water Millfoil *(Myriophyllum crispatum)*	Common Sedge *(Carex tereticaulis)*	Marsh Club-sedge *(Bolboschoenus medianus)*	Spiny-headed Mat-rush *(Lomandra longifolia)*
Nardoo *(Marsilea drummondii)*	Tassel Sedge *(Carex fascicularis)*	Swamp Stonecrop *(Crassula helmsii)*	Flax-lilies *(Dianella spp.)*

For a more extensive range of plants visit the Bayside Community Plant Nursery or look for the frog icon in the Indigenous Plant List pp 28-60.

Frogs

Butterflies

Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden and are easily attracted with a few simple design principles.

To attract butterflies put out a dish of damp sand and a flat rock to bask in the morning sun. Provide sheltered, shady positions throughout the garden to retreat during the heat of the day. Butterflies prefer flat flowers, such as daisies, that are easy to land on to extract nectar. They are attracted to a range of coloured flowers, in particular, blue, yellow and red.


Australian Painted lady

Look for the butterfly icon in the Indigenous Plant List (pp 28-60) for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

Butterflies

Utilising runoff

In the natural environment, rain slowly filters through the soil into the groundwater table and eventually enters our rivers and streams. The flow rate is slowed down and excess nutrients and pollutants are removed. This process results in clean water entering our waterways. In Bayside's urbanised landscape, many of our surfaces, such as roads, have been sealed and are impervious to water. Consequently when it rains, large volumes of water rapidly enters out stormwater system carrying litter and pollutants, and enters our creeks and rivers, and eventually Port Phillip Bay. Stormwater runoff represents a valuable resource that can be utilised by gardeners.

Downpipe diversion

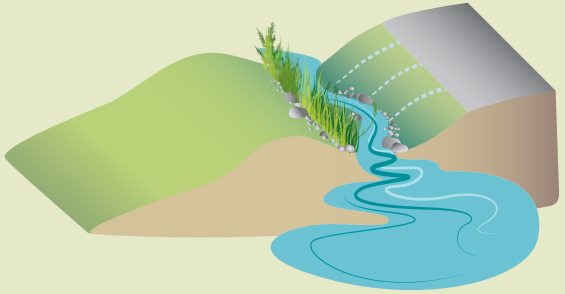
By diverting one or more downpipes around your property you can direct stormwater onto your garden beds or lawn. A downpipe diversion can easily be fitted to your downpipe by a licensed plumber.

Landscaping

If you are paving consider creating a space between that will enable water to percolate into the soil. Granitic and sand paths require more maintenance than concrete but will allow water to seep into the ground.

Swales

Water can be directed onto your garden beds by gently sloping the surface of driveways and patios towards your garden beds or lawn area. Consider building a swale (vegetated channel) positioned to move runoff from your hard surfaces to your garden or a small wetland.



Raingardens

A raingarden is a gravel filled trench designed to receive stormwater directly from a disconnected downpipe or runoff from surrounding hard surfaces. Water entering a raingarden is slowed and filtered helping to protect our waterways. Raingardens consist of layers of soil for filtration, gravel for drainage, and plants that can tolerate both extreme wet and dry conditions. There are many different types of raingardens from planter boxes to a trench.

For a list of indigenous plants appropriate for raingardens refer to page 20.

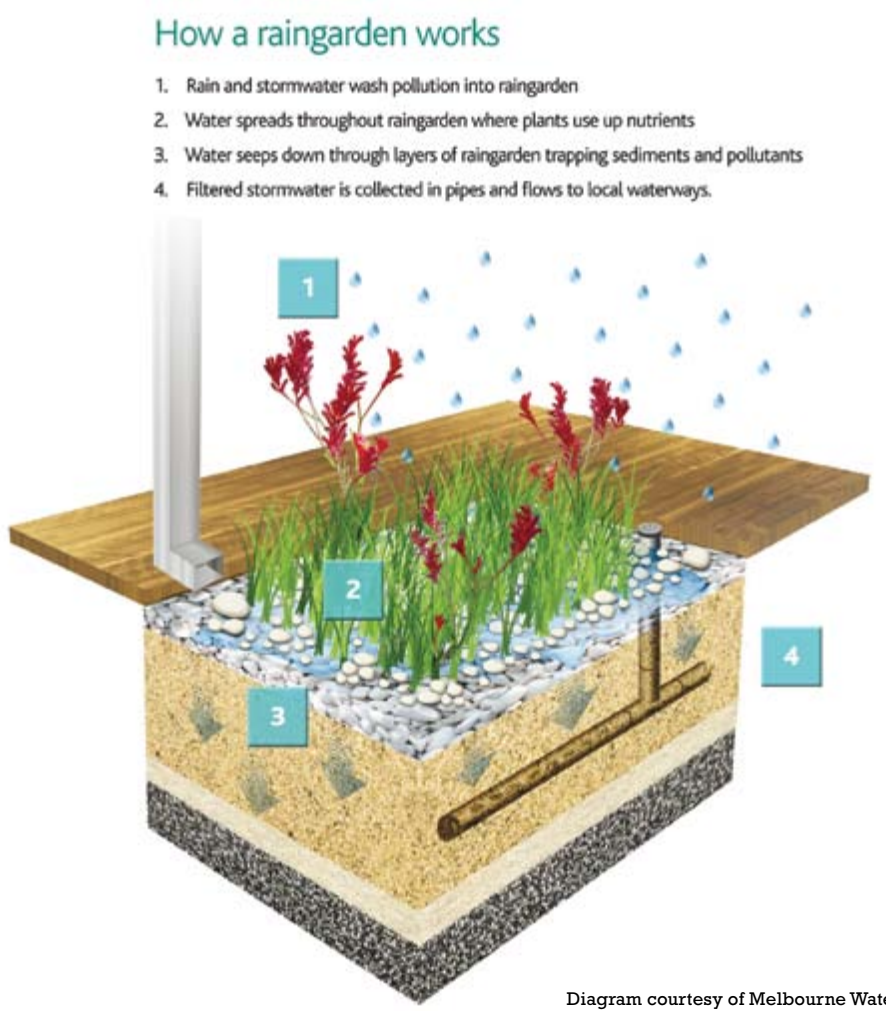


Diagram courtesy of Melbourne Water

For excellent and detailed instruction sheets visit:
www.melbournewater.com.au/raingardens

Designing with indigenous plants

Indigenous plants can be used to create a natural garden, can be grown in pots, arranged formally to enhance a traditional garden, or be used as cut flowers. In fact, there is probably an indigenous plant for every use in your garden. The following list provides examples of how some indigenous plants can be used to landscape your garden.

Coast Tea-tree

Mat-rush

Hedges and borders

Many indigenous plants are responsive to pruning and can therefore be grown to form a hedge:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Correa alba	White Correa	48
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	50
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	51
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	54

Small shrubs that can be pruned to shape:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Correa alba	White Correa	48
Correa reflexa	Common Correa	49
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	50
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	51
Oleria axillaris	Coast Daisy-bush	55
Viminaria juncea	Golden Spray	55

Many indigenous tussock forming species are ideal to use as border plants:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dianella spp.	Flax-lillies	40 & 41
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Patersonia occidentalis	Long Purple-flag	42
Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock-grass	42
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo grass	43

Feature trees

Some indigenous plants make ideal specimen trees for feature planting in a lawn or garden bed. Some species suitable for a large garden are:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia implexa	Lightwood	57
Banksia integrifolia	Coast Banksia	58
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	59
Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana	Coast Manna-gum	60

The following species perform well as individual trees in a smaller garden:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping She-oak	58
Eucalyptus pauciflora	Snow Gum	59

Groundcovers

These plants look great in rockeries or to fill space beneath a shrub layer:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	32
Carpobrotus rossi	Karkalla	33
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Disphyma crassifolium	Rounded Noon-flower	34
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	35
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman	36
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	37


Kidney-weed


Rounded Noon-flower

Lawn alternatives

Native lawns, once established, require much less water and fertiliser than traditional lawns. The various species tolerate light to heavy traffic, so ask your nursery which is best for your situation.

