

ALBURY WODONGA

# Garden Guide



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and the Indigenous People of the land within the Albury-Wodonga region, and pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging.

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# Introduction

## **A sustainable garden enhances the natural environment.**

Gardening is about creating a beautiful and interesting space that we can enjoy with our family and friends. It's easy to garden sustainably for the health and well-being of our family and the environment.

With some planning we can also create a home for some of our native animals. This not only helps with their protection, but also makes a much more interesting and enjoyable garden for us.



Thurgoona garden (LS)

This Albury-Wodonga Garden Guide has been designed to provide you with local information and inspiration to create a beautiful garden that also cares for our environment, especially animals. It focuses on local native plants that grow well in this region. A garden of non-native plants can also be great habitat and be sustainable too. The ideas in this book apply to gardens of mostly exotic plants.

## Tips for creating a sustainable garden

- Plant at least some local native plants that are naturally adapted to your local soil and climate. Many native birds, reptiles, frogs, mammals and insects rely on these plants for food and shelter and will be attracted to a garden with local native plants.
- Using pesticides not only pollutes, it kills many beneficial insects. Many birds and mammals eat insects. Think twice about reaching for a pesticide. We need to change the idea that all insects are “baddies”.
- When buying products for the garden consider recycled, or those made from renewable resources.
- Think about growing at least some of your own food – herbs and greens are easy, and the nutrient value is much higher if freshly picked.
- Garden design and plant selection vary tremendously depending on individual taste and lifestyle. This booklet provides general sustainable gardening information applicable to any garden.
- Looking carefully at other people’s gardens near you is one of the best guides. Look at what insects and birds are using which plants, what is growing well without much water and care, and consider what style appeals to you.



Garden in Baranduda (LS)

# Garden design

## **Start small but plan BIG!**

### **Site analysis**

If you are starting from scratch or redesigning a garden, 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.

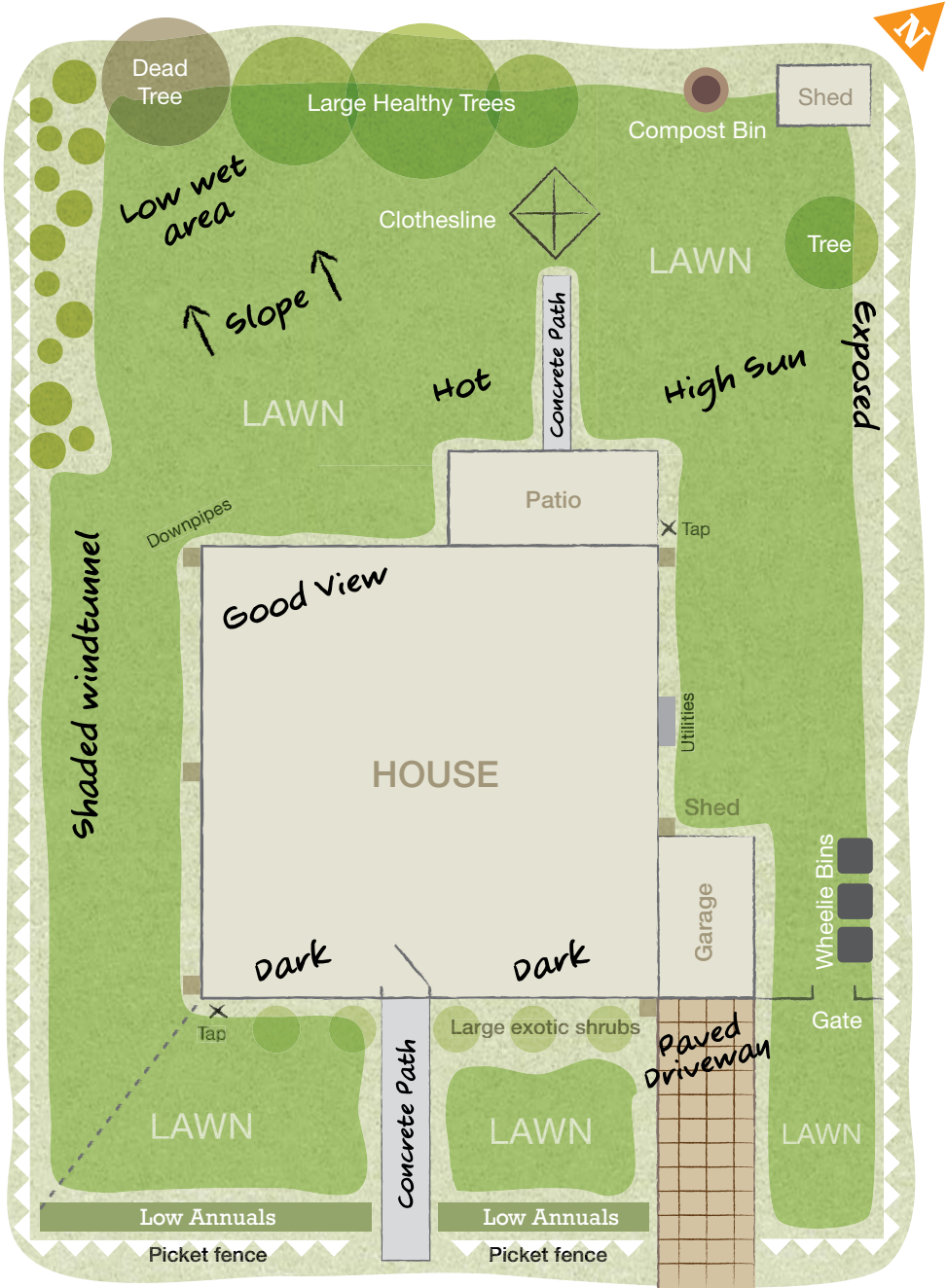
#### **STEP 1**

##### **What exists?**

Create a scaled drawing of your property. Mark in the main structural and environmental features. Fences, pathways, shed, outdoor taps, clothesline, patio, rainwater tank, garden beds, major trees and lawn areas. Where are your sunny and shady areas in summer and winter? Do you

have a large paved area near the windows on the north side of your house that reflects the hot summer sun into your house? Do you have any drainage issues where the ground is often too wet or dry?

# Example of a site analysis



STREET

## STEP 2

### What are your needs?

Create a wish list. Do you want more space for the kids? A private reading nook? A more inviting outside entertainment area? A front yard that complements the architecture of the house? A herb garden near the back door? More birds visiting? Do you need a deciduous tree to provide summer shade and winter warmth to your house? Does your compost bin receive enough sun? Do you need screening to provide more privacy? Do you want to reduce or remove your lawn? Do you want to include a chicken run or a pet enclosure? Make a note of the initial major work that would need to be done with each option e.g. garden bed edges curved out; relocate clothesline; break up concrete slab.

## STEP 3

### Look at your plants

Remember 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. Are your plants a mix of natives (low nutrient needs) and exotics (high nutrient needs)? Are your plants layered with the smallest at the front of your garden beds rising to taller plants at the back? Have they been grouped according to their water needs? Do you have any trees that may need attention? If you have a lawn do you want to keep it or reduce it? Do you want to grow vegetables in garden beds, raised beds or wicking beds? Decide if you want a low maintenance garden or do you enjoy working in the garden regularly?

