

THE CITY OF YARRA IS COMMITTED TO CREATE, SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE THE URBAN AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THIS BOOKLET IS ONE WAY IN WHICH THE CITY OF YARRA IS ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO SHARE IN THAT COMMITMENT.

If you would like to know more about gardening with local native plants in the City of Yarra and your language is not listed below, contact an interpreter on 9280 1940.

Gardening with Native Plants in Yarra



Arabic

إذا أردتم معرفة المزيد عن غرس النباتات الأهلية في حدائقكم في بلدية يارا الرجاء الاتصال بمترجم على الرقم 9280 1930.

Cantonese

如果想瞭解有關City of Yarra本地植物園藝的更多情況，請聯絡口譯員，電話：9280 1932。

Greek

Αν θέλετε να μάθετε περισσότερα πράγματα για την καλλιέργεια ντόπιων γηγενών φυτών στο Δήμο Yarra, επικοινωνήστε μ' ένα διερμηνέα στο 9280 1934.

Hakka

若想瞭解有關City of Yarra本地植物園藝的更多情況，請與口譯員聯系，電話：9280 1935。

Italian

Se vuoi saperne di più sul giardinaggio con le piante native nella City of Yarra, contatta un interprete al numero telefonico 9280 1940.

Mandarin

若想瞭解有關City of Yarra本地植物園藝的更多情況，請與口譯員聯系，電話：9280 1937。

Turkish

Yarra Belediyesinde bölgemize özgü bitkiler dikme ve bahçivalığı konusunda daha ayrıntılı bilgi isterseniz, 9280 1938 numaralı telefondan tercüman arayabilirsiniz.

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm chi tiết về việc trồng các loại cây cỏ bản xứ của địa phương tại Thành phố Yarra, xin liên lạc với thông dịch viên qua số 9280 1939.

A home gardener's guide to protecting our natural heritage





CITY OF

YARRA

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- Wrigley, J.W. and Fagg, M. (1988). *Australian Native Plants – Propagation, Cultivation and Use in Landscaping*. 3rd ed. Collins, Australia.
- A useful web site to visit is the Australian Plants Society (SGAP Victoria) Inc.
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sgapvic/> This site contains helpful information about growing native Australian plants in your garden. Also includes newsletter articles, details of gardens to visit, and links to other sites.

Contacts and Suppliers

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative (VINC)

Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield
Ph: 9482 1710
Fax: 9486 7155

Keelbundora Indigenous Plant Nursery

La Trobe University Wildlife Reserves Headquarters
Ring Road, La Trobe University, Bundoora
Ph: 9479 2871
Fax: 9479 3706

For information about Friends groups and other community groups in the City of Yarra, contact the Yarra Environment Officer or Greening Australia Victoria.

Acknowledgments

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Text by Phillipa Hood, based on information from *Flora of Melbourne* (Hyland House, 1993) and *Plants of the Merri Merri* (Merri Creek Management Committee, 1994). Cover illustration by Diana Platt, used with permission. Plant illustrations by George Stolfo, from *Flora of Melbourne*, reprinted with permission from APS Maroondah, Hyland House Publishing, 2001.

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Introduction

This booklet is about Yarra's natural heritage – in particular, the local native plants (indigenous plants) which occurred naturally in the City of Yarra. This booklet aims to raise community awareness of our indigenous plants and encourage Yarra's residents to include them in their gardens.

There are many reasons for using indigenous plants in your garden. Contributing to the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity is an important outcome. Since European settlement, the natural environment of Yarra has been significantly altered, with the associated loss of native plants and animals. Replacing the original vegetation is a critical step in protecting biodiversity from further decline and in sustaining the genetic diversity of our local native plants. Indigenous gardens can be highly valuable, linking with existing areas of native vegetation to increase the amount of food and habitat available to native wildlife. However, it is important to remember that it is unrealistic to aim to re-create natural bushland in the modified environment of a suburban garden.

Other benefits of indigenous plants include their adaptation to local conditions. With little special care, most indigenous plants will survive well on rainfall, can tolerate periods of drought, and also tolerate the natural soil conditions, such as poor drainage or low fertility.

The communities of plant species which naturally occurred in the City of Yarra are unique – they are the result of the special combination of soils, topography, climate, and waterways which makes up our municipality. Putting back some of the original plant species contributes to conserving this unique local character.

Geology and Soils of Yarra

The shape of the natural environment around us is mostly a result of various events throughout geological history. These events include volcanic activity, submersion under the sea, glacial activity, movements of the earth's crust, and periods of weathering and erosion. Processes influencing the geology of the City of Yarra are described here.

Sedimentary rocks were created during a period of high sea levels over 400 million years ago, when much of Victoria was submerged. These rocks were folded by movements of the earth's crust which created hills and valleys. At various points along the steep eastern bank of the Yarra River these contorted rocks can be seen.

As the sea receded, streams formed and flowed across the landscape, eroding rocks and transporting sands and gravels. Deposits of these sands and gravels occurred in various areas, including at Clifton Hill within the City of Yarra.

Volcanic activity in the last 2 million years created a lava plain which covered most of the sedimentary rocks in the City of Yarra. The lava flows originated from volcanic cones north of Melbourne, and flowed south along the valleys of the Merri and Darebin Creeks. The lava flowed into the wide valley of the Yarra River and spread out, forming small volcanic plains on the river floodplain areas. The solidified lava became basalt rock, which has been subject to erosion as the displaced creeks and river reformed and cut new channels. The Yarra River flowed along the eastern edge of the hard basalt rock, cutting a channel into the softer sedimentary rock. This can be easily seen along the Eastern Freeway, with basalt rock exposed in a cutting on the west bank of the river, and sedimentary rock visible on the east bank of the river. The Merri and Darebin Creeks changed their

courses and cut deep, steep-sided channels through the basalt.

Over time, the basalt plain has been subject to weathering and erosion, breaking down the bedrock to form soil. The soils produced from basalt bedrock are primarily deep, black, poorly-drained clays, which become waterlogged in winter, and hard, dry and cracked in summer. Where basalt rocks are exposed, in stony rises or on escarpments, the soils are shallow. Where sedimentary rocks persist on hilltops, the soils are light grey loams with yellow clay subsoil, and are relatively infertile. Alluvial soils occur in small floodplain areas along the waterways. These can be loamy, sandy or clay soils with variable drainage properties. Different plant species occurred in association with the different soil types, with some plants surviving best on basalt and others doing well on alluvial soils. These associations contributed to the development of plant communities (see *Native Vegetation of Yarra* on page 3).

Since European settlement of the Melbourne area, human activities have significantly altered the natural environment, including the soils. Basalt (bluestone) was quarried from several locations within the City of Yarra, and gravel and sand was extracted from a quarry in Clifton Hill. As the metropolitan area expanded, urban development of the area included removing topsoil and/or importing soil as fill for some building sites. For this reason, many suburban backyards will contain soil which bears little resemblance to the natural soil type. Although soil type is a key influence on the naturally occurring plant species, most plants are adaptable to garden situations and will survive in soils which have been modified from their natural state.

Native Vegetation of Yarra

Prior to European settlement, the City of Yarra looked vastly different to today. The original inhabitants, several family groups of the Wurundjeri people, lived in a land of forests, woodlands, grasslands, swamps, creeks and rivers. The Aboriginal way of life involved managing the environment in various ways. Plant materials were gathered for a variety of uses, from food and medicine to tools and weapons. Important plants were managed in such a way as to ensure a continuing supply. Fire was often used to stimulate fresh growth and maintain an open vegetation structure. These activities influenced the environment, but in subtle and gradual ways which resulted in minimal modification to the natural landscape. Aboriginal custodianship and care for the land is often regarded as a model for sustainable environmental management. By contrast, many European activities in the last

200 years have caused rapid and dramatic changes to the environment, many of which have resulted in environmental problems.