Some species suitable as a native lawn include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	35
Rytidosperma spp.	Wallaby-grasses	43
Microlena stipoides	Weeping grass	41

Screen plants

Screen planting is often necessary to create privacy, conceal undesirable views or buffer wind and noise:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia stricta	Hop Wattle	53
Acacia melonoxylon	Blackwood	57
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	59
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	54
Myoporum insulare	Common Boobialla	54


Small-leaved Clematis (on fence)

Hop Goodenia (the shrub underneath)

Shady conditions

Indigenous plants that perform particularly well in the shade include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	32
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	40
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Lasiopetalum bauri	Slender Velvet-bush	51
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	37

Raingardens

In this situation plants need to be drought tolerant but cope with being periodically inundated when it rains. The following plants perform well:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	40
Ficinia nodosa	Knobby Club-sedge	45
Juncus spp.	Rushes	45
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Lomandra multiflora	Many-flowered Mat-rush	46
Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock-grass	42

Planting for nature strips

Bayside residents are permitted to plant out their nature strips with indigenous grasses, groundcovers and low growing shrubs listed in the Bayside Nature Strip Planting Guidelines. (subject to Council or VicRoads consent).

A minimum of 500mm must be kept clear from the kerb to allow people to safely exit their cars. Plants (except street trees) must be maintained at a maximum height of 600mm. Corner blocks are limited to ground cover plants to a maximum height of 250 mm within 9 metres either side of an intersection to ensure a clear line of sight for motorists and pedestrians. A minimum of 1.5 metres from the property line is to be kept clear to allow for pedestrian access, mail, paper and other deliveries.

Residents can request Council plant a street tree on their nature strip.

Fine gravels such as granitic sand can be laid to a depth of 75mm. Mulch or bark chips can also be used. These must be level with the footpath and weed free. Mulch also needs to be kept on the nature strip and not spill onto the footpath.

If you would like to plant out your nature strip you will need to ensure you prune plants so they don't protrude beyond the boundary and don't exceed the height restrictions. You will be responsible for keeping your nature strip free of weeds, rubbish and any tripping hazards.

If you live on a major arterial road e.g. Bluff Road, you will need to obtain a ''Works within the Road Reserve Permit'' from VicRoads **(Tel: 13 11 71).** If you live on a local road contact Council **(Tel: 9599 4444)**.

For further information visit: **www.bayside.vic.gov.au**

Planting and Maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

•Plant selection •Site preparation •Planting technique •Maintenance

Plant selection

When it comes to selecting indigenous plants for your garden always consider which species are most appropriate for your site. For example, a Swamp Gum is well suited for planting in a gully situation but would not do well if planted on a dry hilltop. To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. The Bayside Community Plant Nursery will be able to help you with selecting suitable plants.

Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature. If they are not carefully selected and positioned, large trees may shade out sun-loving plants underneath them, impact nearby buildings or plumbing with their vigorous roots, or create problems with leaves dropping in gutters.

When choosing plants from a nursery, remember that tall plants in larger pots will not necessarily give you better results. Tubestock (plants in 15cm tall plastic tubes) will generally catch up with and outgrow larger, more mature stock. They are also easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

When ordering a large numbers of plants from the Bayside Community Plant Nursery, stock should be ordered well in advance.

Site preparation

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown.

Soil

Bayside's predominantly sandy soils tend to be free draining and low in nutrients, while lower lying areas contain higher organic content and moisture-holding capacity. Sandy soils can be improved by adding compost or other organic matter.

Remember that indigenous plants have adapted to local conditions, so selecting the right plant for your soil conditions will greatly improve your chances of success.

If you need to bring soil into your site, remember that imported soils can bring new weed seeds and diseases to your neighbourhood, so always use locally-obtained soils if possible.

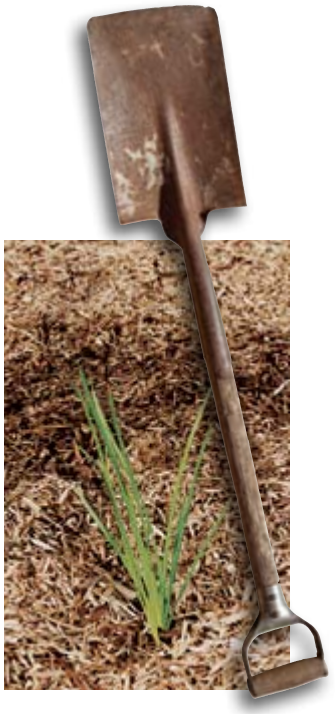
Pre-planting mulch

Good quality mulch should be spread over your garden to a minimum depth of 10cm prior to planting. Covering the soil surface with mulch can improve soil structure, nutrient availability and water retention, and prevent future weed growth. If you are on a bush block it is important to identify existing indigenous vegetation to ensure you do not mulch over the top of it.

Ensure that the mulch you select is made from a sustainable resource. Chipped waste wood and green waste mulches are generally a good option. Always ensure that any green waste has been well composted before use to kill any weed seeds that may be present.

Weeds

Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance. There are a range of techniques and products that can be effective in controlling weeds, including both chemical and non-chemical methods.



Mulch improves soil and helps to prevent weed growth.

Planting technique

Once your site is well prepared you can begin planting. Generally, planting after the first heavy autumn rain is the best time for dry or exposed sites. For frost prone areas, spring may be a more appropriate time for planting. Try to avoid any planting during the summer period.

Step 1

Prepare the planting hole

The planting hole should be approximately twice the width of the plant container and slightly deeper. Remember to dig the hole into the soil below the mulch – if you plant straight into the mulch your plant will dry out and die.

Step 2

Pre-soaking

Give your plants a thorough pre-soaking in a bucket of water prior to planting. In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.

Step 3

Prepare the plant

Any particularly long or coiled roots protruding through the bottom of the pot can be pruned with sharp secateurs before removing the plant from the pot. Some root disturbance is tolerable but be careful not to damage living roots. When planting good quality tubestock, it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots.

Step 4

Remove the plant from the pot

This is best achieved by turning the pot upside down and striking the rim gently against a solid object.