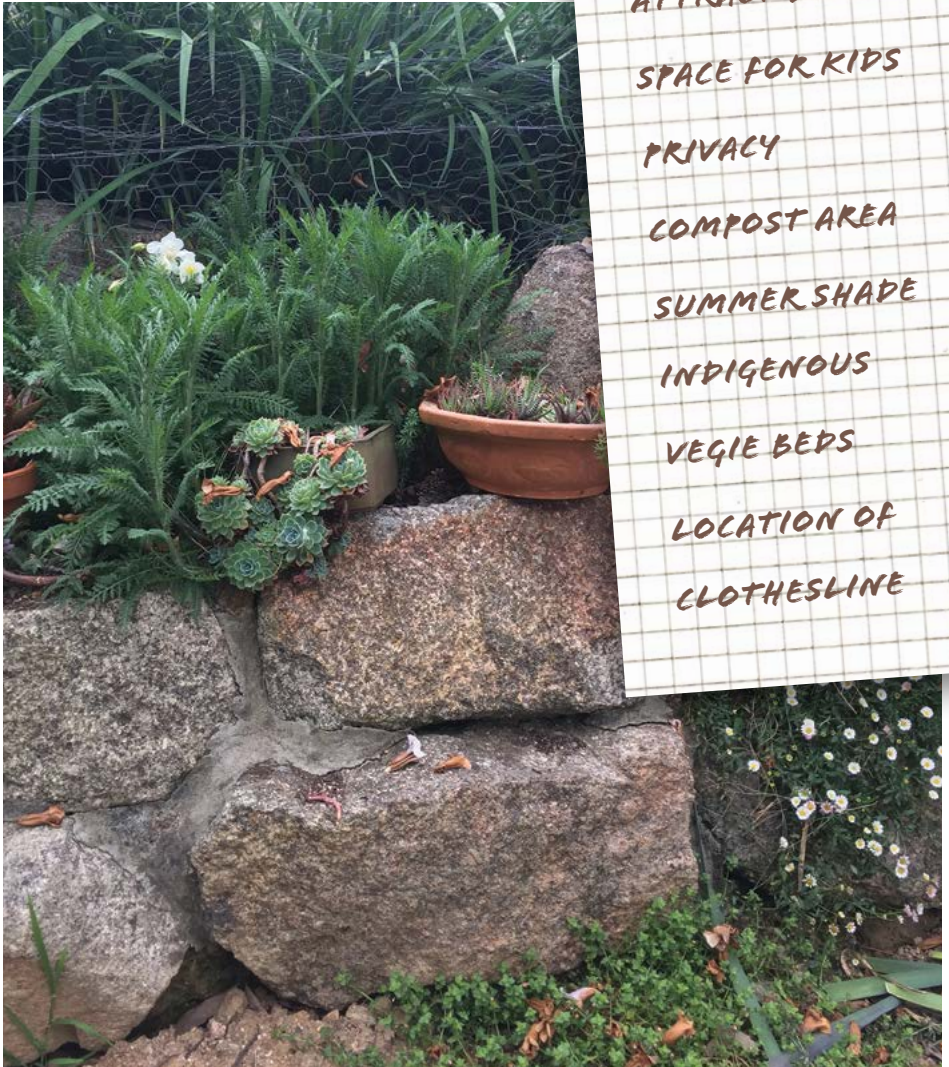




## STEP 4

### What is your style?

Do you prefer a simple or complex garden? Open or private? Pretty and neat? Dramatic and structural? Natural looking? How do you want your garden to feel? Look through gardening magazines or your neighbourhood gardens. Make notes on what appeals to you.



## CREATE A WISH LIST

HERB GARDEN

ATTRACT BIRDS

SPACE FOR KIDS

PRIVACY

COMPOST AREA

SUMMER SHADE

INDIGENOUS

VEGIE BEDS

LOCATION OF

CLOTHESLINE

## **STEP 5**

### **The research**

Create a list of the plants you need to create the style of garden you desire. What sort of cost are you looking at? Think about what size plants you want to purchase and where they are locally available. List down any major structures you want. Can you do it yourself, or will you need a professional builder or plumber? Make an estimate of the cost of materials such as pavers, rainwater tanks, raised vegie beds. Can you afford to install and maintain your garden or do you need to look at alternatives or a staged approach?

## **STEP 6**

### **Develop a plan**

Once you have decided on what you want and what you can realistically achieve and afford, you can play with your garden plan exploring different options. Tracing paper overlays can work well at this stage. Decide what needs to be done first i.e. the big jobs such as reworking your garden bed edges or breaking up a slab of concrete. Focus on one area at a time so you are not overwhelmed. Remember, it doesn't all have to be done immediately.



Decide what  
needs to be  
done first.

# Example of a garden plan



STREET

# Our changing environment

Alterations to the natural environment can have a number of effects including a decrease in habitat and a loss of biodiversity.

Locally a large proportion of the native vegetation that originally existed has been cleared since European colonisation – for houses, agriculture and infrastructure. The vegetation in the landscape now exists as isolated patches which are not well connected. This makes it difficult for wildlife to survive and thrive.

These isolated areas are often compromised by weeds, which compete with native plants for space, light, nutrients and water – making it less suitable as habitat for native wildlife.

Changes in our local climate as a result of global climate change are further impacting our natural environment. Ongoing lower

rainfall and an increase in heatwaves and storm events are predicted to continue. This places further pressure on plants and animals that are not able to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

Creating a habitat garden, or section of garden, is your opportunity to win back some space for our unique plants and animals.

The following sections set out some key considerations for maximising the habitat value of your patch.



Thurgoona garden (LS)

# Creating your habitat garden

## Habitat gardening ... providing homes for our local wildlife

There are no hard and fast rules with designing a habitat garden, other than trying to mimic some natural conditions. Local wildlife will generally benefit most from native plants, but your garden doesn't need to be exclusively native. Habitat gardens can be designed in different styles - they can be formal, a riot of colour in a cottage style, or an informal natural look.

## Key elements of a habitat garden

Many native animals depend on native and indigenous plants for food, shelter (from predators, competitors or the weather), and somewhere to breed safely. Likewise, plants benefit from animals through pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, waste breakdown and soil maintenance. Insects are vital for food for many animals.



Glenroy garden (LS)

## Layers

A key to creating a habitat garden is to create structural diversity – lots of plants and lots of different layers. Aim to create a mix of trees, shrubs of varying heights, grasses and groundcovers.

If you are considering changing your garden quite a bit, a planned approach is important. Blitzing a garden may result in wildlife abandoning your garden for years, or being exposed and preyed upon if the intact vegetation is removed too quickly. Better to adopt a staged approach with patches of intact vegetation progressively replaced with new plants.

Dead trees also provide habitat for many of our native wildlife. Likewise, a few logs, rocks, mulch and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many insects and lizards. Note that logs and rocks should not be sourced from local bushland where they are already providing habitat. If you live in a bushfire-prone area consider locating logs some distance from your house.

## Diversity

Think about a variety of flowers – insects love daisies, honeyeaters love grevilleas but they also eat insects so insect-attracting plants are important, and finches eat seed. It's time for gardens with lots of flowers to make a comeback - not just green hedges and green grass.



### Garden layers



#### TREES

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, bats, goannas and insects.

#### SMALL TREES AND LARGE SHRUBS

Habitat for birds, possums, gliders, goannas and insects.

#### SMALL SHRUBS

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, lizards and insects.

#### GRASSES AND GROUNDCOVERS

Provide food and shelter for birds, lizards, frogs and insects.