Records from early explorations and diary notes of settlers describe an extensive forest in the Richmond, Fitzroy and Collingwood areas, with areas along the Merri Creek having more grassland and fewer trees. Records also mention River Red Gum forests with an understorey of wildflowers, Manna Gum forests with tea-tree, pomaderris and cassinia, and swampy areas of rushes and tea-tree.

From this information, and the patches of remnant vegetation which still exist, an idea of the original vegetation communities can be gathered. At least nine original Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVC's) still occur to some degree within the City of Yarra. These are summarised below:

Riparian Woodland	An overstorey of River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>), mid storey of Silver Wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) and River Bottlebrush (<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>) and other species, and understorey of grasses and herbs (eg: <i>Poa labillardieri</i>). Remnants of this EVC in the City of Yarra contain a high number of introduced plant species.
Floodplain Riparian Woodland	Similar to Riparian Woodland but also including Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), sedges (<i>Isolepis</i> spp.), and rushes (<i>Juncus</i> spp.) along the water's edge, particularly in the river bends.
Riparian Scrub	A very fragmented community along the lower terraces and streambed of the Merri Creek. It includes Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>), Woolly Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>), Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), and Slender Knotweed (<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>).
Swamp Scrub	Originally consisting of Swamp Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>), River Bottlebrush (<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>), and Woolly Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>) with an understorey of Weeping Grass (<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>) and Pithy Sword-sedge (<i>Lepidosperma longitudinale</i>). Remnants of this EVC in the City of Yarra are isolated fragments on flat floodplain areas, mainly of Swamp Paperbark with an understorey of introduced species.

Plains Grassy Woodland	An EVC that has been extensively cleared. A few remaining patches (eg: at Coate Park) have an overstorey of River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>), Coast Manna Gum (<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>) and Yellow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>connata</i>), and a shrub midstorey of sparse wattles (<i>Acacia</i> spp.). The groundstorey would be of Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>), Wallaby-grasses (<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.) and Spear-grasses (<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.), with many wildflowers such as lilies and orchids.
Wetland Complex	Billabongs along the Yarra River and wetlands in depressions on the basalt plains would have contained a variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, including Water-ribbon (<i>Triglochin procera</i>), Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), milfoils (<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.), and rushes (<i>Juncus</i> spp.). Remnants of this EVC occur in the wetlands at Alphington Park.
Aquatic Herbland	The vegetation within the stream and along the edge of Merri Creek and Darebin Creek, consisting of Slender Knotweed (<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>), Water Plantain (<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>) and sedges (<i>Bolboschoenus</i> spp., <i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp.). Many introduced plant species now occur in this community.
Valley Grassy Forest	In Yarra, this community is restricted to the (mostly north-facing) slopes of the Yarra River near the Yarra Bend Golf Course. The overstorey is of Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>), Yellow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>connata</i>) and River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) on the lower parts, with a shrub layer mainly of Cherry Ballart (<i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i>), Black Wattle (<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>) and Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>). Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) is common in the ground cover.
Escarpment Shrubland	This community is associated with the rocky escarpments and outcrops of the Merri Creek. Originally dominated by Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>) and Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>), small shrubs such as Ruby Saltbush (<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>) and Rock Correa (<i>Correa glabra</i>), and grasses. Currently the shrub layer is very degraded, and the grass cover includes Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>), Spear-grasses (<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.) and introduced species.

The original vegetation has been changed in many ways by factors associated with European settlement. Clearing for agriculture and urban development; introduced plant and animal species; pollution and litter from industrial and residential areas; modification of stream channels for flood control; and construction of infrastructure (roads, powerlines, etc.) are several of the ways in which settlement has impacted on the natural environment.

The scarcity of thorough information about original vegetation, and the small size and modified nature of the remaining vegetation fragments in the City of Yarra, make protection and enhancement of indigenous vegetation of vital importance for a sustainable future. Planting indigenous vegetation in our suburban gardens is a key step towards enhancing the remnant vegetation throughout the City of Yarra.

Gardening with Local Native Plants in Yarra

Part 1 – PREPARING YOUR INDIGENOUS GARDEN

PLANNING

Planning is an important step to take before putting any plants in the ground. Taking the time to plan ensures that your indigenous garden lives up to your expectations and achieves your purposes. The following points need to be considered:

What are you planting for? There are many reasons to plant indigenous species. You may be concerned about providing habitat and food plants for native wildlife; you may want an 'easy-care' garden which requires little watering or fertilising; you may simply wish to create a beautiful, colourful garden. Your purpose for planting will have some bearing on which plant species you choose.

Wildlife: If there are parks or gardens of native plants close by, that will increase the likelihood that your indigenous plants will be utilised by native wildlife such as insects, birds, frogs and lizards. It will therefore be important to plant species which provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Easy-care: Many indigenous plants require little water, fertiliser and maintenance. However, to keep your garden looking good it is usually necessary to do some pruning and tidying up. To avoid this, choose plants which will not grow too large or straggly. To reduce weeding, plant groundcovers to keep the weeds down.

Beauty and colour: Indigenous plants flower at many different times of the year and in many colours. Choose a variety of plants to ensure that you have some colour throughout the year, and use different colours and textures of foliage to create interest. Group plantings are often a spectacular feature.

How much space do you have? In the City of Yarra, many gardens are small courtyards with little space for large trees or shrubs. The amount of available space is further impacted upon by things such as buildings, fences or paths; overhead or underground pipes and cables; sewers, drains and plumbing. In order to avoid damaging these structures, it may be necessary to plant a certain distance away. Avoid the temptation to fill your garden with too many plants. After some time, the garden will be overflowing and hard to maintain. Look carefully at the mature size of the plants and allow space for them to grow. Roughly work out the diameters of plants on the ground and then decide how many plants you can accommodate.

What is your garden like (soil, slope and sun)?

The type of soil and how well drained it is will determine which plant species are suitable for your garden. If your soil has been modified from natural, you may only be able to plant species which are tolerant of variable soils and drainage. Being on a slope may mean that your garden is drier and better drained than a flat garden or a garden in a gully. The direction which your garden faces will dictate how much sun you receive. A north- or west-facing garden will be sunnier, and therefore hotter and drier, than an east- or south-facing garden. There may be areas in your garden which receive full sun, and areas which receive little or no sun. It is important to know how the different parts of your garden behave throughout the seasons – the wet/dry and sunny/shady areas. You will need to select plant species suited to the conditions in those areas.

How do you want your garden to look? Garden design is a matter of personal taste. The layout of plants, different combinations of species, and size and shape of garden beds are all aspects of garden design to be considered. Two extremes of design are informal and formal. An informal 'bush garden' contains plants which are spaced in random clumps to give as natural a feel as possible.

While this can look 'messy' in comparison with a traditional garden, a bush garden has charm and individuality. Alternatively, formal gardens use repeated, regular shapes, clipped hedges and borders, and even spacings to create a balanced, cultured-looking area. Many indigenous plants can be pruned and used to great effect in a formal garden design, especially in a courtyard area.

PREPARATION

Before planting, it is a good idea to remove weeds as thoroughly as possible. Weeds compete with young plants for moisture and nutrients, so removing them before planting is important.

Hand-weeding is a simple approach for a small area, although you need to be sure to remove underground parts of the plant as well as the surface growth to prevent the weed regrowing.

Smothering is a longer term approach which involves removing surface growth then covering the area with mulch, weed matting or black plastic. This eliminates light from the weeds and stifles them. If mulch or weed matting is used, this can be left in place permanently and it will eventually break down. (More information about mulching is included in the Planting section on page 7.) Leave black plastic in place for up to six months for maximum effectiveness. **Herbicides** can be used to control stubborn weeds. Only use the amount necessary to achieve the desired result. Always follow the directions on the label and wear protective clothing.

Cultivation of the soil can create more of a weed problem as seeds are brought to the surface and exposed to light and warmth. With very hard soil, soften it up with repeated thorough, soaking watering over a few days. Soil can be aerated by plunging in a garden fork and removing it without turning the soil over.