Step 5

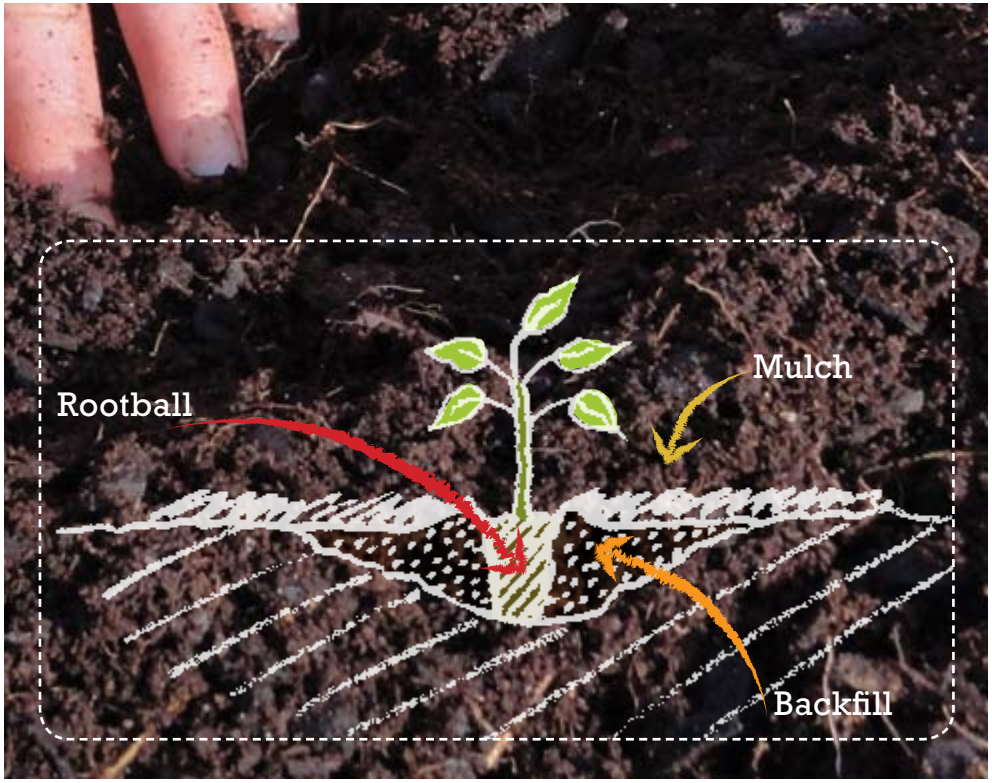
Place the plant into the hole

So that the plant is a little lower than the original soil level. Firmly replace the soil around the plant, breaking up any lumps as you go.

Step 6

Water the plant in well

Initially all plants need to be watered individually to settle soil around the root system. Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing, particularly during dry periods.



Maintainance

One of the great things about indigenous plants is that they require very little maintenance. With just a little work each year, your indigenous garden will continue to look healthy, neat and beautiful.

1. Reducing competition

Controlling and removing weeds in areas of your garden or property that contain indigenous vegetation reduces competition for water, light and nutrients, helping to enhance growth.

If active pets are a problem, add a tree guard. Remove once the plant has become established.

2. Watering

Monitor new plants during their first summer. If there has not been a good soaking rain by mid summer, they will benefit from weekly or fortnightly watering. Deep, occasional watering will help the plant establish deeper roots.

3. Mulching

Topping-up mulch annually helps to increase water retention and over time, will increase the organic matter in your soils.

Mulching tips

- Avoid hot, steaming mulch, as this indicates that it is still composting.
- Check for and remove mulch-borne seedlings to prevent weed invasion.
- Mulch to about 10cm to allow rain penetration, suppress weeds and reduce soil moisture loss.

Tree guard

Common Everlasting

4. Pruning

In a garden setting, many indigenous plants will respond well to careful pruning, and many will provide better shows of flowers if heavily pruned.

Pruning is usually best carried out after the plant has finished flowering. If you are developing a hedge, begin pruning early in the plant's life.

5. Fertiliser

Fertilisers aren't usually necessary when growing indigenous plants and may encourage weed growth. Too much fertiliser can also cause fast, soft plant growth, leaving plants more vulnerable to insect attack or harsh climatic conditions.

Too much phosphorus in particular, can kill many indigenous plants. The addition of compost or other organic matter is a much better option for promoting healthy growth.

If you do choose to fertilise, mix a small amount of slow-release, low phosphate fertiliser with the soil and backfill into the hole. Further fertilising is not usually necessary.

Bayside

Indigenous Plant List

The following section features a selection of plants you may wish to include in your garden.

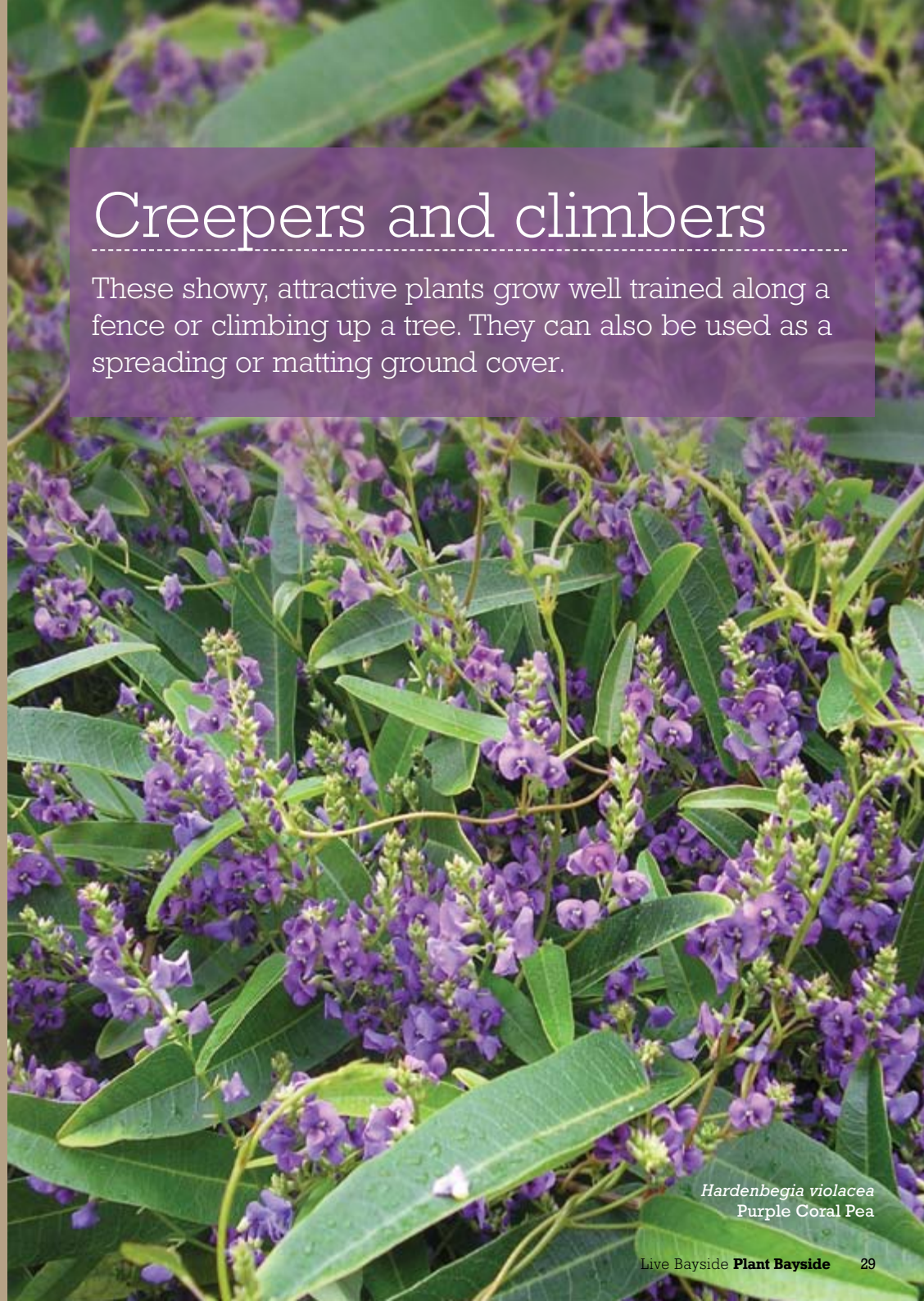
If you are keen to attract wildlife to your garden the following icons indicate plants that will attract different wildlife:

- **Small birds** such as Wrens, Robins and Fantails
- **Honeyeaters** such as Spinebills, Wattlebirds and Honeyeaters
- **Parrots** such as Rosellas, Lorikeets and Cockatoos
- **Butterflies** such as the Australian Painted Lady and Common Grass-blue
- **Frogs** such as the Banjo Frog and the Spotted Marsh Frog
- **Lizards** such as Skinks and Blue Tongue Lizards
- **Mammals** such as Microbats, Bats and Possums
- **Large birds** such as Owls, the Tawny Frogmouth and the Kookaburra.