#### LOGS, MULCH AND ROCKS

Provides habitat for lizards, frogs and insects.

## Food

Plants that produce nectar, pollen, seeds, fruit, leaves and roots provide food for many of our native animals. Dead plant material can also be a source of food. Insects that live on the plants, mulch and soil in turn provide food for birds, lizards, frogs, mammals and other insects.

(For further information on plants to attract native wildlife, refer to pages 17-27 and pages 37-57).

## Host Plants

Some insects, such as butterflies, only lay their eggs on certain plants known as host plants. Most native caterpillars are small, shy and nocturnal leaving little evidence of their presence in your garden. If you want butterflies to visit your garden, include host plants such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) for Common Browns or Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum* species) for Painted Ladies.



Yellow-faced Honeyeater (NB)



Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*)



Common Brown butterfly

## Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will help attract wildlife to your garden. A shallow birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help protect birds from predators while they bathe and drink. Frogs need a permanent or semi-permanent water source to keep their skin moist and provide opportunities to

breed. Butterflies love to gather on a wide dish of damp sand or a small puddle in the soil. They take in water and essential salts and minerals from the soil. A shallow dish of water at ground level will provide a much needed drink for echidnas and lizards on a hot day.



Striated Pardalote (DM)



Bird bath, West Wodonga garden



Echidna, Wooragee garden

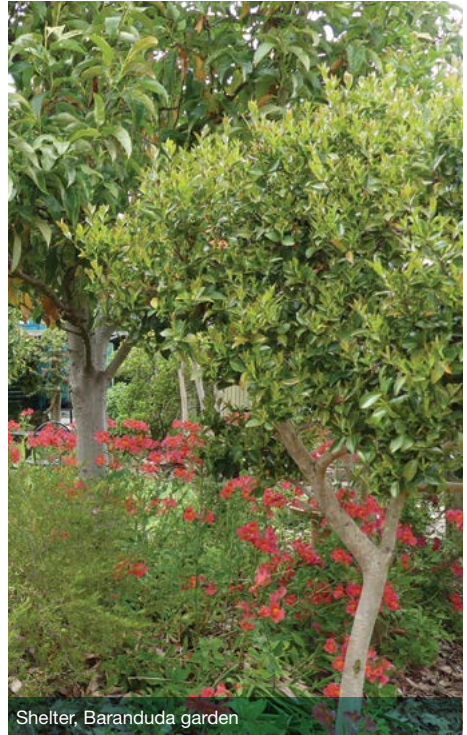


## Shelter

Native wildlife needs to find shelter from bad weather, predators, and competitors. They need a refuge in which to build their homes and raise their young. Prickly shrubs such as Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), grevilleas or Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) and mature trees can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird and mammal species.

## Tree hollows

Hollows are particularly important for nesting and breeding for many parrots, large birds, microbats and possums. Due to the clearing of old trees, there is now a shortage of hollows for many of our native mammals and birds. As a result, many species are finding it difficult to nest and breed. Consider adding nest boxes to your garden. Different species of native wildlife require different nest boxes.

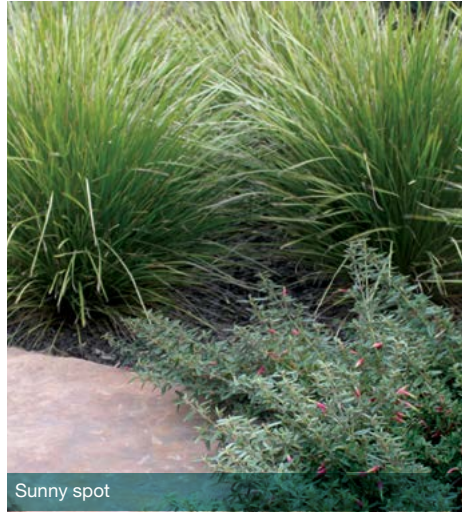


## A sunny spot

Lizards, frogs and insects need the warmth of the sun to function. A large rock or log that receives the winter sun will be a welcome basking point for wildlife.

## Responsible pet ownership

Ensure your efforts to attract native wildlife to your yard are not undone by pets such as cats and dogs. Try to limit or exclude pet access around habitat hotspots, like ponds, bird baths and lizard hang outs. Keep your pets, especially cats, inside during the night. Collar bells on cats have limited success, so containment is a better option. Consider creating a cat run.



Sunny spot

## Natural pest control

The greater the diversity of wildlife in your garden, the greater the natural pest control potential it will provide. Birds, bats, frogs, lizards, spiders and insects such as praying mantis all eat insects. Monitor your garden regularly, tolerate a minor infestation, remove pests such as snails by hand, or use exclusion netting to prevent fruit fly infestation. Herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers from our gardens can enter our stormwater system where they end up polluting our local waterways (or your own frog pond!) and harming plants and animals.



Grey Butcherbird with cricket (JS)

## Encourage others

Invite your neighbours to create a habitat garden as well. This will attract more native wildlife to the whole area.

Native wildlife need to find shelter from bad weather, predators, and competitors.



Ringtail Possum in nest box (GD)

# Native animals

Attracting native animals to your garden can add extra colour, interest and enjoyment. Here's how:

## Small critters in your garden

Invertebrates such as bees, butterflies, ladybirds, ants, gnats, beetles, moths, spiders, dragonflies, lacewings and even flies and wasps benefit the environment in many ways. They are our plant pollinators, our waste recyclers, our pest eaters and an important source of food for many native birds, frogs, reptiles and mammals. They are fascinating to observe, they help our gardens to thrive and their presence attracts yet more wildlife!

Insects have diverse life stages. Flowers often attract adult insects that feed on nectar and pollen. Try to support the whole insect lifecycle. For example, for butterflies and moths, grasses and particular plant leaves are important for their eggs and caterpillars. Native bees create nest cells in timber, pithy stems or in the ground. Some invertebrates use plant resin, leaves or mud to make their nests. You can help by providing these.



Transverse Ladybird Beetle (KR)



Fiddler Beetle (KR)



Praying Mantis (KR)



Hoverfly (KR)

### Native bees and other pollinators

A wide range of insects, as well as some birds and bats, are important pollinators. Pollinator insects include many species of bees, flies, moths, wasps, butterflies, beetles, thrips and some ants.

There are over 1,600 species of native bee in Australia. Most are solitary bees which nest in holes in the ground or small holes in timber and plant stems. Consider adding a 'bee hotel' to your habitat garden to observe their nesting habits.

Support native bees and other flower-feeding insects with flowering plants, stems to roost on or nest in (such as Flax-lily), and by retaining some dead wood and exposed soil.



Sweat Bee (KR)



Leafcutter Bee (KR)



Chequered Cuckoo Bee (KR)



Blue-banded Bee (KR)



Australian Painted Lady

### Attracting invertebrates to your garden

Plant a range of plants, e.g. flowering plants to provide nectar and pollen as food, trees that shed bark for insects to hide in and grasses for butterflies and moths to lay eggs on. Consider including plants with different flower sizes, shapes, smells, colour and flowering times through the year to support a wide range of insects. Provide water that is accessible for invertebrates that can't swim (they need to stand on the edge, a plant or floating material). Leave a few logs and branches of varying size in your garden beds or nearby. Add bush mulch to your garden beds to provide food and shelter for leaf litter munchers. Practice non-toxic pest control!