PURCHASING

Take your list of chosen plants to a local indigenous nursery (see Contacts and Suppliers section at the back of this booklet). If you are still unsure about the species you have chosen, the nursery staff should be able to give you some more guidance. Indigenous plants are usually sold in 'tubes', which are long, narrow pots. Plants from tubes generally grow well and develop good root systems. Choose plants which are healthy, with fresh growth; not overgrown with roots coming out of the bottom of the pot; and not too small. It is also important to choose plants which have been propagated from local material. This information should be provided on the plant label, and if not, ask the nursery staff which location the material was sourced from (also referred to as 'provenance'). Using material from the local area avoids bringing foreign genetic material into the area, which can contaminate the local gene pool. Try to purchase your plants just before you plan to plant them out, to minimise plant stress. Be aware that not all of your chosen plants may be available – the availability of indigenous plants is subject to the seasons and seed supply. The widest range of species will be available early in the planting seasons (autumn and spring). You can check with the nursery about availability of a certain species, or possibly place an order a few months ahead of when you want to plant.

PLANTING

Autumn and spring are the best seasons for planting, when the soil is moist and the temperature is warm but not too hot. Planting at these times gives the plant a chance to establish itself before the hot and dry summer arrives. A well-established young plant should not need extra watering to survive over summer. Water the plants thoroughly in their pots the night before you plant them, and ensure that the soil is moist.

Dig a hole a little bigger than the pot, and loosen the soil around the edges of the hole, to allow for root growth. Ease the plant out of the pot, taking care not to crush the leaves or the stem. Place the plant in the hole and fill in with soil, firming around the plant. Water thoroughly (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a bucket of water is enough). Mulching around the plant is a good way to protect the young plant from weeds, and retain soil moisture. A layer of woodchip style mulch should be around 10 cm thick. Mulch can be applied either before planting (in the preparation stage) as weed control over a large area, or after planting, around individual plants. If mulch has been laid down before planting, ensure that you plant into the soil itself, rather than planting into the mulch layer. The nursery staff should be able to supply you with mulch, or tell you where to obtain it.

A NOTE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Weeds are a fact of life for all land managers, from suburban gardeners to park rangers. Environmental weeds are plants which invade and damage areas of natural bush, by competing with indigenous plants for light, water, nutrients and space. The majority of environmental weeds are plants which have been deliberately brought into Australia for use in gardens or agriculture. Species such as Cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster* spp.), English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) are examples of garden plants which do serious damage in natural areas. Some native plants which are out of their natural range can also create problems. This group includes Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) and Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*). It is important to learn which environmental weeds you have in your garden. Removing them and replanting with indigenous plants is a step towards protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Part 2 – GETTING TO KNOW OUR INDIGENOUS PLANTS

This section includes descriptions and illustrations of 69 plants indigenous to the City of Yarra. All species described are available through local indigenous nurseries. This list is not comprehensive – there are many more indigenous species which have not been included here. Refer to the *References and Further Reading* section for more information.

In order to accurately discuss a specific type of plant, we refer to it as a **species**, which is a botanical classification. In some cases a species is divided further, into **subspecies** (abbreviated to ssp.), where botanists wish to differentiate between two forms of the same species. Groups of closely related species share the same **genus** name, which is the first of the two botanical names: eg. genus *Acacia*, species *dealbata* (commonly known as Silver Wattle). A **family** is a group of related genera (the plural of genus).

Most species included here are those which are considered to be of Regional Conservation Significance in the area. One species (Yellow Gum Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. connata) is considered to be of State Conservation Significance. The other species described are attractive, easily grown and relatively common indigenous garden plants. Plants of Regional Conservation Significance which are not commonly available are listed in the section *Additional Species of Significance*.

Conservation significance is an indication of the status of a particular species in a given area (local, regional, state or national). Due to the great loss of indigenous species throughout the City of Yarra, all species are of at least local significance. Species of regional significance are poorly known or infrequently recorded in the region. Species of state significance are those listed as threatened,

extinct, endangered, vulnerable or rare in Victoria, or poorly known in Australia. Significant species are noted in this booklet with the following symbols:



Regional Conservation Significance



State Conservation Significance

The indigenous plants in this booklet are grouped according to habit in the following categories for easy reference:

Grasses	Page 9
Small Plants (under 1 metre)	Page 15
Groundcovers and Climbers	Page 23
Shrubs (1 to 6 metres)	Page 28
Trees (over 6 metres)	Page 39
Aquatic Plants (notes only – no descriptions)	Page 45
Additional Species of Significance	Page 45

Within each category the plants are listed alphabetically by their botanical name. Sizes are noted as height by width (eg. 10–30 × 50cm), unless otherwise stated.

Grasses

NOTE: Many indigenous grasses spread quite vigorously, and may take over your garden if not kept in check. Spear-grasses (*Austrostipa* species) are less likely to spread than the others mentioned here.



Agrostis avenacea Common Blown-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 20cm wide, with flower stems to 60cm high

Form & Flowers: Annual or perennial grass, forming a fine tussock. Slightly drooping grey-green flowerheads appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Full sun; moist, poorly-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant. Effective in group plantings. Can be used in lawns.

Austrodanthonia caespitosa Common Wallaby-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 20-40 × 40cm, with flower stems to 1.2m high

Form & Flowers: Perennial tussock grass, with fine to coarse leaves. Flowers appear in spring and summer, turning fluffy and pale when mature.

Situation: Full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very hardy, drought tolerant. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds and butterfly caterpillars.

Grasses



Austrodanthonia duttoniana
Brown-back Wallaby-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 40 × 50cm, with flower stems to 1m high

Form & Flowers: Perennial, dense tussock grass. Pale green flowers appear in spring and summer, maturing to red-brown.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, poorly-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. Effective in group plantings.



Austrodanthonia geniculata
Kneel Wallaby-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 15 × 20cm, with flower stems to 30cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial grass, forming small tussock of very fine leaves. Pale flowers in dense spikes appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; tolerant of most soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant. Useful in lawns but slow to establish.

Grasses



Austrostipa bigeniculata
Kneel Spear-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: to 20cm high, with flower stems 0.3–1.2m high

Form & Flowers: Erect tussock grass with ridged leaves. Large, open flowerheads appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.



Austrostipa scabra ssp. *falcata*
Rough Spear-grass

Family: Poaceae

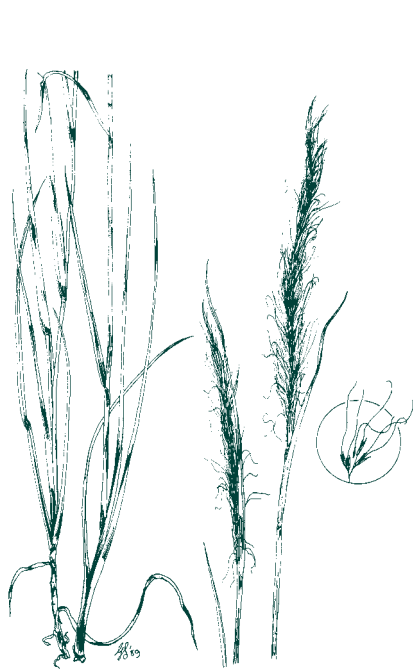
Size: 30 × 30cm, stems to 90cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial, erect tussock grass with fine leaves. Silky, spreading flowerheads appear in spring to early summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy and drought tolerant. Dislikes poor drainage. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds.



Dichelachne crinita
Long-hair Plume-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: to 30cm high, with flower stems 0.5 – 1m high

Form & Flowers: Perennial grass forming an open tussock of fine leaves. Dense, plume-like flowerheads appear on long stems in spring and early summer.

Situation: Full sun; well-drained soils.

Comments: Very hardy. Extra water in summer extends flowering. Attractive ornamental grass.



Elymus scabrus
Common Wheat-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 20 × 40cm, with flower stems to 80cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial, open tussock grass with erect or drooping stems and green or bluish leaves. Flowers appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; well drained soils.