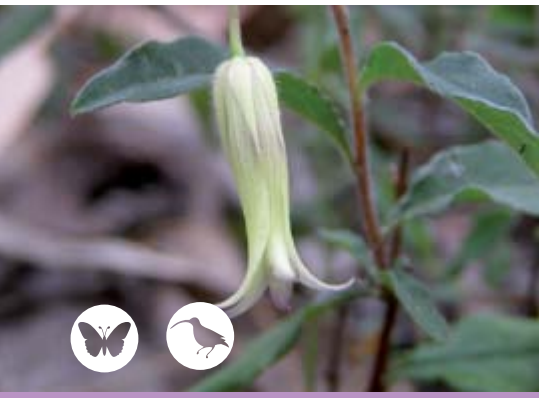
Please note: All plant sizes mentioned in this publication are approximate. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of a plant.

Creepers and climbers

These showy, attractive plants grow well trained along a fence or climbing up a tree. They can also be used as a spreading or matting ground cover.



Hardenbegia violacea
Purple Coral Pea



Billardiera mutabillis
Common Apple-berry

A vigorous, long-lived climber with bell shaped flowers. Grows well under established trees, amongst shrubs or trained along a fence or trellis.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- A soft climber that gently winds its way along the stems and branches of other plants.

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves 2-4cm long.
- A profusion of narrow yellow tubular flowers hanging from the branches. Flowering usually occurs from July to December, followed by light green berries.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained dry to moist heavier soils.
- Full sun to complete shade.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Clematis microphylla
Small-leaved Clematis

A vigorous, showy climber with sweetly scented star-like flowers and attractive, feathery seed heads.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/ woodland.

Size and habit

- A scrambling climber that grows over shrubs and small trees. Can be trained to cover a fence or trellis.

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of greenish-cream starry flowers 3-4 cm across.
- Flowering usually occurs from July to November.
- Small, dull green, oblong leaves.
- Feathery seed heads.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows well in all well-drained soils.
- Full sun or part shade.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Herbs and Groundcovers

These plants play an important role in the landscape. Not only are they attractive, they are useful for binding soil, minimising weed growth, attracting butterflies and are important for attracting pollinators for other plants. Indigenous herbs and groundcovers are able to tolerate a wide range of growing conditions.

Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman

Acaena novae-zealandiae
Bidgee-widgee

A carpeting groundcover with widely spreading stems. Useful for binding soil.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- Creeping groundcover that dies back during winter.
- Spreads from 1-4m.

Flowers and foliage
- Greenish-white globular flowers from October to January.
- Fruits are brown and burr-like. Readily stick to clothing and can be a nuisance in areas of high traffic.

Preferred growing conditions
- Tolerates all soils, wet and dry conditions.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt wind.

Carpobrotus rossi
Karkalla

An excellent soil binder on sandy, exposed locations.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A spreading groundcover.
- Prostrate to 1-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- A profusion of showy pink-purple flowers from August to February. Flowers only open on sunny days.
- Globular, reddish-purple salty fruit.
- Clusters of fleshy, succulent leaves.

Preferred growing conditions
- Will grow in all well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Common Everlasting

This attractive herb requires regular pruning to encourage new growth.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Grows to 10-30cm high spreading to 50cm-1m.
- Excellent in rockeries or mass planting.

Flowers and foliage
- Bright yellow, button-like flower heads mainly from September to December, but can flower all year round.
- Leaves an attractive silver grey and densely hairy.
- Prune heavily in winter to rejuvenate.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all well-drained soil and tolerates dry conditions.
- Full sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Dichondra repens
Kidney-weed

This plant is a vigorous groundcover that can be grown to suppress weeds or provide a great lawn alternative where traffic is light.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A matting plant that spreads quickly to 1-2m.
- Easily divided and transplanted.

Flowers and foliage
- Light to dark green, kidney shaped leaves to approximately 2cm across.
- Inconspicuous creamy-green flowers September to December.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all local soils.
- Spreads widely in moist conditions.
- Grows in partial to complete shade.
- Tolerates some salt winds.

HERBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

Disphyma crassifolium subsp. crassifolium **Rounded Noon-flower**

An excellent succulent for binding sandy soil and stabilising erosion.

Natural vegetation community

- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- A fast-growing groundcover that can reach a width of 1-2m within a year.

Flowers and foliage

- The succulent, rounded leaves are usually bright green, but can change to orange and purple in some situations.
- Produces a carpet of purple flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local soils.
- Tolerates wet or dry conditions.
- Full sun.
- Tolerates saline soil and salt winds.

Einadia nutans **Nodding Saltbush**

An excellent groundcover for dry gardens, rockeries and embankments.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/ woodland.

Size and habit

- A scrambling plant that grows 1-2m wide.
- Fast growing. Can tend to smother other plants but easily restricted.

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive green leaves.
- Clusters of small red/orange flowers from December to March.
- Succulent, small, red berries after flowering.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soil types and tolerates a dry soil.
- Full or part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Geranium solanderi **Austral Cranesbill**

An attractive perennial herb with delicate flowers.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- An easily grown plant that will readily produce seedlings.
- Forms a dense cover to a width of 50cm-1.5m.

Flowers and foliage

- Green, deeply-lobed leaves.
- Pale pink flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soil.
- Tolerates wet soil.
- Part sun.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Kennedia prostrata **Running Postman**

Trailing, hardy and adaptable groundcover. Grows well in rockeries or hanging baskets where flowers can cascade down the sides.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Groundcover with long, slender trailing stems.
- Generally spreads to 1-2m.

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive grey-green leaves with a soft texture and wavy edges.
- Bright red, pea-shaped flowers with a yellow centre. Flowers from April to December.
- Dark brown leathery pods to 7cm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soil.
- Full to part shade.
- Tolerates salt winds.

HERBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

Lagenifera stipitata
Common Bottle-daisy

An attractive, small daisy. Suitable for containers and can be established under trees, provided moisture is available.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Grows from 5-25cm high.

Flowers and foliage
- Basal rosette of dark green leaves.
- Attractive small, mauve flowers September to March.

Preferred growing conditions
- Adaptable to moist, well-drained soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds

Lobelia alata
Angled Lobelia

An attractive plant for frog gardens or containers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A herb that spreads by layering, reaching a height and width of 30cm.

Flowers and foliage
- Angular stems and long, narrow leaves.
- Small, pale blue fan-shaped flowers near the stem most of the year.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in most soil types, but requires moist soil.
- Full to part sun.

Pelargonium australe
Austral Stork's-bill

A pretty, sprawling groundcover may die back in summer to re-shoot in autumn.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A fast-growing, matting groundcover that is excellent for binding sandy soil.
- Grows to a height of 30-60cm and a width of 30cm-1m.
- Prune back old growth after flowering to encourage new growth.
- Easily divided and transplanted.