### Plants to attract invertebrates

Brachyscome Daisies  
(*Brachyscome* species)

Everlasting Daisies  
(*Chrysocephalum* species  
and *Xerochrysum viscosum*)

Chocolate Lily  
(*Dichopogon strictus*)

Bulbine Lily  
(*Bulbine bulbosa*)

Thryptomene  
(*Thryptomene saxicola*  
'F.C. Payne')

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda triandra*)

Tall Sedge  
(*Carex appressa*)

Spiny-headed Mat-rush  
(*Lomandra longifolia*)

Austral Indigo  
(*Indigofera australis*)

Bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon* species)

Sweet Bursaria  
(*Bursaria spinosa*)

Tea-trees  
(*Leptospermum* species)

Feather Spear-grass  
(*Austrostipa elegantissima*)

Flax-lilies  
(*Dianella* species)



Shield Bug laying eggs ( SB)



Tau Emerald Dragonfly (KR)



Jewel Spider



Eastern Yellow Robin (NB)



Red-browed Finch (NB)

### Attracting small birds to your garden

Small birds are fantastic to have in your garden as they help control insects, recycle nutrients and disperse seeds. Birds such as the Red-browed Finch, Silveryeye, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail and Superb Fairy-wren forage in the protected lower levels of the garden and feed on berries, seeds, insects and spiders. The following list are examples of native plants that will provide habitat for small birds in your garden.

Black Anther Flax-lily  
(*Dianella revoluta*)

Mat-rushes  
(*Lomandra* species)

Clustered Everlasting  
(*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)

Climbing Saltbush  
(*Einadia nutans*)

Small-leaved Clematis  
(*Clematis microphylla*)

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda triandra*)

Hedge Wattle  
(*Acacia paradoxa*)

Sweet Bursaria  
(*Bursaria spinosa*)

Saltbushes  
(*Rhagodia* & *Enchylaena* species)



Willie Wagtail (NB)



Superb Fairy-wren (male and female) (NB)



New Holland Honeyeater (NB)



Red Wattlebird (NB)

### Attracting honeyeaters to your garden

Honeyeaters are a group of birds that have a special brush-tipped tongue which they use to take up nectar from flowers. Local honeyeater species such as the Eastern Spinebill, Red Wattlebird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater and White-plumed Honeyeater can often be found feeding in plants that produce a lot of nectar but also can be seen feeding on insects as a source of protein and to feed to their chicks in spring. The following plants will help attract honeyeaters to your garden.

Woolly Grevillea  
(*Grevillea lanigera*)

Running Postman  
(*Kennedia prostrata*)

Austral Indigo  
(*Indigofera australis*)

Cat's Claw Grevillea  
(*Grevillea alpina*)

River Bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon sieberi*)

Common Correa  
(*Correa reflexa*)

Golden Wattle  
(*Acacia pycnantha*)

Hop Bitter-pea  
(*Daviesia latifolia*)

White Correa  
(*Correa alba*)

Mountain Bush-pea  
(*Mirbelia oxylobioides*)



Eastern Spinebill (NB)



White-plumed Honeyeater (NB)



Galah (CC)



Gang Gang Cockatoo (Male) (NB)

### Attracting parrots to your garden

The parrot family contains birds such as the cockatoos, rosellas, lorikeets and of course parrots. Local species such as the Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet and Gang-gang Cockatoo feed on the flowers and seed of eucalyptus, she-oaks and bottlebrush trees. Red-rumped Parrots feed mainly on the ground targeting the grass of indigenous or exotic grass seed and the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo loves to find grubs hiding under tree bark. The following plants will attract parrots to your garden.

Common Tussock-grass  
(*Poa labillardieri*)

Small Gum Trees  
(*Eucalyptus* species)

Lemon Bottlebrush  
(*Callistemon pallidus*)

Blackwood  
(*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Drooping She-oak  
(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

Silver Banksia  
(*Banksia marginata*)

Prickly Tea-tree  
(*Leptospermum continentale*)

Showy Wattle  
(*Acacia decora*)



Red-rumped Parrot



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (NB)





Laughing Kookaburra (NB)



Barking Owl (NB)

### Attracting large birds to your garden

Birds such as the Tawny Frogmouth, Boobook Owl, Australian Magpie, Laughing Kookaburra and the Pied and Grey Butcherbird feed on small mammals, lizards and large insects. If your backyard is big enough, one or more large trees in your garden will provide roosting spots for them to rest and hunt. The following tree species will attract large birds to your garden.

Kurrajong  
(*Brachychiton populneus*)

Blackwood  
(*Acacia melanoxylon*)

Lightwood  
(*Acacia implexa*)

Drooping She-oak  
(*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

White Cypress Pine  
(*Callitris glaucophylla*)

Gum Trees  
Red, Yellow and White Box and dwarf species (*Eucalyptus* species). Check the mature size before planting.

Birds can help maintain a healthy balance in your habitat garden by removing garden pests.



Pied Butcherbird (Male) (NB)



Tawny Frogmouths (NB)



Ragged Snake-eyed Skink (DM)



Southern Marbled Gecko (DM)

### Attracting lizards to your garden

With over 1,030 species, Australia is a global hotspot of reptile diversity, hosting 10% of the world's snake and lizard species. Many species are under threat and have declined due to loss of habitat and invasive plants. In urban gardens, many lizards face attacks by cats and dogs, encounters with lawn mowers and poisoning from eating snail bait (even pet-friendly products).

To encourage skinks and geckos such as the Blue-tongue Lizard, Wall Skink, Garden Skink and Marbled Gecko into your garden, provide some protected shelters like flat rocks, logs or brick pavers in a sunny spot for them to warm up. Encourage lots of leaf litter and provide mulch where they can hunt for insects and include native tussock grasses, low growing shrubs and creepers for protection.

### Plants to attract lizards

Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda triandra*)

Wallaby-grass  
(*Rytidosperma* species)

Red-anther Wallaby-grass  
(*Rytidosperma pallidum*)

Tussock-grass  
(*Poa* species)

Mat-rush  
(*Lomandra* species)

Purple Coral-pea  
(*Hardenbergia violacea*)

Creeping Saltbush  
(*Rhagodia spinescens*)

Daphne Heath  
(*Brachyloma daphnoides*)

### Consideration of snakes

Snakes perform a vital role in the environment by preying on rats and mice. Snakes are secretive and generally avoid busy residential areas. But they may occasionally appear in a suburban garden when looking for a meal, during the mating season or during hot summer months to escape the heat. You can make your garden less appealing by ensuring you avoid having stacks of timber and tin lying around or long grass, and sit your compost bin on chicken wire. If you encounter a snake in your garden you should not try and handle it yourself. Not only is this dangerous, but it is illegal to kill a snake. Instead contact a professional snake catcher.

## Attracting frogs to your garden

Frog populations have undergone serious decline in recent decades and a third of species are now listed as threatened worldwide. Australia has been identified as a global hotspot of frog decline with fifteen species listed as endangered, twelve species listed as vulnerable and four species that are extinct. Not only are frogs vulnerable to habitat loss and feral animal predation, but they are also susceptible to disease, pollution, pesticides and climate change. Albury-Wodonga is home to many species of frogs including the Eastern Banjo Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog, Peron's Tree Frog and the threatened Sloane's Froglet. Creating a permanent frog-friendly garden will help in the conservation and management of these species.