Comments: Forms with bluish leaves are especially attractive as garden plants.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies.



Microlaena stipoides
Weeping Grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: variable; to 30 × 70cm, with flower stems to 1m high.

Form & Flowers: Perennial, spreading, erect or semi-prostrate grass with narrow leaves. In good conditions, will stay green all year. Green, nodding flowerheads appear in spring.

Situation: Slightly protected position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant. A good lawn grass for shady spots. Tolerates poor drainage through winter. Growth can be assisted by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars.



Poa labillardieri
Common Tussock-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 30-80cm high, flower stems to 1.2m high

Form & Flowers: Perennial grass, forming a large, graceful, dense tussock of long, rough leaves. Spreading, green or purplish flowerheads appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very hardy, fast-growing and drought tolerant. Tolerates poor drainage and some shade. Forms a good groundcover when planted thickly. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. An important plant for indigenous gardens.

Wildlife: Food plant for small birds and butterfly caterpillars.



Poa morrisii
Velvet Tussock-grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 30 × 30cm, with flower stems to 90cm high.

Form & Flowers: Perennial, dense, small tussock with soft, hairy, grey-green leaves. Open, branching flowerheads appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; dry to moist well-drained soils.

Comments: Attractive grass, tolerant of drought and full sun. Dislikes poor drainage. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds and butterfly caterpillars.



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass

Family: Poaceae

Size: 40 × 75cm, with flower stems to 90cm high.

Form & Flowers: Perennial, dense tussock of narrow leaves which are green or purple-green. In summer the leaves turn a pale rusty colour. Large, distinctive, red-brown spiky flowerheads appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Adaptable, tolerating most well-drained soils and semi-shade. Drought tolerant, fast-growing. Heavy trimming of old tussocks in autumn or early winter, followed by thorough watering, will promote fresh growth. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds and butterfly caterpillars.



Adiantum aethiopicum
Common Maidenhair Fern

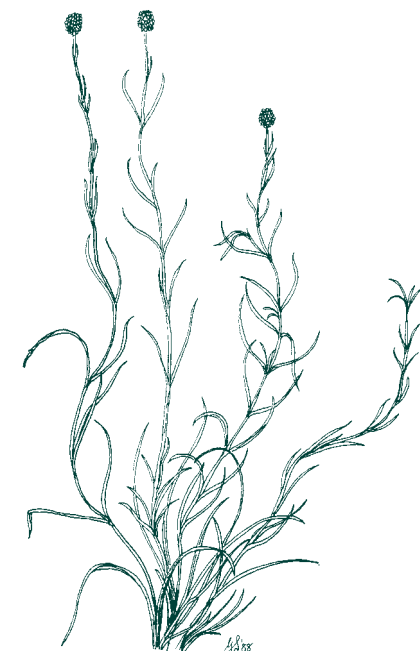
Family: Adiantaceae

Size: 10-45cm high, spreading

Form: Perennial, spreading fern with delicate, lacy, light-green fronds on black stems. Foliage darkens with age.

Situation: Dappled shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Frost and drought sensitive; tolerant of poor drainage. Can become dormant in summer if too hot and dry, but established plants will reshoot with increased moisture. A reliable, attractive fern, suited to containers. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser.



Calocephalus citreus
Lemon Beauty Heads

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 20-50cm × 30cm-1m

Form & Flowers: Perennial plant, with narrow, silver-grey leaves. Many egg-shaped, bright-yellow flowerheads appear in spring and summer on erect stems.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerates drought and semi-shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Plant dies off after flowering and reshoots in mid-winter. Pruning old stems will promote dense fresh growth. Effective in group plantings. Suitable for containers.

Wildlife: Nectar source for butterflies.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Chrysocephalum semipapposum Clustered Everlasting

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 0.3-1m × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, spreading plant with grey-green, woolly leaves on dense erect stems. Clusters of small golden yellow flowers appear at ends of stems in spring and autumn.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very hardy, adaptable and drought tolerant. Tolerates full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Fast-growing. Hard pruning of old flowerheads and stems in winter will promote dense, fresh growth in spring. Suitable for containers. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Nectar source for butterflies.



Dianella longifolia Pale Flax-lily

Family: Liliaceae

Size: 30-80 × 50cm

Form & Flowers: Perennial lily, forming tussock of long, linear, blue-grey leaves. Many pale-blue, star-shaped flowers appear in clusters on long stems in spring and early summer. Attractive, shiny, dark-blue berries follow flowering.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerates full sun to full shade, dislikes poor drainage. Hardy and drought tolerant, although may die off over summer, resprouting in autumn following rain. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser. Can be grown in containers. Easily maintained. Berries edible when ripe.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Dianella revoluta Black-anther Flax lily

Family: Liliaceae

Size: 0.3-1 × 0.5-2.5m

Form & Flowers: Perennial lily, similar to *D. longifolia*. Spreads by rhizomes. Flowers are blue with black and yellow centres, appearing in spring and summer to autumn.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, very tolerant once established. Drought tolerant, grows more vigorously with good moisture. Tolerates full sun to full shade, but dislikes poor drainage. Can be grown in containers. Berries edible when ripe. Effective in group plantings with other clumping plants such as Tussock-grasses.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds.



Einadia nutans Nodding Saltbush

Family: Chenopodiaceae

Size: 30cm × 1.2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial low shrub or groundcover with spear-shaped, grey-green leaves. Clusters of insignificant flowers in summer and autumn are followed by red, succulent berries.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very hardy and drought tolerant; dislikes poor drainage. Suited to dry banks or rockeries. For a full groundcover, plant 60cm apart.

Wildlife: Food plant for birds.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Enchylaena tomentosa Ruby Saltbush

Family: Chenopodiaceae

Size: Prostrate-1m x 0.5-1m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, low, woody shrub with succulent, blue-green leaves. Insignificant flowers appear in spring and early summer, followed by green, succulent berries ripening to yellow or red.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Attractive; adaptable; tolerant of drought, shade and poor soils. Dislikes poor drainage. Suited to containers. Pruning promotes fresh growth.

Wildlife: Food plant for birds.

Lobelia alata Angled Lobelia

Family: Campanulaceae

Size: Prostrate-30cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial, spreading small plant or groundcover with narrow, soft leaves and angled stems. Fan-shaped, pale-blue flowers appear through most of the year.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist soils

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Lomandra filiformis Wattle Mat-rush

Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

Size: 15-50 x 15-20cm

Form & Flowers: Perennial, rush-like plant, forming tussock of narrow, tough, blue-green to green leaves. Clusters of yellow or cream, nectar-rich, globular flowers appear in spring and early summer. Male and female flowers on separate plants.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant. Also tolerant of dry soils in semi-shade once established. Attractive, long-lived plant, suited to rockeries or containers.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds and butterfly caterpillars.

Lomandra longifolia Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

Size: 0.5-1 x 0.5-1.2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, rush-like plant, forming large tussock of smooth, bright-green leaves. Many clusters of fragrant, yellowish, nectar-rich flowers appear in spring and early summer. Male and female flowers on separate plants. Brownish-orange capsules follow flowering.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerant of drought, flood and poor-drainage. Also tolerates full sun to full shade.

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds and butterfly caterpillars.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Senecio quadridentatus
Cotton Fireweed

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 0.4-1 × 0.5-1m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, multi-stemmed plant, appearing grey due to fine hairs on stems and leaves. Leaves are narrow and pointed. Loose clusters of small, greenish-yellow flowers appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Full sun to semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very adaptable. Tolerates dry conditions, but may die off until moisture increases.