Flowers and foliage
- Clusters of pink/white flowers on long stalks from October to February.
- Aromatic, rounded leaves.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Viola hederacea
Native Violet

An attractive plant for rockeries, pots and garden beds if kept moist.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A showy groundcover with creeping stems spreading from 1-2m.

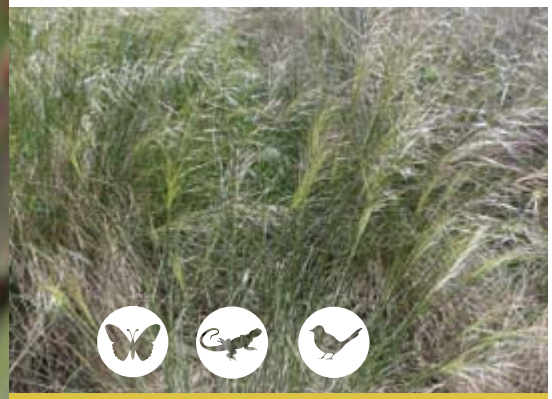
Flowers and foliage
- Masses of white flowers with purple centres mainly from June to March.
- Attractive, green, kidney-shaped leaves.

Preferred growing conditions
- Moist to wet soil.
- Grows in full sun to complete shade.
- Moderately tolerates salt wind.

Grasses and Flaxes

Most grasses and flaxes are both tough and long-lived making them suitable to grow in a range of conditions and are excellent contrast plants in the garden.

Patersonia occidentalis
Long Purple-Flag



Austrostipa mollis
Soft Spear-grass

An attractive plant with pale, feathery seed heads that is impressive when planted in a group.

Natural vegetation community

- Grassy woodland.

Size and habit

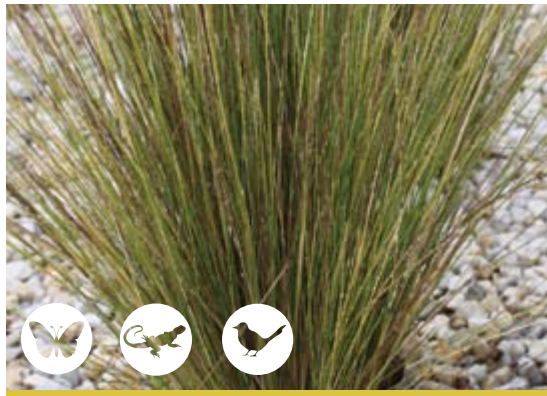
- A fast growing grass that grows to 30cm high and 50cm wide. Stems to 1.5m high.

Flowers and foliage

- An easily grown tufted grass with attractive seed heads.
- Flowers from October to January.
- Prune hard after flowering to maintain vigour.

Preferred growing conditions

- Does not tolerate salt wind.



Austrostipa stipoides
Prickly Spear-grass

A slow-growing tussock grass that is attractive, tough and long-lived.

Natural vegetation community

- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Can take around 3 years to reach a good size.
- Grows between 1.0-1.5m high and wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Long pale-coloured flower heads September to November.
- Leaves are a striking brown/bronze and prickly. Excellent in mass planting.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soil types.
- Prefers full sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

GRASSES AND FLAXES

Dianella brevicaulis

(formerly Dianella revoluta var. *brevicaulis)*

Small-flower Flax-lily

A moderately fast-growing and easy to maintain plant. A popular choice in traffic islands.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Forms a rounded tussock around 60-90cm high and wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, green strap-like leaves.
- Dainty blue-mauve, star-shaped flowers with yellow and black centres from September to December.
- Flowers grow on short stems among the foliage.
- Shiny dark blue to deep purple berries after flowering.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soil types and tolerates a dry soil.
- Full or part sun.
- Tolerates moderate to high salt winds.

Dianella laevis var. *laevis*

(formerly Dianella longifolia var. *longifolia)*

Pale Flax-lily

This easy to maintain lily makes an attractive garden or container plant.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

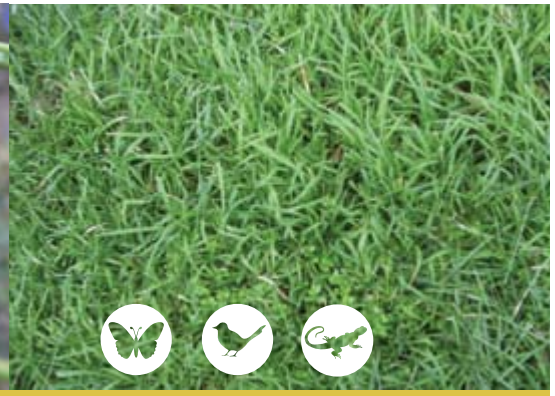
- Forms a tufted clump with thick roots and short underground tubers.
- Grows to a height of 30-80cm and a width of 50cm.
- Long-lived.

Flowers and foliage

- Light green, strappy leaves.
- Pale blue flowers from August to January.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all well-drained soil types.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.



Microlaena stipoides

Weeping Grass

Weeping Grass forms a native lawn that can be mown regularly or left to produce delightful weeping flower heads. Can be sensitive to foot traffic and dog urine, but an excellent front lawn alternative.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/ woodland.

Size and habit

- Foliage grows typically 30-50cm tall from short underground runners.
- Fine leaves 2-4mm wide if left unmown, or very fine if regularly mown.

Flowers and foliage

- Soft emerald green leaves.
- Narrow, arching flower heads from September to November.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soils.
- Grows best with some shade and reliable moisture.

Patersonia occidentalis

Long Purple-flag

A spectacular plant when in flower, particularly when mass planted.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- A compact plant that grows from 20-40cm high to 30-60cm wide.
- Not always long-lived, but will rejuvenate when the dead thatch is burned.

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive purple flowers from September to January.
- Shorter, strappy green foliage.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most soil types.
- Suitable for pond edges.
- Tolerates inundation during winter and some dryness during summer.
- Full or part sun.

GRASSES AND FLAXES

Poa labillardieri
Common Tussock-grass

Ornamental tussock-forming grass for garden beds and rockeries that looks great planted amongst other grasses of varying height and texture.

Natural vegetation community

- Grassy woodlands.

Size and habit

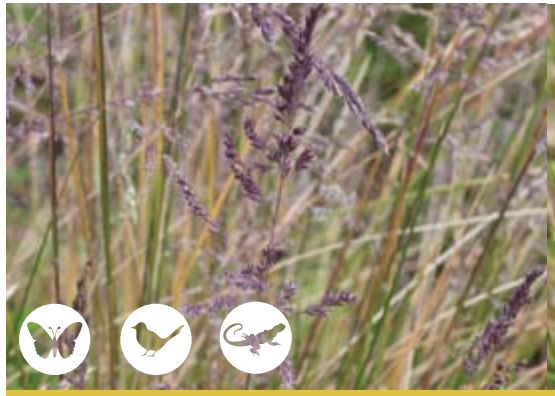
- A vigorous tussock-grass that forms large clumps up to 70cm tall and 75cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Fine, dull green or blue-green leaves.
- Cut back every few years to de-thatch dead leaves.
- Produces many flowering stems to 1m tall October to February.

Preferred growing conditions

- An adaptable grass that thrives in most soils with reliable moisture.
- Perfect for full sun to part shade.
- Tolerates moderate salt winds.



Poa sieberiana
Grey Tussock-grass

This attractive blue-green grass is adaptable and establishes well under existing eucalypts.

Natural vegetation community

- Grassy woodlands.