### Plants to attract frogs

#### Deep water zone:

Nardoo

(*Marsilea drummondii*)

Running Marsh-flower

(*Villarsia reniformis*)

Water Millfoil

(*Myriophyllum crispatum*)

#### Shallow water zone:

Common Sedge

(*Carex tereticaulis*)

Common Spike-rush

(*Eleocharis acuta*)

Tassel Sedge

(*Carex fascicularis*)

#### Damp zone:

Marsh Club-sedge

(*Bolboschoenus medianus*)

Swamp Stonecrop

(*Crassula helmsii*)

Water Plantain

(*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)

#### Pond surround:

Knobby Club-rush

(*Ficinia nodosa*)

Loose-flower Rush

(*Juncus pauciflorus*)

Spiny-headed Mat-rush

(*Lomandra longifolia*)



Peron's Tree Frog (DM)



Eastern Banjo Frog (DM)

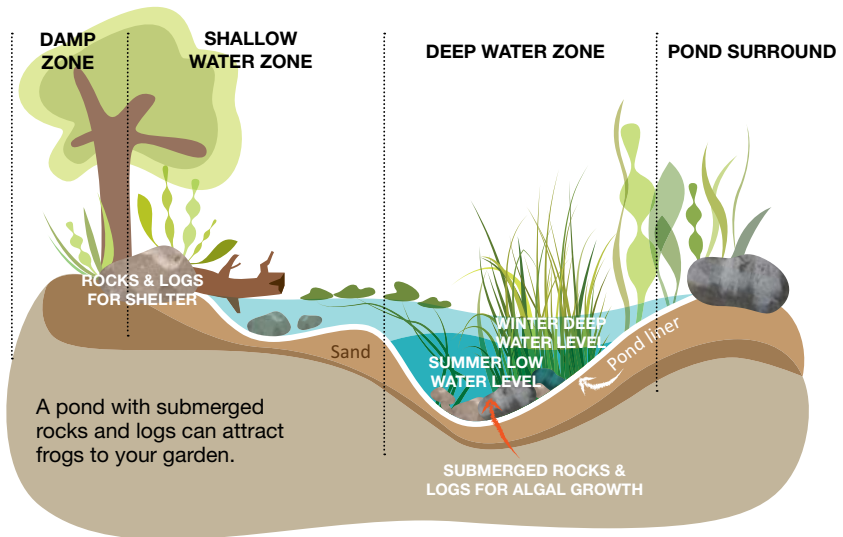


Spotted Marsh Frog (DM)

## Building a frog pond

Locate your pond in a low-lying section of the garden that has 60-70% shade. Shade from shrubs and small trees is preferable to large overhanging trees, which may drop too many leaves and cause excessive nutrient loading in your pond. You can buy ready-made ponds or dig your own and line it with heavy-duty pond lining. An important factor is to ensure your pond has varying depth that includes a ramped shallow entry point and a deeper section to place potted aquatic plants. Be aware that safety fencing may be required depending on water depth. Please check your design complies with relevant regulations. Side shelves allow for additional variation and a wider range of plants. Add rocks and logs to create climbing spots and consider using a slab of rock as a water-side observation area. Cover the bottom of your pond with washed gravel. Allow your pond to fill with rainwater or tap water. Chlorinated tap water needs to stand in a clean container for 5 days to allow the chlorine to dissipate before it is added to your frog pond. Remember frogs are very susceptible to chemicals. Once your pond is full, add your plants.

### Cross-section of frog pond

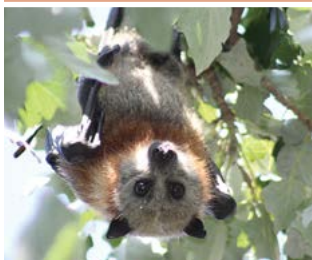


## Essentials

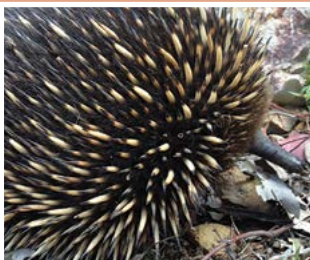
A pump should not be necessary. Tadpoles and eggs often die in pumps. As long as you do not have an excess of leaf litter falling into your pond that will result in a smothering layer of algal growth, your pond should remain healthy. Avoid floating aquatic plants such as Azolla (*Azolla filiculoides*) and Duckweed (*Spirodela oligorrhiza*) as they can quickly cover the surface of your pond reducing light and oxygen levels. Do not introduce fish into your frog pond as they will snack on tadpoles.

## Attracting mammals to your garden

Albury-Wodonga is home to many mammal species and with Australia having the worst mammal extinction rate in the world we gardeners can really help our poor mammals. As 20 percent of our remaining species are threatened with extinction our gardens and parks can be a haven. While some gardeners despair when their roses and vegetable crops become the food source of possums, we do have to remember that our homes have replaced their natural habitat. In turn they have adapted extremely well to the abundance of food and excellent nesting sites suburban properties offer. Most likely you will encounter Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, Wombats or Koalas within the bushland reserves in the region. Mammals more likely to visit your garden include the Common Ringtail Possum, Common Brushtail Possum, Squirrel Glider, microbats and the Grey-headed Flying-fox. Providing trees with hollows or species-specific nesting boxes, will encourage possums, gliders and microbats to nest away from your roof, especially if you close up any entry points. Microbats such as the Lesser Long-eared Bat and Gould's Wattled Bat eat an enormous quantity of insects each night.



Grey-headed Flying-fox (CC)



Short-beaked Echidna



Squirrel Glider (MLLS)

## Plants to attract mammals

Small Gum Trees are excellent for attracting mammals to your garden as they provide both food and shelter. Wattles, banksias, bottlebrushes and grevilleas are all rich sources of food. Add a wide variety of plants that flower at different times of the year to support your local mammals. Consider the spacing of trees to allow easy movement for tree-dwelling species. The following plants will attract mammals to your garden.

Wattles

(*Acacia* species)

Bottlebrushes

(*Callistemon* species)

Grevilleas

(*Grevillea* species)

Tea-trees

(*Leptospermum* species)

Paperbarks

(*Melaleuca* species)

Gum Trees

Red, Yellow and White Box and dwarf species (*Eucalyptus* species). Check the mature size before planting.

Rose She-oak

(*Allocasuarina torulosa*)

# Living with wildlife

Occasionally wildlife can result in unwanted pressure on our garden plants. Consider some of the following options to manage wildlife in your garden.

## Tree guards

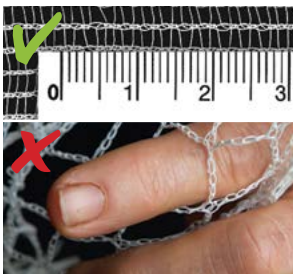
If your young plants are in danger of being eaten it is worthwhile protecting them with staked tree guards until they are established.



Tree guard

## Netting

Loosely woven netting will trap wildlife and should be avoided. Choose netting with a mesh size less than 1cm<sup>2</sup>. As a rough guide, if you can insert your finger through the netting it is capable of trapping wildlife.



## Supplementary feeding

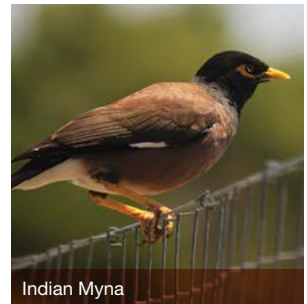
Tempting as it may be to put out seed for parrots or nectar for honeyeaters, you may be causing them more harm than good. Wildlife can become dependent on artificial food that may in some situations lead to malnutrition. Feeding stations can attract numerous birds to the same area on a regular basis. Multiple birds eating and defecating in these small areas can greatly increase the spread of disease. A constant supply of 'easy' human food can also disrupt the natural population density within an area. Rather than artificially feeding wildlife, plant lots of food-producing native plants and provide a good supply of water!