Vittadinia cervicularis
New Holland Daisy

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 15-25cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial daisy with erect stems and small, velvety leaves. Small mauve-purple daisy flowers with yellow centres appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerant of full sun; dislikes poor drainage and is drought sensitive. May die off in hot, dry weather but will reshoot after rain. Pruning of old stems in winter will promote dense, fresh growth in spring. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser. Effective in group plantings.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Vittadinia muelleri
Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy

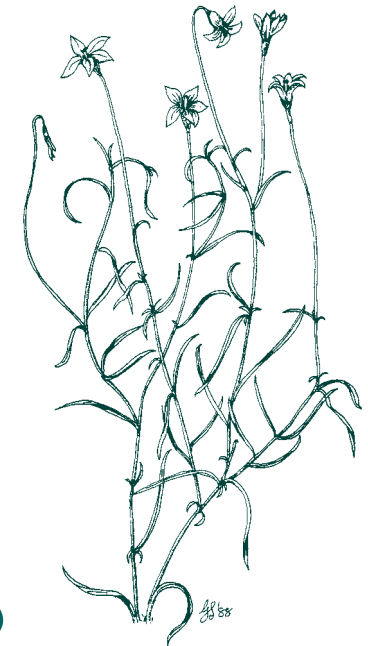
Family: Asteraceae

Size: 10-30 × 30cm

Form & Flowers: Perennial daisy, similar to *V. cervicularis*. Leaves are less hairy than *V. cervicularis* and sometimes have three pointed lobes. Small dark-blue flowers are held above the leaves and appear through most of the year.

Situation: Full sun to semi-shade; well drained soils.

Comments: Dislikes poor drainage and is drought sensitive. May die off in hot, dry weather but will reshoot after rain. Pruning of old stems in winter will promote dense, fresh growth in spring. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser. Effective in group plantings.



Wahlenbergia communis
Tufted Bluebell

Family: Campanulaceae

Size: 15-50 × 15cm

Form & Flowers: Perennial plant, forming an open tuft of bright-green leaves on branching stems. Paired or single pale to bright-blue flowers appear on erect stems in spring and summer to autumn.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Drought sensitive, dislikes poor drainage. Tolerates full shade. Effective in group plantings.

Wildlife: Food plant for insect-eating birds.

Small Plants (under 1 metre)



Wahlenbergia luteola Yellowish Bluebell

Family: Campanulaceae

Size: 6-40cm high

Form & Flowers: Perennial plant, with delicate, fine leaves. Numerous blue flowers, yellowish-brown on outside, on a branched stem in spring and autumn. Can flower for most of the year.

Situation: Sunny position; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Effective in group plantings. Suited to rockeries and containers.

Groundcovers and Climbers



Acaena novae-zelandiae Bidgee-widgee

Family: Rosaceae

Size: Prostrate × 1-4m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, rambling plant, forming a mat of lobed, dark green leaves. Greenish-white spherical flowerheads appear in spring and summer. Seeds are held in spiny, red spheres after flowering.

Situation: Full sun to semi-shade; well-drained soils.

Comments: Adaptable; tolerant of wet or dry soils. *The burrs can be a problem on clothing.*



Centella cordifolia Swamp Pennywort

Family: Apiaceae

Size: Prostrate × 1-2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, creeping plant with heart-shaped leaves. Small white or pink flowers appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Shade; moist to wet soils.

Comments: Suited to boggy areas. Fast growing; may become invasive.



Clematis microphylla
Small-leaved Clematis

Family: Ranunculaceae

Form & Flowers: Perennial climber with slender stems and oblong, lobed leaves. Many cream-coloured star-shaped flowers appear in late winter to spring. Male and female flowers on separate plants. Seedheads are fluffy and decorative.

Situation: Open position; semi-shade; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy and tolerant of drought, full sun and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Climbs up trees but does not damage them.

Wildlife: Birds use fluffy seedheads to line nests.



Convolvulus erubescens
Pink Bindweed

Family: Convolvulaceae

Size: 10-30 x 50cm

Form & Flowers: Perennial, delicate prostrate or climbing plant with narrow, lobed leaves. Rosy pink, shallow flowers appear in spring and summer. Flowers open in bright sunlight and close in darker conditions.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant; dislikes poor drainage. Fast-growing. For full groundcover, plant 50cm apart. Suited to containers.



Disphyma crassifolium* ssp. *clavellatum

Rounded Moon-flower

Family: Aizoaceae

Size: Prostrate x 1-2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, spreading, succulent plant. Pink or magenta daisy-like flowers with white centres appear in spring and summer. Foliage can vary from green to purple.

Situation: Open position; full sun; tolerates most soils.



Glycine tabacina
Variable Glycine

Family: Fabaceae

Size: Stems 0.2-2m long

Form & Flowers: Perennial, creeping groundcover with three-lobed leaves. Spikes of blue-purple pea-shaped flowers appear in summer and autumn.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Drought tolerant once established; tolerates semi-shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Frost sensitive. Suited to rockeries.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars.



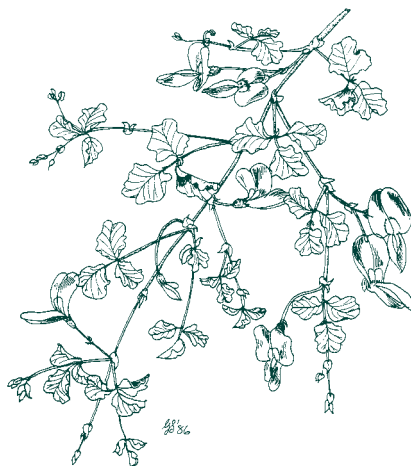
Hardenbergia violacea
Purple Coral Pea

Family: Fabaceae

Form & Flowers: Perennial, dense climber or groundcover with glossy, dark-green leaves on wiry stems. Many sprays of dark purple pea-flowers appear in late winter and spring.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, popular garden plant. Tolerant of drought and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Dense, fresh growth can be promoted by pruning. Many cultivated forms are commercially available but are different to the naturally-occurring form.



Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman

Family: Fabaceae

Size: Prostrate × 1.5m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, trailing groundcover with hairy, crinkled, grey-green leaves on tough stems. Scattered bright scarlet nectar-rich pea-flowers appear in autumn through to early summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, showy plant. Tolerates drought once established. Tolerant of moist soils and full sun. Dislikes poor drainage. For full groundcover, plant 1m apart. Can be grown in hanging baskets.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies and nectar- and insect-eating birds.



Rubus parvifolius
Small-leaf Bramble

Family: Rosaceae

Size: 0.6-1 × 0.5-2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial, rambling shrub or trailing groundcover, similar to raspberry plant in appearance. Stems are thorny and leaves are like small rose leaves. Small, deep pink flowers appear in spring and early summer, and are followed by edible red berries.

Situation: Semi-shade; well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy; tolerant of drought, full sun and full shade. Can be trained as a climber. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser. *Plant away from paths because of thorns.*

Wildlife: Food plant for birds.



Viola hederacea
Native Violet

Family: Violaceae

Size: Prostrate-15cm × 1-2m

Form & Flowers: Perennial plant, forming a dense mat of kidney-shaped leaves. White to purple fragrant flowers appear through most of the year, especially in late winter and spring.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist to wet soils.

Comments: Tolerates poor drainage, very wet soils, full sun to full shade. Drought sensitive. Grows prolifically once established. For full groundcover, plant 50cm apart. Growth can be encouraged by applying small amounts of native plant fertiliser. Suited to containers.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 2-4 × 2-5m

Form & Flowers: Dense, very prickly, spreading shrub with wavy-edged, olive-green to dark-green leaves. Golden-yellow flowers in balls appear in spring. Seed pods are slightly furry.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy, fast-growing, very ornamental. Tolerant of drought, moist soils and semi-shade; dislikes poor drainage. Accepts light pruning. *Plant away from paths because of thorns. A similar but non-thorny plant is Acacia acinacea (Gold Dust Wattle).*

Wildlife: Excellent safe nesting site for small birds; food plant for insect- and seed-eating birds.