Size and habit

- Forms a dense robust tussock.
- Grows 15-30cm high and 40cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Forms a dense green to blue-green tuft with fine inrolled leaves.
- Leaves often curly towards the tips.
- Flowers are green and purplish or sometimes straw-coloured.
- Flower stem grows to 80cm tall.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most soil types
- Tolerates dry conditions.
- Full to part sun, but tends to grow larger in shaded areas.
- Tolerates moderate salt wind.

Rytidosperma geniculatum
(formerly Austrodanthonia geniculata)
Kneed Wallaby-grass

A useful grass in lawns as it is slow growing and requires little mowing.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- Slow to establish.
- Forms a small, tufted plant that is often bent near the base.
- Grows 10-30cm high and 20-30cm wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Very fine, hairy leaves on slender stems.
- Forms a very dense cluster of fluffy flower-heads on stems that are up to 30cm tall.
- Flowers from October to December.

Preferred growing conditions

- Most soils, but prefers heavier dry soil.
- Full to part sun.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

A great feature tussock in the garden or mass planted.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- Tussock leaves grow to 40cm high and 80cm wide.
- Stems grow above the plant to 70-90cm flowering from September to March.

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves vary in colour from blue-green to reddish-brown.
- Lovely coppery, purple or rust-coloured flower heads on gently arching stems.

Preferred growing conditions

- Will tolerate most soils, but performs best in well-drained soils.
- Grows in full or part sun.
- Tolerates moderate salt winds.

Rushes and Sedges

These plants have become increasingly popular in landscaping, adding beauty, form, colour and texture variations to the garden.

Lomandra Filiformis
Wattle Mat-rush

Ficinia nodosa
Knobby Club-sedge

A popular contrast plant and excellent for binding soils in moist areas.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

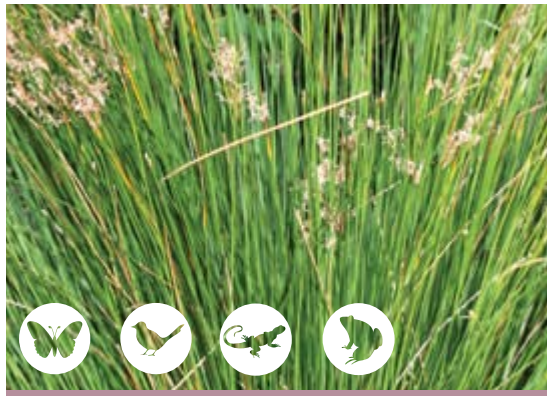
- Tufted, wiry leaves grow to 50cm-1.5m high and 60cm-2m wide.
- Look great as mass planting or around the edge of a frog pond.

Flowers and foliage

- Distinctive round, brown flower head for most of the year make this an attractive feature plant.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local soil types provided they are moist. Can tolerate some drying out.
- Full or part sun.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.



Juncus spp.
Rushes

Common plants of moist areas and useful for stabilising slopes. There is a wide variety of attractive, tufting rushes.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Most rush form a dense tussock from 50cm -1.5m.

Flowers and foliage

- They generally produce a range of attractive brown flower heads in the summer months.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to most soils provided they are moist.
- Full to part sun.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Lomandra longifolia
Spiny-headed Mat-rush

A lovely, graceful tussock for difficult spots, rockeries and embankments.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- Hardy, fast growing after the first year.
- Grows up to 1m high and wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Many clusters of small, yellow flowers with purple bases extending to 15cm long from September to December.
- Greenish-brown to brownish-orange capsules remain on the plant for most of the year.
- Smooth, bright green strap-like leaves.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in most soil types.
- Performs best well-drained soils. Will tolerate dry periods.
- Full or part sun.
- Tolerates moderate salt winds.

Lomandra multiflora
Multi-flowered Mat-rush

An attractive, tufted plant with beautiful flowers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Moderately slow growing.
- Grows to 30-50cm high and wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Long, narrow greyish leaves.
- Showy yellow flowers with a long flowering period from June to January.

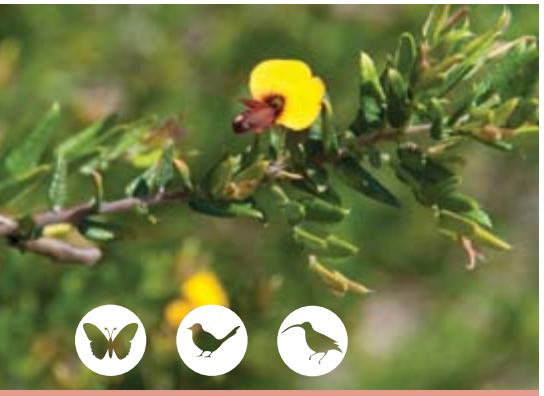
Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained sands or clays.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates extended dry periods once established.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Small shrubs

Ideal shelter or feature plants, small indigenous shrubs provide colour, texture and layers within the garden. They also provide habitat and food, particularly for a variety of birds and butterflies.

Daviesia ulicifolia spp. *ulicifolia*
Gorse Bitter-pea

SMALL SHRUBS



Bossiaea cinerea
Showy Bossiaea

An ornamental shrub with masses of colourful yellow and red pea flowers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Moderately fast growing plant.
- Dense rounded or spreading shrub.
- Grows to 1-2m high and 1-2m wide.
- Prune hard after flowering to encourage a more compact shrub.

Flowers and foliage
- Dull green leaves, with bronze new growth.
- Profuse yellow and red flowers from August to December.

Preferred growing conditions
- Adapts to most well-drained soils.
- Tolerates dry conditions once established.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Correa alba
White Correa

A hardy shrub that responds well to pruning.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A dense, spreading shrub that is moderately slow-growing.
- Grows to 1-2m high and wide.
- An excellent hedging plant.

Flowers and foliage
- Grey-green leaves, pale and hairy underneath.
- Waxy, white star-shaped flowers most of the year.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all well-drained soils.
- Once established it will tolerate moisture for extended dry periods.
- Tolerates salt winds once established.

Correa reflexa
Common Correa

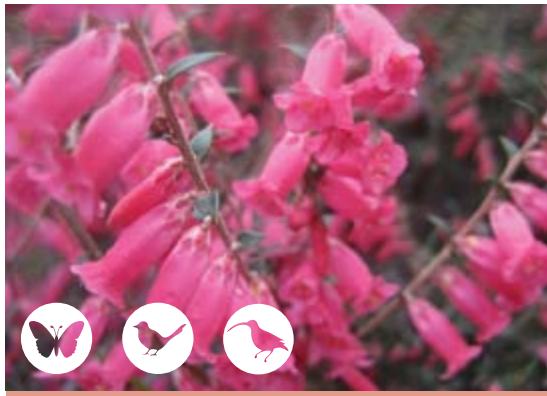
It is important to buy the local indigenous form of this plant and not those sold in commercial nurseries to avoid polluting the local gene pool.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A fairly fast-growing plant.
- Grows to 30cm-2m high and 1-2m wide.
- Prune lightly after flowering to encourage a more compact shrub.

Flowers and foliage
- Soft, hairy leaves with wrinkled margins.
- Bell-like flowers vary from red to green appearing from March to September.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all local well-drained soils.
- Tolerates dry conditions.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.



Epacris impressa
Common Heath

Victoria's floral emblem and a very pretty small shrub, displaying an abundance of dainty white or pink flowers. Attractive rockery plant and spectacular when mass planted.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A small, upright, wiry shrub to 1.5m tall, branching near the base.