Rainbow Lorikeets

## Deter pest birds

Introduced pest birds such as Indian Mynas love nothing more than an easy feed from a pet food bowl. Feed pets indoors or where birds cannot access their bowl. Ensure compost bins and rubbish bins are covered.



Indian Myna

## Injured wildlife

If you find an injured animal, call your local vet or Wildlife Victoria on 1300 094 535 or WIRES 1300 094 737.



Rescued baby Ringtail Possum

# Planting and maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting: Plant selection, planting out, maintenance and watering.

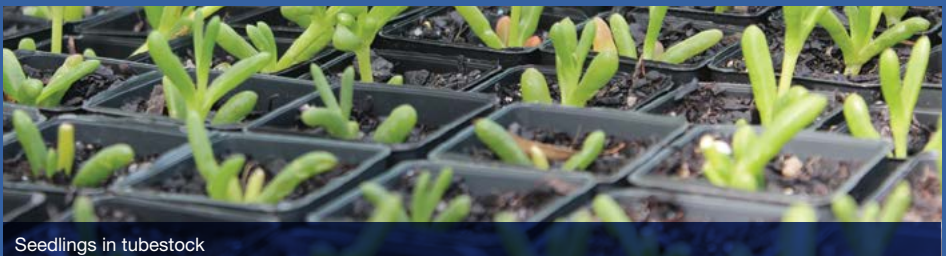
## Plant selection

Success in the garden starts with choosing the right plant for the right spot.

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. Plant labels and nursery staff should assist you with selecting suitable plants by understanding their needs. Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature.

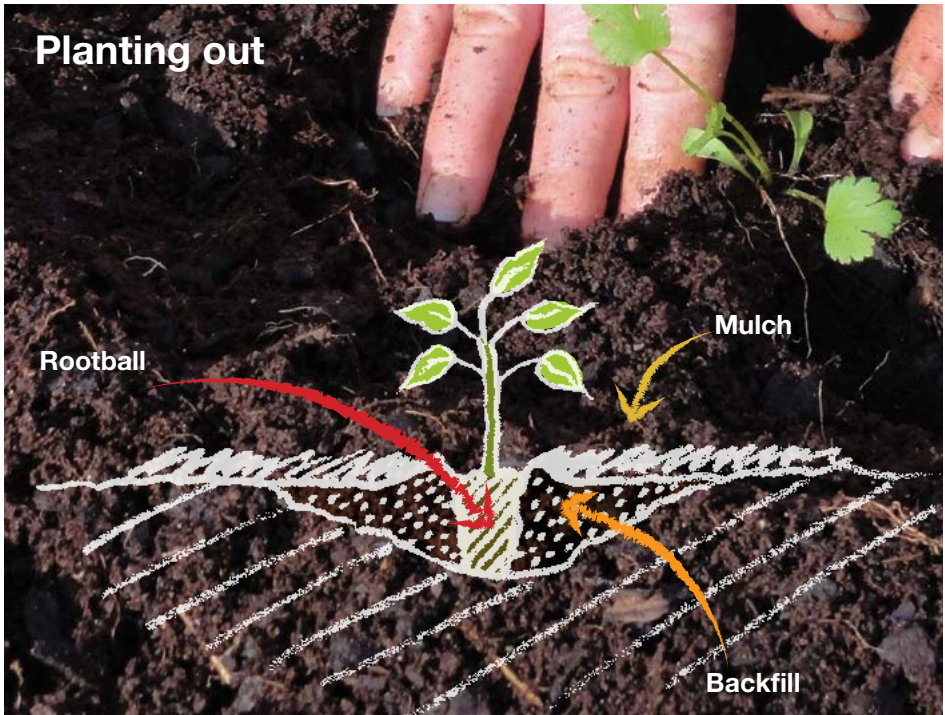
It's a good idea to know exactly where you are going to plant something. This will help avoid failed plantings or other issues in your patch. For example, if not carefully selected and positioned, large trees may shade out sun-loving plants underneath them, impact nearby buildings or plumbing with their 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.



Seedlings in tubestock

## Planting out



1. Give your potted plant a good soak in a bucket of water prior to planting.
2. Dig a sloping, shallow hole 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball and as deep as the root ball.
3. Remove any weeds in the planting hole as they can emit a chemical that inhibits root growth.
4. Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.
5. Upend your pot. Any roots protruding through the bottom can be pruned before removing from the pot. Remove the plant from the pot by holding it upside down and gently tap it out of the pot. Note, there is generally no need to tease or separate the root ball, it is better not to disturb the root system.
6. Place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is flush with the surface level.
7. Backfill loose soil around the plant and press down firmly.
8. Fashion a circle of raised soil around the edge of the root ball to form a watering basin.
9. Water thoroughly to settle the soil around the plant.
10. Mulch up to the edge of the root ball. Do not mulch up to the stem as this may cause collar rot.



# Maintenance

The amount of time you spend on garden maintenance is a personal choice. Be realistic about how much time you can spend, or want to spend, maintaining your garden. It can be very relaxing and beneficial to spend an afternoon working in the garden. The following are some typical maintenance activities.

## 1. Prioritise tasks

Identify all garden maintenance tasks and prioritise their importance and what time of year they are best completed. Tasks generally include: planting, watering, weeding, pruning, mulching, fertilising and construction (garden infrastructure or new beds or renovating garden beds).

## 2. Planting

Planting in our local climate to increase successful growth is best when the ground is well prepared, there is good soil moisture levels and there is adequate follow up watering – either from rainfall or extra watering. For most plants this is from May through to August.

## 3. Weeding and protection

Removing competition from surrounding annual weeds will ensure your desired plant receives any moisture, light and fertilizer. If local pest animal problems exist, adding guards around your plant until they are well-established is recommended.

## 4. Watering

Water any new plants at the time of planting and then monitor moisture levels. This is particularly important over the first summer. Young plants will establish well if watered when soil levels become dry. Depending on your soil type this could vary from weekly to every few weeks. Mulching around young plants will help reduce excessive soil moisture loss.



Deep watering

## 5. Mulching

Topping up mulch annually - preferably after soaking rain - helps the soil stay moist, adds organic matter as it breaks down and reduces competition from weeds. Avoid fresh or really thick wood chip unless you can stock pile them to break down before using.



### 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.
- Try contacting your local aborists - they may have mulch suitable for your garden and this also helps prevent it going to waste.
  - Native plants will benefit from a native mulch such as eucalypt mulch. Avoid using pine mulch on a native garden.
  - Rocks and gravel are a useful mulch alternative too.

## 6. Pruning

As a general rule, prune after plants flower. Many native plants respond well to regular tip pruning. This helps maintain shape and vigour. If you are creating a hedge start the pruning early in the plants life. Occasional heavy pruning of some plant species results in a new lease of life and increased longevity in a garden. Bottlebrush are a great example of this.



## 7. Fertilising

Native plants generally do not require fertilising as they have adapted to suit our local soils. A good bush mulch will slowly break down and add nutrients to the soil. If you do fertilise your native plants, there are commercial products available for native plants that are slow-release and low in phosphate.