Acacia pyrenantha Golden Wattle

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 3-6 × 2-5m

Form & Flowers: Erect or slightly drooping shrub with glossy, curved, bright-green leaves. Flowers profusely in late winter and spring, with many fragrant golden-yellow balls clustered on spikes.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Australia's floral emblem. Fast-growing, tolerant of drought, moist soils and semi-shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Sensitive to frosts when young. Dense growth is promoted by pruning when young.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and insect, seed and nectar-feeding birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Acacia verticillata Prickly Moses

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 2-6 × 3-5m

Form & Flowers: Open shrub with prickly, needle-like leaves arranged in 'wheels' around the stems. Dense spikes of light-yellow flowers appear in winter and spring.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy; tolerant of drought, flood, poor drainage, full sun and full shade. Dislikes dry soils. Dense growth can be promoted by pruning when young. *Plant away from paths because of prickly foliage.*

Wildlife: Excellent safe nesting site for small birds; food plant for insect- and seed-eating birds.



Bursaria spinosa Sweet Bursaria

Family: Pittosporaceae

Size: 2-6 × 2-3m

Form & Flowers: Slender, slightly thorny shrub with shiny dark-green leaves. Fluffy masses of fragrant, cream-white flowers appear in summer and autumn. Bronze, heart-shaped seed-capsules follow flowering.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Easily grown ornamental plant, although slow-growing. Hardy, tolerant of drought, moist soils and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Pruning tips regularly encourages dense growth. Can be pruned to a single trunk to form a small tree shape. *Plant away from paths because of thorns.*

Wildlife: Excellent safe nesting site for small birds; food plant for butterflies and insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Callistemon sieberi River Bottlebrush

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 3-6 × 2-6m

Form & Flowers: Open, weeping shrub with narrow, pointed, green leaves. New growth is silky and silver-bronze. Cream or pink flower spikes appear in late spring to autumn.

Situation: Sheltered position; semi-shade; moist, poorly-drained soils.

Comments: Attractive, fast-growing, very hardy, drought tolerant. Pruning of old flowerheads promotes prolific flowering and dense growth.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies and nectar- and seed-eating birds.



Cassinia aculeata Common Cassinia

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 2-4 × 1-2m

Form & Flowers: Erect shrub with aromatic, dark-green leaves, white underneath. Many dense heads of whitish flowers appear in late spring and summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing. Tolerant of drought, frost, full sun and dry soils. Dislikes poor drainage. Pruning old flowerheads will promote further flowering and dense growth.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Correa glabra Rock Correa

Family: Rutaceae

Size: 1-3 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Dense, erect or spreading shrub with shiny, dark-green leaves. Pale yellow-green bell-shaped flowers appear through most of the year, predominantly in winter.

Situation: Open position, semi-shade, dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing ornamental plant. Tolerant of drought, full sun and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Accepts pruning. A useful hedge plant. Can also be grown in containers.

Wildlife: Food plant for nectar-eating birds.



Dillwynia cinerascens Grey Parrot Pea

Family: Fabaceae

Size: 1 × 0.5-1m

Form & Flowers: Erect shrub with narrow, grey-green leaves. Clusters of orange pea-flowers appear in winter and spring.

Situation: Sheltered position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerates drought, frost and semi-shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Further flowering is promoted by removing old flowerheads. Will also tolerate more severe pruning. Can be grown in containers.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Dodonaea viscosa
Wedge-leaf Hop-bush

Family: Sapindaceae

Size: 1-3 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Erect or spreading open shrub with shiny bright-green leaves. Clusters of insignificant flowers appear in late winter and spring, followed by attractive, red-brown papery capsules.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy; tolerant of drought, moist soils and semi-shade. Dislikes waterlogged soils. Pruning encourages dense growth. A useful hedge plant. For intense colours in the capsules, full sun is required.



Goodenia ovata
Hop Goodenia

Family: Goodeniaceae

Size: 1-2.5 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Open, sprawling shrub with shiny, light-green leaves. Bright-yellow asymmetrical flowers appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Protected position, semi-shade, moist soils.

Comments: Fast-growing ornamental plant. Hardy, tolerant of drought, poor drainage, full sun and full shade. Straggly growth can be overcome by pruning.

Wildlife: Food plant for insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Grevillea rosmarinifolia
Rosemary Grevillea

Family: Proteaceae

Size: 1.5 × 2m

Form & Flowers: Dense, erect shrub with stiff, narrow, prickly leaves. Clusters of red flowers appear in winter and spring.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils

Comments: Tolerates drought, moist soils and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage. Dense growth and further flowering can be promoted by pruning. Cultivated forms are commercially available but are different to the naturally-occurring form.

Wildlife: Excellent safe nesting site for small birds; food plant for nectar-eating birds.



Gynatrix pulchella
Hemp Bush

Family: Malvaceae

Size: 2-4 × 1.5-3m

Form & Flowers: Open, semi-deciduous shrub with hairy, heart-shaped, bright-green leaves. Many loose clusters of small, fragrant, greenish-white flowers appear in late winter and spring. Male and female flowers on separate plants.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerant of drought, full sun and poor drainage. Dislikes dry soils. Straggly growth can be overcome by pruning.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Hymenanthera dentata

Tree Violet

Family: Violaceae

Size: 2-4 × 1-2.5m

Form & Flowers: Erect, rounded shrub with sparse dark-green leaves on rigid branches with spines. Many small, fragrant, cream-yellow flowers appear in spring, hanging from branches. Pale green to purple berries follow flowers.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Hardy, tolerant of drought, frost and full sun. Dislikes poor drainage. Pruning encourages dense growth. A useful hedge plant. Responds to extra watering.
Plant away from paths because of spines.

Wildlife: Safe nesting site for small birds. Food plant for birds and small lizards.



Kunzea ericoides

Burgan

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 2-5 × 2-4m

Form & Flowers: Dense, weeping shrub with narrow, dark-green, aromatic leaves. Many clusters of fluffy white flowers appear along the stems in late spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very attractive, fast-growing and hardy. Tolerant of drought, dry soils, poor drainage and full shade. Accepts hard pruning which will promote dense growth.
Regenerates easily – may take over a cleared area.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies and insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Leptospermum lanigerum

Woolly Tea-tree

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 2-6 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Erect, dense shrub with grey-green leaves. Young growth is silver-grey and hairy. Many white flowers appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist soils.

Comments: Fast-growing ornamental plant. Tolerant of drought, poor drainage, full sun and full shade. Dislikes dry soils. Pruning promotes dense growth. A useful hedge plant.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies and insect-eating birds.



Leptospermum obovatum

River Tea-tree

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 2-4 × 1.5-2m

Form & Flowers: Erect, dense shrub with aromatic, blunt leaves. Paired or single cream-white flowers appear in late spring and summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist soils.

Comments: Tolerant of poor drainage, dislikes dry soils. Pruning promotes dense growth.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Olearia argophylla Musk Daisy-bush

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 3-6 × 3-5m

Form & Flowers: Tall shrub with shiny, large, dark-green, aromatic leaves. Large clusters of white daisy flowers appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, ornamental shrub. Tolerant of full shade. Dislikes dry soils.



Olearia ramulosa Twiggy Daisy-bush

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 0.5-2.5 × 1m

Form & Flowers: Open twiggy shrub with narrow, aromatic, dark-green leaves crowded along stems. Many heads of small white or mauve daisy flowers appear in spring and summer to autumn.

Situation: Sheltered position; semi-shade; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, ornamental plant. Hardy, tolerant of drought and full sun. Dislikes poor drainage. Removing old flowerheads will promote further flowering. Annual pruning will prevent straggly growth.

Wildlife: Food plant for insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Ozothamnus ferrugineus Tree Everlasting

Family: Asteraceae

Size: 2-6 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Open, rounded shrub with soft, dark-green leaves, white underneath. Large, dense clusters of small white flowers appear in late spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Tolerant of poor drainage and semi-shade. Drought sensitive. Pruning promotes flowering and dense growth.