Flowers and foliage
- Narrow, sharply pointed leaves.
- Variable flower colour.
- An abundance of flowers crowd along the branches from March to November.

Preferred growing conditions
- Requires moist, well-drained soils.
- Tolerates limited dry and wet periods once established.
- Grows in full to part sun.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

SMALL SHRUBS

Goodenia ovata
Hop Goodenia

An easily propagated, versatile plant that is great for brightening shady garden settings.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A fast-growing shrub that responds well to pruning to maintain a compact form.
- Grows to 1-2m high and 1-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Bright green, oval-shaped leaves.
- Small, vibrant yellow flowers from August to February.

Preferred growing conditions
- Favours damp soils, but tolerates dryness.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Hibbertia sericea
Silky Guinea-flower

A moderately fast-growing shrub with beautiful bright flowers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A small erect shrub.
- Needs care in the establishment phase, but long-lived once established.
- Grows 30-60cm high and 60cm wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Dark green leaves.
- Beautiful clusters of yellow flowers from October to December.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained, sandy soils. Avoid clay.
- Full sun but seems to prefer part shade.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Lasiopetalum bauri
Slender Velvet-bush

An elegant plant that is locally rare but readily available from nurseries.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub.

Size and habit
- Moderately fast growing.
- Responds very well to regular pruning.
- Grows to 1-1.5m high and 1m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Narrow, long grey-green leaves above and rust coloured underneath.
- Small drooping clusters of pink-white flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions
- Dry, well-drained soil.
- Full to part sun.
- Useful for dry, shady conditions.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Leucophyta brownii
Cushion Bush

Attractive, low shrub makes excellent contrast plant or hedging plant.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and form
- Grows 20cm-1m high and 50cm-2m wide.
- Regular pruning rather than hard pruning promotes new growth and a more compact form.
- Grey foliage is able to reflect light at night, making this a useful plant for defining pathways.

Flowers and foliage
- Unique, grey scale-like leaves.
- Cream to pale yellow globular flowers from September to December.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained soil, tolerates alkaline soil.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt spray.

Large Shrubs

Ideal screening or feature plants, large indigenous plants provide food and shelter as well as adding layer and contrast within a garden.

Ricinocarpos pinifolius
Wedding Bush

Acacia stricta
Hop Wattle

This fast-growing, slender shrub is an ideal refuge for small birds and a useful screening plant.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- A fairly open shrub.
- Good windbreak.
- Grows to a height of 2-5m tall and 2-4m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Pale yellow ball flowers from May to October.
- Long, pale green leaves.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most well-drained soil, but is drought tolerant.
- Full sun to complete shade.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Indigofera australis
Austral Indigo

The Austral Indigo is a member of the Pea family and produces branches of beautiful mauve and pink pea flowers.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- A graceful, open shrub.
- Useful for understorey planting.
- Benefits from pruning after flowering to maintain bushiness.
- Grows to a height of 1-2m and a width of 1m.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue-green feathery leaves.
- Abundant sprays of mauve to pink flowers from September to November.

Preferred growing conditions

- Any well-drained soil.
- Water regularly during dry periods.
- Grows in full sun to shade.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

LARGE SHRUBS

Melaleuca squarrosa
Scented Paperbark

An attractive shrub with unusual leaves and fragrant flowers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Grows to 2-5m high and 1-2m wide.
- Responds well to pruning and is suitable for hedging or screening.

Flowers and foliage
- Stiff, dark green triangular leaves.
- Spikes of scented cream to yellow flowers from September to February.

Preferred growing conditions
- Moist to wet soils of all local types.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Myoporum insulare
Common Boobialla

An attractive, dense shrub useful for screening.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- Fast-growing and long-lived.
- Grows to 2-5m high and 3-6m wide.
- Dense habit shades out understorey.

Flowers and foliage
- Smooth, dark green leaves.
- Clusters of fragrant white flowers with purple spots from October to November.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained sandy soil tolerating dryness once established.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Olearia axillaris
Coast Daisy-bush

A striking shrub that creates contrast and interest in a garden.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A dense shrub that grows 1-2m high and wide.
- Benefits from pruning after flowering.

Flowers and foliage
- Attractive, aromatic leaves that are dark green above and silver underneath.
- Small yellow flowers from February to April.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained, dry sandy soils.
- Full sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Viminaria juncea
Golden Spray

A beautiful weeping shrub with an attractive display of yellow pea flowers.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland..

Size and habit
- An open shrub with drooping branches.
- Grows to 2-5m high and 2m wide.
- A short-lived shrub that can become untidy after a few years.

Flowers and foliage
- Long, flexible branches, virtually leafless.
- Fragrant, yellow flowers from October to February.

Preferred growing conditions
- Adaptable to poorly-drained soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Trees

Trees provide excellent shade and shelter, and contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity through the provision of wildlife movement corridors and habitat.

Eucalyptus melliodora
Yellow Box

Acacia implexa
Lightwood

A graceful, long-lived wattle, useful as a screen plant or shade tree and looks great planted in groups. The dark fissured bark and sickle-shaped phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks that replace true leaves) add great textures to the garden.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- Fast-growing, slender tree that grows to 6m.

Flowers and foliage

- Light green foliage.
- Attractive sprays of pale yellow flowers from October to November, and sometimes again in autumn.

Preferred growing conditions

- Thrives in dry, sunny spots with shallow soil.
- Will also tolerate moist, well-drained soil types.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Acacia melanoxylon
Blackwood

Blackwood is a fast-growing screening or feature tree that is mildly drought-tolerant. Hardy and adaptable.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- Grows 5-10m high and 4-6m wide.
- Narrow and upright in shady conditions and a broad shade tree in the open when sufficient moisture is available.

Flowers and foliage

- Matte green foliage.
- Often produces a dense crown, almost to the ground.
- Round, pale yellow to creamy coloured flowers from July to October.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows best in deep, moist soil, but is adaptable.
- Tolerates some dryness once established.
- Full to part shade.
- Does not tolerate salty winds.

TREES

Allocasuarina verticillata
Drooping She-oak

A tall, graceful tree that is ideal as a feature tree or screening. An attractive feature is the sound of the wind passing through the fine branchlets of the Drooping She-oak.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- An erect tree with a dense rounded canopy.
- Grows to 4-11m high and 3-6m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Fine weeping branches.
- Small male flowers from March to December provide a golden effect.

Preferred growing conditions
- Adaptable to all local well-drained soils.
- Grows in full sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Banksia integrifolia
Coast Banksia

A sturdy and attractive tree that is a useful ornamental shade tree in the garden. Also useful as a windbreak or screening plant on larger properties.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- Moderately fast-growing and long-lived tree.
- Grows to 10-20m high and 5-10m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Dark green leaves with silvery undersides.
- Striking, pale yellow flowers on terminal spikes from February to September.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all well-drained local soils.
- Responds well to summer watering.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Banksia marginata
Silver Banksia

A striking feature tree or excellent screening plant.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/ woodland.

Size and habit
- A beautiful tree that grows to 1-5m high and 2-3m wide.
- Can be quite open or dense depending on the form and pruning.
- Attractive, woolly, brown new growth encouraged by pruning.

Flowers and foliage
- Grey-green leaves on top with silver undersides.
- Striking bright yellow flower spikes from September to April.