## 8. Garden constructions

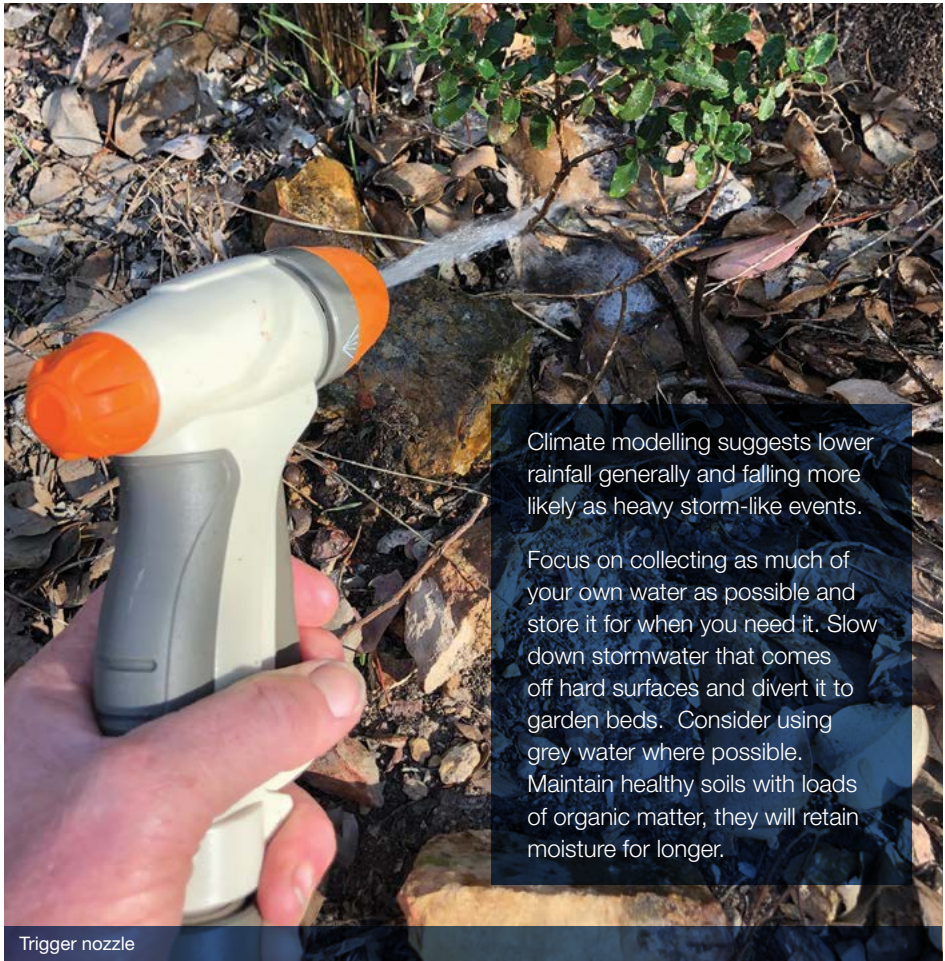
If you are starting your garden, consider what structural elements you plan to include. Constructing or building prior to planting is easier for access and flexibility. During any construction, soil is often compacted and neglected. This will need attention before you plant. Renovating old garden beds is an opportunity to also improve soil and organic matter before any new plants go in.

# Watering

Water is essential for life and in our local area the most valuable resource we have. Our local economy relies heavily on the Murray and Kiewa Rivers and the storage capacity of the Hume and Dartmouth dams.

Our local towns and communities, including the agricultural and horticultural industries, are all dependent on the rivers, storage dams and irrigation systems. These in

turn depend on healthy water ways and catchments. As gardeners we can support our water ways and catchments with conscious water use and garden activities.



Climate modelling suggests lower rainfall generally and falling more likely as heavy storm-like events.

Focus on collecting as much of your own water as possible and store it for when you need it. Slow down stormwater that comes off hard surfaces and divert it to garden beds. Consider using grey water where possible.

Maintain healthy soils with loads of organic matter, they will retain moisture for longer.

Trigger nozzle

# Alternative water sources

## Rainwater

Collecting rainwater from your roof is a logical way to reduce the amount of mains water used on your garden. The ideal tank size will depend on the size of your garden, your roof catchment area and your local rainfall patterns. The larger the tank the more expensive it will be and the more room it will need.

Most rainwater tanks for a garden range from 5,000 – 10,000 litres. They need to be installed on a firm base at least 1m from your property boundary and be connected by a licensed plumber. You may need to consider whether a pump is needed to move water around your garden, as there is less water pressure from a rainwater tank.



## Greywater

Greywater is domestic wastewater, excluding toilet waste. It can be an excellent alternative source of temporary water for the garden, but care needs to be taken when using it. Greywater can contain a number of bacteria and viruses, as well as chemicals from cleaning agents. If greywater is to be applied to the garden, low phosphorous and sodium washing powders need to be used and only greywater from your washing machine rinse cycle and bathroom hand basin, shower and bath used. Greywater can only be stored for 24 hours, must be applied sub-surface and cannot flow from your property or enter the stormwater system.

Greywater cannot be used to water produce other than fruit trees. When applying it to your garden, rotate the areas where it is being applied and ‘flush’ the soil periodically with mains or tank water to prevent a build up in the soil.

For more information visit:

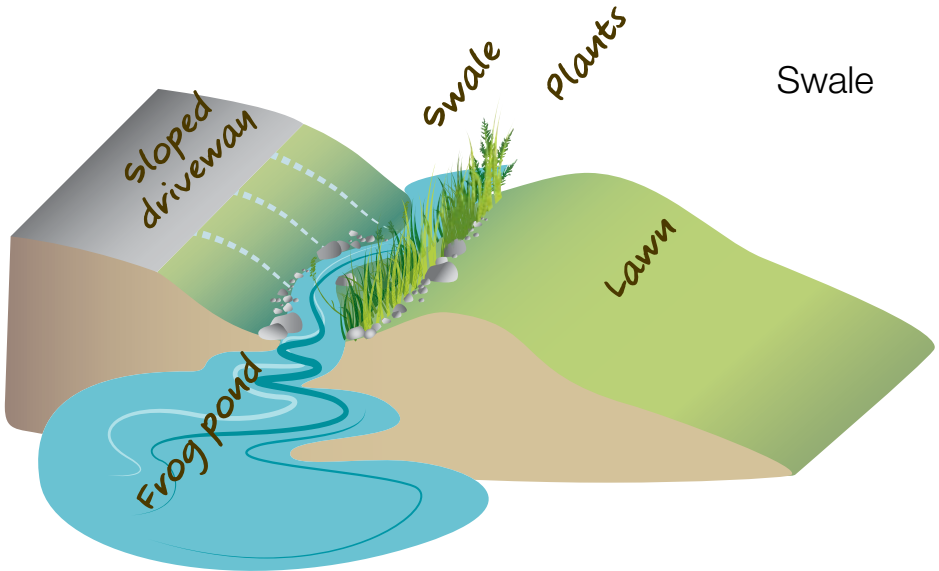
- In Victoria [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au)
- In NSW check with your local council.