Pomaderris aspera Hazel Pomaderris

Family: Rhamnaceae

Size: 3-6 × 2-4m

Form & Flowers: Tall, slender shrub with soft, deep-veined, bright- to dark-green leaves. New growth is velvety and red-brown. Clusters of woolly, yellow-green flowers with no petals appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Protected position; semi-shade; moist, rich, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing shrub with interesting bark markings. Drought sensitive. Tolerant of boggy soils, full sun and full shade. Pruning tips will promote dense growth.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and insect-eating birds.

Shrubs (1 – 6 metres)



Solanum laeiniatum Large Kangaroo Apple

Family: Solanaceae

Size: 1-3 × 1-3m

Form & Flowers: Dense, spreading shrub with large, glossy, lobed leaves. Bluish-purple star-shaped flowers with yellow centres appear in spring and summer. Green egg-shaped berries ripen to yellow-orange.

Situation: Sheltered position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast growing but short-lived shrub. Hardy, tolerant of drought, dry summer soils, poor drainage, full sun and full shade. Pruning will encourage dense growth. Accepts hard pruning in winter. Growth can be encouraged by applying small quantities of native plant fertiliser. *Self seeds easily. Berries are poisonous when green.*

Trees (over 6 metres)



Acacia dealbata Silver Wattle

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 6-30 × 5-10m

Form & Flowers: Medium to tall, open tree with feathery, blue-green leaves, and grey and white bark. Many lemon-yellow flowers in balls appear in late winter and spring. Purple seed pods follow flowers.

Situation: Cool position; semi-shade; moist soils.

Comments: Fast-growing. Tolerant of drought, poor drainage and full sun. Dislikes dry soils and pruning.

Wildlife: Food plant for possums, gliders, butterfly caterpillars and insect- and seed-eating birds.



Acacia implexa Lightwood

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 5-15 × 4-7m

Form & Flowers: Upright, graceful, open tree with curved, light-green leaves. Many clusters of fragrant, cream-yellow flowers in balls appear in summer and autumn.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, attractive, long-lived tree. Tolerant of drought, moist soils and semi-shade. Dislikes poor drainage and pruning. Susceptible to snails when young.

Wildlife: Food plant for insect- and seed-eating birds.

Trees (over 6 metres)



Acacia mearnsii Black Wattle

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 8-25 × 6-10m

Form & Flowers: Open, spreading tree with feathery, dark-green leaves. Clusters of fragrant, pale-yellow flowers in balls appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Very fast-growing, attractive tree. Hardy, tolerant of drought, moist soils and full shade. Dislikes poor drainage and pruning. *Susceptible to borer; can be short-lived.*

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and insect- and seed-eating birds.



Acacia melanoxylon Blackwood

Family: Mimosaceae

Size: 5-30 × 4-15m

Form & Flowers: Upright, dense tree with thick, dull-green, oval leaves. Groups of 3-4 balls of cream-yellow flowers appear in late winter and spring.

Situation: Partly protected position; semi-shade; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, long-lived, attractive tree. Hardy but drought sensitive. Tolerant of open positions, poor drainage, full sun and full shade. Dislikes pruning.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and insect- and seed-eating birds.

Trees (over 6 metres)



Allocasuarina verticillata Drooping Sheoak

Family: Casuarinaceae

Size: 4-11 × 3-6m

Form & Flowers: Erect tree with slender, weeping, greyish-green foliage. Dense yellow-brown spikes of male flowers and tiny red female flowers appear in autumn through to spring. Flowers are followed by oval seed cones.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, ornamental, hardy tree. Tolerant of drought, poor drainage and semi-shade. Attractive when in flower, and effective in group plantings. A useful windbreak tree. *Roots can damage plumbing – plant more than 3 metres away from any drains. An alternative tree is Allocasuarina littoralis (Black Sheoak).*

Wildlife: Food plant for seed-eating birds.



Eucalyptus camaldulensis River Red Gum

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 12-50 × 15-35m

Form & Flowers: Very large, spreading tree with heavy branches and narrow, blue-grey leaves. Bark is smooth, mottled white, grey and brown. Many clusters of small white flowers appear in later spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; deep, moist, clay soils.

Comments: Excellent fast-growing tree for parks and large spaces *but too large for the average suburban garden.* Tolerant of drought, flood, poor drainage and semi-shade. *Roots can damage drains – plant more than 20 metres away from plumbing and drains.*

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and seed-, nectar- and insect-eating birds.

Trees (over 6 metres)



Eucalyptus leucoxyloides ssp. *connata* Yellow Gum

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 10-20 × 6-20m

Form & Flowers: Upright, medium tree with narrow, olive-green leaves and smooth white, cream and grey bark. Many cream-white or pink flowers appear in winter and early spring.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained, heavy soils.

Comments: Fast-growing, hardy tree for parks and large gardens. Tolerant of drought, moist soils and semi-shade. Growth habit can vary from small and many-branched to tall and straight. *Important to plant this sub-species as it is a local form.*

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and seed, nectar and insect-eating birds.



Eucalyptus melliodora Yellow Box

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 10-30 × 8-25m

Form & Flowers: Open, medium tree with graceful branches and narrow grey-blue to blue-green leaves. Bark is yellow-brown and rough at the base, becoming smooth and cream on the upper trunk and branches. Numerous honey-scented cream-white flowers appear in spring and summer.

Situation: Open position; full sun; dry, well-drained loams and alluvial soils.

Comments: Attractive tree for parks and large spaces. Tolerant of moist soils and semi-shade. Accepts pruning. Dislikes poor drainage.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies and caterpillars, and nectar-, insect- and seed-eating birds.

Trees (over 6 metres)



Eucalyptus ovata Swamp Gum

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 8-30 × 8-20m

Form & Flowers: Upright, medium tree with dense canopy of glossy, broad, dark-green leaves. Bark is rough on lower trunk, with strips shedding from upper trunk and branches. Clusters of cream-white flowers usually appear in autumn and winter but can appear at other times.

Situation: Full sun; moist, poorly drained soils.

Comments: Fast-growing tree, tolerant of drought, seasonal waterlogging and semi-shade. Dislikes dry soils.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars, and nectar-, insect- and seed-eating birds.



Eucalyptus radiata Narrow-leaf Peppermint

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 10-30 × 6-20m

Form & Flowers: Graceful, branching, medium tree with dense canopy of narrow, dull green, aromatic leaves. Bark is finely fibrous and grey-brown. Many clusters of white flowers appear in spring and early summer.

Situation: Full sun; moist, well-drained soils.

Comments: Attractive tree for shade and shelter. Tolerates semi-shade.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterfly caterpillars and nectar-, insect- and seed-eating birds.

Trees (over 6 metres)



Melaleuca ericifolia

Swamp Paperbark

Family: Myrtaceae

Size: 2-9 × 3m

Form & Flowers: Erect, dense, small tree with narrow, dark-green leaves. Bark is pale and papery, flaking off in layers. Many spikes of fragrant, cream flowers appear in spring.

Situation: Open position; full sun; moist to wet, poorly drained soils.

Comments: Attractive, fast-growing tree. Tolerant of drought, waterlogging and full shade. Pruning of old flowerheads promotes further flowering and dense growth. Accepts hard pruning. A useful hedge plant.

Wildlife: Food plant for butterflies, caterpillars and nectar-feeding birds.

Aquatic Plants

For planting in and around a pond, suitable indigenous aquatic and semi-aquatic plants which are readily available include:

<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain
<i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i>	Marsh Club-rush
<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>	Common Sedge
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Swamp Crassula
<i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i>	Tall Spike-rush
<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-rush
<i>Myriophyllum crispatum</i>	Water Milfoil
<i>Persecaria decipiens</i>	Slender Knotweed
<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i>	River Buttercup
<i>Schoenoplectus validus</i>	River Club-rush
<i>Triglochin procera</i>	Water-ribbon

Additional Species of Significance

GRASSES

Austrostipa mollis Supple Spear-grass

Family: Poaceae

Regional Conservation Significance but not commonly available.