Preferred growing conditions
- Well-drained local soils, but tolerates being wet in winter and dry in summer.
- Grows in full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Eucalyptus pauciflora
Snow Gum or White Sallee

A feature tree of striking beauty with its white bark, shiny leaves and open canopy.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A low-branching, spreading tree of relatively small size.
- Grows 5-10m high and 6-10m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- Shiny, bright green leaves.
- White to cream flowers from October to January.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all local moist to dry soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana **Coast Manna-gum**

An ornamental tree best suited to large gardens.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Grows to 8-16m high and 5-12m wide.
- Short trunk and spreading crown.
- Fast-growing.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, sickle-shaped, dark green leaves.
- White flowers from March to May.

Preferred growing conditions

- An adaptable plant that tolerates all soils.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates moderate salty winds.

Leptospermum laevigatum **Coast Tea-tree**

An excellent screening plant or a beautiful feature tree in the garden.

Natural vegetation community

- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit

- Grows 2-8m high and 2-4m wide.
- Can be pruned to create a hedge.
- Twisting, gnarled trunk with flaking bark adds interest with age.

Flowers and foliage

- Flat, dull-green leaves.
- Attractive white flowers from August to October.

Preferred growing conditions

- All local, well-drained soils.
- Tolerates dryness once established.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Pest Plants

What is a pest plant?

When a plant thrives and invades an area where they do not naturally occur they are known as a pest plant, weed or invasive species.

Seeds and cuttings can be carried many kilometres by wind, water, tools, vehicles, clothing, pets, birds and animals. Plants can spread from people dumping garden cuttings in reserves and waterways.

Pest plants are a problem because they out-compete indigenous plants for light, water and nutrients. In a short time they can replace indigenous plants, effectively removing the food source and habitat of local fauna.

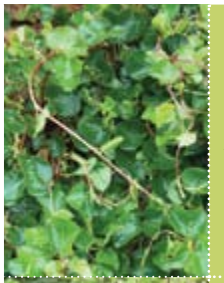
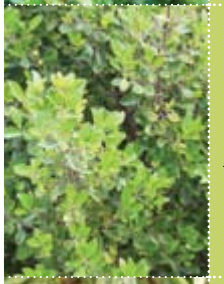
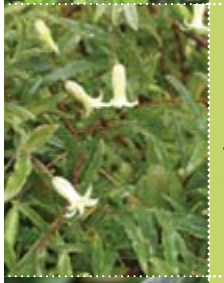
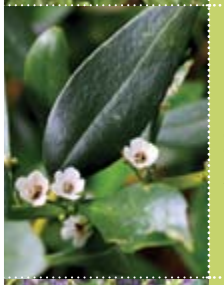
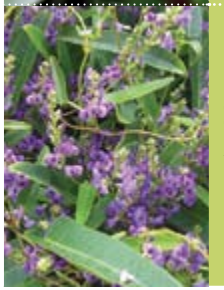
It is therefore important to know which garden plants are a problem in Bayside and avoid planting them or consider removing them if they are already in your garden.

The following section contains a small sample of Bayside pest plants. For a more extensive list of the many pest plants that threaten our plant communities visit: **www.delwp.vic.gov.au** and search 'weeds'.

Pest plants are a problem because they out-compete indigenous plants for light, water and nutrients.

Blue Periwinkle

PEST PLANT		REPLACEMENT PLANT	
	**Agapanthus** *Agapanthus praecox subsp. praecox* Characteristics: Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.		**Spreading Flax-lily** *Dianella admixta*
	**Black Nightshade** *Solanum nigrum* Characteristics: Distinctive green to black berries.		**Hop Goodenia** *Goodenia ovata*
	**Bridal Creeper** *Asparagus asparagoides* Characteristics: Highly invasive Weed of National Significance.		**Small-leaved Clematis** *Clematis microphylla*
	**Cape Ivy** *Delairea odorata* Characteristics: Seeds readily dispersed by wind.		**Common Apple-berry** *Billardiera mutabilis*
	**Gazania** *Gazania rigens* Characteristics: Spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.		**Common Everlasting** *Chysocephalum apiculatum*

PEST PLANT		REPLACEMENT PLANT	
	**Maderia Vine** *Anredera cordifolia* Characteristics: Can grow 10m in one growing season.		**Climbing lignum** *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*
	**Mirror Bush** *Coprosma repens* Characteristics: Shiny, green leaves popular for making skippy whistles.		**Sea Box** *Alyxia buxifolia*
	**Pampas Lily of the Valley** *Salpichroa origanifolia* Characteristics: A scrambling herb often spread from dumped garden waste.		**Common Apple-berry** *Billardiera mutabilis*
	**Sweet Pittosporum** *Pittosporum undulatum* Characteristics: Fleshy seed often spread by birds and animals.		**Common Boobialla** *Myoporum insulare*
	**Wandering Tradescantia** *Tradescantia fluminensis* Characteristics: An evergreen creeper that forms a smothering mat.		**Purple Coral Pea** *Hardenbergia violacea*

Disposal of weeds

Once you have removed a weed, the question then becomes, how to safely dispose of the plant material without causing it to further spread? The most environmentally friendly option is to recycle your pest plant material at home. Some options include:

Composting - You can add weeds to your compost bin or heap, but remember some weeds are hardier than others. You need to generate enough heat for the microorganisms to break down the weed material.

You can make your own compost heap or you can purchase a compost bin from Council by visiting: **www.bayside.vic.gov.au.**

Chicken Feed - Chooks will happily feed on a wide variety of herbaceous weeds.

Make your own weed tea (For your plants to drink, not humans!)

You will need:

- A pile of weeds
- A bucket or bin with a lid
- A large porous sack (an old pillow slip works well)

Method:

1. Stuff your weeds into the porous sack and submerge into a large bucket or bin of water.

2. Seal your bucket with a lid as the brew will start to smell very pungent!

3. Leave your tea to brew for five or six weeks, or until the weeds have decomposed into a brown sludge. (This means the nutrients and minerals in the weeds have been released into the water).

4. Remove your "teabag" and allow to drain. The tea bag material can now be placed in your compost or worm farm.

5. Dilute approx. one part tea to 10 parts water (it needs to look like weak tea).

6. Apply your "liquid gold" to any nutrient-hungry plants you have, such as fruit trees and vegetables and watch them thrive!

Source:
www.greenlifesoil.com.au

Avoid stockpiling weedy material as these weed piles may reshoot and set down roots again if left. Alternatively, weeds can be placed in your green waste kerbside collection bin, a fortnightly service for garden weeds, noxious weeds, grass clippings, pruning and small branches.

Further Reading

Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt: A Gardening Guide for South-eastern Melbourne.
Rob Scott, et al, Earthcare St Kilda, 2002.

Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area.
Marilyn Bull, Hyland House, 4th Edition, 2014.

Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia.
Leon Costermans, Reed New Holland, 2009.

Native Plants of Melbourne and Adjoining Areas.
David and Barbara Jones, Blooming Books, 1999.

Environmental Weeds: A Field Guide for SE Australia.
Kate Blood, Blooming Books, 2009.

Bush Invaders of South-East Australia.
Adam Muyt, R.G. and F.J. Richardson, 2001.

Weeds of the South East: An Identification Guide for Australia.
F.J. and R.G. Richardson, R.C.H. Shepherd, 2011.

Bayside Native Vegetation Works Program - Stage 1, prepared for Bayside City Council, Ecology Australia, 2013

Bayside Native Vegetation Works Program - Stage 2, prepared for Bayside City Council, Ecology Australia, 2013

Websites

Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association
www.iffa.org.au

Australian Plant Society, Victoria
www.apsvic.org.au

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
www.fncv.org.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia
www.sgaonline.org.au

Weeds Australia
www.weeds.org.au

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning.
www.delwp.vic.gov.au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