Poa ensiformis Sword Tussock-grass / Purple-sheath Tussock-grass

Family: Poaceae

Regional Conservation Significance, but only found in the far east of the municipality.

SMALL PLANTS

Lycopus australis Australian Gipsy-wort

Family: Lamiaceae

Regional Conservation Significance but not commonly available.

Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum Jersey Cudweed

Family: Asteraceae

Regional Conservation Significance but not commonly available.

Senecio hispidulus Rough Fireweed

Family: Asteraceae

Regional Conservation Significance but not commonly available.

GROUNDCOVERS

Calystegia sepium Large Bindweed

Family: Convolvulaceae

Regional Conservation Significance but not commonly available.

SHRUBS

Leptospermum continentale Prickly Tea-tree

Family: Myrtaceae

Regional Conservation Significance, but only found in the far east of the municipality.

TREES

Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. *pryoriana* Coast Manna Gum

Family: Myrtaceae

Regional Conservation Significance, but this sub-species is not commonly available.

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Botanical Name Common Name	Size	Flower Time & Colour	Soil	Aspect	Page
Grasses					
<i>Agrostis avenacea</i> Common Blown-grass	20cm wide	summer	☹	☀	9
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i> Common Wallaby-grass	40 × 40cm	spring-summer	☹	☀	9
<i>Austrodanthonia duttoniana</i> Brown-back Wallaby-grass	40 × 50cm	spring-summer	☹	☀	10
<i>Austrodanthonia geniculata</i> Kneed Wallaby-grass	15 × 20cm	spring-summer	T	☀	10
<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i> Kneed Spear-grass	20cm high	spring-summer	☹	☀	11
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i> ssp. <i>falcata</i> Rough Spear-grass	30 × 30cm	spring-summer	----	☀	11
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i> Long-hair Plume-grass	30cm high	spring-summer	----	☀	12
<i>Elymus scabrus</i> Common Wheat-grass	20 × 40cm	spring-summer	☹	☀	12
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> Weeping Grass	30 × 70cm	spring	☹	☁	13
<i>Poa labillardieri</i> Common Tussock-grass	80cm high	spring-summer	☹	☀	13
<i>Poa morrisii</i> Velvet Tussock-grass	30 × 30cm	spring-summer	☹	☁	14
<i>Themeda triandra</i> Kangaroo Grass	40 × 75cm	spring-summer	☹	☀	14
Small Plants					
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> Common Maidenhair Fern	45cm high		☹	☁	15
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i> Lemon Beauty Heads	0.5 × 1m	spring-summer; yellow	----	☀	15
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i> Clustered Everlasting	1 × 3m	spring-autumn; yellow	----	☀	16
<i>Dianella longifolia</i> Pale Flax-lily	80 × 50cm	spring-summer; blue	☹	☁	16
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> Black-anther Flax-lily	1 × 2m	spring-autumn; blue	☹	☁	17
<i>Einadia nutans</i> Nodding Saltbush	0.3 × 1.2m	summer-autumn	----	☀	17
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> Ruby Saltbush	0.5 × 1m	spring-summer	----	☀	18
<i>Lobelia alata</i> Angled Lobelia	30cm high	all year; blue	☹	☁	18
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> Wattle Mat-rush	50 × 20cm	spring-summer; yellow	☹	☀	19
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> Spiny-headed Mat-rush	1 × 1.2m	spring-summer; yellow	☹	☁	19
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i> Cotton Fireweed	1 × 1m	spring-summer; yellow	☹	☀	20
<i>Vittadinia cervicalaris</i> New Holland Daisy	25cm high	spring-summer; mauve	----	☁	20

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Botanical Name Common Name	Size	Flower Time & Colour	Soil	Aspect	Page
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i> Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy	30 × 30cm	all year; dark blue	----	☀ ☁	21
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i> Tufted Bluebell	50 × 15cm	spring-autumn; blue	----	☀	21
<i>Wahlenbergia luteola</i> Yellowish Bluebell	40cm high	spring-autumn; blue	----	☀	22
Groundcovers					
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i> Bidgee-widgee	< 4m wide	spring-summer; green	T	☀ ☁	23
<i>Centella cordifolia</i> Swamp Pennywort	2m wide	spring-summer; white-pink	☹	☁	23
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i> Pink Bindweed	30 × 50cm	spring-summer; pink	----	☀	24
<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i> ssp. <i>clavellatum</i> Rounded Moon-flower	2m wide	spring-summer; pink	T	☀	25
<i>Glycine tabacina</i> Variable Glycine	2m wide	summer-autumn; purple	----	☀	25
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i> Running Postman	1.5m wide	autumn-summer; scarlet	----	☁	26
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i> Small-leaf Bramble	0.6 × 2m	spring-summer; pink	----	☁	27
<i>Viola hederacea</i> Native Violet	2m wide	winter-spring; purple	☹☹☹	☁	27
Climbers					
<i>Clematis microphylla</i> Small-leaved Clematis		winter-spring; cream	----	☁	24
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> Purple Coral Pea		winter-spring; purple	----	☀	26
Shrubs					
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i> Hedge Wattle	4 × 5m	spring; yellow	----	☀	28
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i> Golden Wattle	6 × 5m	winter-spring; yellow	----	☀	28
<i>Acacia verticillata</i> Prickly Moses	6 × 4m	winter-spring; yellow	☹	☁	29
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Sweet Bursaria	6 × 3m	winter-spring; cream	----	☀	29
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i> River Bottlebrush	6 × 4m	spring-autumn; pink	☹	☁	30
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i> Common Cassinia	4 × 2m	spring-summer; white	☹	☁	30
<i>Correa glabra</i> Rock Correa shrub	3 × 2m	all year; yellow-green	----	☁	31
<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i> Grey Parrot Pea	1 × 1m	winter-spring; orange	----	☀	31
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Wedge-leaf Hop-bush	3 × 3m	winter-spring	----	☀	32
<i>Goodenia ovata</i> Hop Goodenia	2 × 3m	spring-summer; yellow	☹	☁	32

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Botanical Name Common Name	Size	Flower Time & Colour	Soil	Aspect	Page
<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i> Rosemary Grevillea	1.5 × 2m	winter-spring; red	----		33
<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i> Hemp Bush	4 × 3m	winter-spring; white			33
<i>Hymenantha dentata</i> Tree Violet	4 × 2m	spring; cream			34
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> Burgan	5 × 3m	spring-summer; white			34
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i> Woolly Tea-tree	6 × 3m	spring-summer; white			35
<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i> River Tea-tree	4 × 2m	spring-summer; white			35
<i>Olearia argophylla</i> Musk Daisy-bush	6 × 4m	spring-summer; white			36
<i>Olearia ramulosa</i> Twiggy Daisy-bush	2 × 1m	spring-summer; white	----		36
<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i> Tree Everlasting	6 × 3m	spring-summer; white			37
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i> Hazel Pomaderris	6 × 4m	spring-summer; yellow			37
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i> Kangaroo Apple	3 × 3m	spring-summer; purple			38
Trees					
<i>Acacia dealbata</i> Silver Wattle	30 × 10m	winter-spring; yellow			39
<i>Acacia implexa</i> Lightwood	15 × 7m	summer-autumn; yellow	----		39
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i> Black Wattle	25 × 10m	spring-summer; yellow	----		40
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> Blackwood	30 × 15m	winter-spring; yellow			40
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> Drooping Sheoak	11 × 6m	autumn-spring; yellow-brown	----		41
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> River Red Gum	50 × 35m	spring-summer; white			41
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>connata</i> Yellow Gum	20 × 20m	winter-spring; white	----		42
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> Yellow Box	30 × 20m	spring-summer; cream	----		42
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> Swamp Gum	30 × 20m	autumn-winter; cream			43
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> Narrow-leaf Peppermint	30 × 20m	spring-summer; white			43
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> Swamp Paperbark	9 × 3m	spring; cream			44

KEY: Soil: Dry ---- Moist Wet Tolerant T

Aspect: Sun Shade