## Stormwater

Stormwater is rainwater that ‘runs off’ across hard surfaces instead of seeping into the ground. In the natural environment rain slowly percolates into the soil and eventually into our waterways through the groundwater table. The water flow rate is slowed down and as the water seeps through the soil excess nutrients and pollutants are removed. This process results in high quality water entering our streams and creeks. These days much of our urban landscape is covered with hard surfaces such as roads, driveways and parking lots that are impervious to water. Consequently when it rains, large volumes of water rapidly enter our stormwater system carrying pollutants, affecting flow rates and often resulting in the erosion of river beds and banks. Stormwater represents a valuable resource that can be captured and utilised by gardeners.

## Downpipe diversion

By diverting one or more downpipes around your property you can direct stormwater onto your garden beds or lawn utilising a valuable resource and allowing that water to slow and filter before seeping back into the groundwater table. A downpipe diversion can easily be fitted to your downpipe by a licensed plumber.



## Landscaping

Water can be directed onto your garden beds by gently sloping the surface of driveways and patios. This stormwater run off from your hard surfaces can be collected in a swale which is essentially a shallow, mounded ditch laid across a contour with a shallow gradient directing run-off towards your garden or a small wetland.

If you are laying pavers consider creating a space between that will enable water to percolate into the soil. There are also commercial concrete grid and modular plastic blocks for paving available. Granitic and sand paths require more maintenance but will allow water to seep into the ground.

# Wise Watering

## How and when to water

Efficient watering starts in the planning. Select plants with water needs that suit the local climate and the availability of water in your garden. Then consider where you plant them - grouping plants with similar water needs will make watering more simple and efficient.

There are many watering methods but the timing and frequency of watering are the most critical aspect. Always check the soil moisture first. Press your finger into the soil past your first knuckle and don't water if it is already damp or wet. Over time you'll get to know your garden's needs.

Avoid watering in the hottest part of the day. Water the ground close to the base of the plants and avoid watering over the leaves.

**Hand watering** takes time but can be efficient, as you know exactly how much water your plants are getting. It can also be a pleasant way to observe and enjoy your garden.

**Trigger nozzles** are useful for avoiding wastage as you move around your garden.

**Drip irrigation systems** release water slowly and efficiently. They work well for larger plants, fruit trees, steep sites and pots. They do take effort to set up and need regular maintenance for maximum benefit.

**Wicking beds** are particularly good for vegies in our climate. They deliver a consistent water supply directly to the roots with minimal waste and eliminate the need for daily manual watering. They can be more expensive to set up initially.

**Sprinklers** can be useful for covering large areas, but can be wasteful on a slope or in hot and windy conditions (or when you forget to turn them off!).

**Perforated hoses** apply water slowly and are particularly useful in narrow and hard to water places. They can be buried to supply water directly to the roots.

Whatever method you use, a **timer** and a **rain sensor** can improve effectiveness and efficiency.



Spaced pavers



Tap timer



Drip line irrigation

# Native plants for your garden

The following is a selection of reliable native plants that will grow well in this region. The list includes some local native species - 'Local Favourites' - that work well in gardens.

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

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**Nectar feeders** such as spinebills, wattlebirds and honeyeaters

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**Parrots** such as rosellas, galahs and cockatoos

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**Pollinators** such as native bees and butterflies

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**Frogs** such as the Eastern Banjo and Spotted Marsh Frog

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**Lizards** such as the Marbled Gecko and Blue-tongue Lizard

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**Mammals** such as microbats, gliders and possums

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**Large birds** such as owls, Tawny Frogmouth and kookaburras

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



# Trees

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

Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)





Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) (HF)

*Brachychiton* species  
**Flame Tree and Kurrajong**



Fantastic feature or shade trees with slightly swollen trunks, striking flowers and glossy-green leaves.

**Garden favourites**

- Illawarra Flame Tree  
*(Brachychiton acerifolius)*

**Local favourites**

- Kurrajong  
*(Brachychiton populneus)*

**Size and habit**

- Medium to large trees 10 to 20m high.
- Grafted dwarf varieties are becoming more available.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Very attractive pink to red bell-shaped flowers.
- Seed pods contain fine hairs that can cause irritation.
- Will shed leaves in late spring/summer.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Drought and frost tolerant.
- Ensure these are planted at least 4m from any structure or path.



*Allocasuarina torulosa*  
**Rose or Forest She-oak**



A tall, spreading evergreen tree with attractive drooping needle-like leaves that turn rusty-red when in flower in winter.

**Size and habit**

- Medium to large trees 10 to 20m high.
- Grafted dwarf varieties are becoming more available.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Weeping, needle-like leaves.
- Flowers on male plants are reddish brown on the ends of branches, while female flowers are red along the stems.
- Attractive hard seed cones.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun.
- Tolerant of dry conditions.
- Grows well in a wide range of well-drained soils.



*Hymenosporum flavum*  
**Native Frangipani**



A small rainforest tree that grows surprisingly well in inland areas. Delightfully fragrant flowers!

**Size and habit**

- Grows to 8m high and 3-7m wide.
- Small, slender tree.
- Branches radiate in whorls from the main stem.
- Rough grey bark.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Clusters of fragrant flowers during spring into early summer.
- Young flowers are cream in colour aging to yellow.
- Glossy green leaves to 10cm long.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Sun to part-shade.
- Tolerates a wide range of well-drained soils.
- Benefits for high organic matter in the soil.
- Protect from frost until the tree is a couple of metres tall.
- Will require additional water during hot, dry weather.



Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*)

*Eucalyptus, Angophora and Corymbia* species | **Small Gum Trees**



Compact trees with showy flowers. Advances in grafting and cultivation mean there are small gum trees suitable for almost any garden. Alternatively, look for ‘Mallee’ eucalypts that are naturally smaller with multiple trunks.

**Garden favorites**

- Grafted Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*)
- Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*)
- Yellow Gum ‘Euky Dwarf’ (*Eucalyptus leucoxyton*)
- Dwarf Apple (*Angophora hispida*)

**Size and habit**

- Many nurseries will stock grafted ‘dwarf’ varieties from 3 to 10m tall.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Flowers are typically oranges, reds, pinks, cream and yellows.
- Leaves range in colour and length.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Requirements will vary, so read labels carefully.
- Small trees are still large plants, plant well clear of pipes, structures and other plants that need full sun.



# Shrubs

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



(10)

*Thryptomene saxicola*  
**Thryptomene FC Payne**



An attractive, tough shrub that keeps on flowering and flowering! A feature plant in the garden, a small hedge or a great container plant. Fast-growing, versatile and hardy.

**Size and habit**

- Grows to 1.5m high and wide.
- Low-growing, dense shrub with weeping habit.
- It can be pruned by cutting off branches to use as cut flowers, otherwise give it a light trim coming out of winter.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Small, open-petalled, clusters of light-pink flowers from winter through spring.
- Oval-shaped leaves growing to 1cm.
- Foliage is spicy fragrant when crushed.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun or part-shade.
- Well-drained soil.
- Tolerates mild frosts.



Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*)

*Grevillea* species  
**Grevilleas**



One of the most popular and widely cultivated of all Australian plants. They are hardy and prolific flowerers.

**Garden favourites**

- Robyn Gordon varieties
- Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*)
- Silky Grevillea (*Grevillea sericea*)

**Local favourites**

- Cat's Claw (*Grevillea alpina*)
- Woolly Grevillea (*Grevillea lanigera*)

**Size and habit**

- Most are small to medium shrubs.
- Be sure to check the label.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Masses of long-lived flowers ranging in size and colour.
- Leaves range in size and shape and can cause mild skin irritation.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- A sunny position with free-draining soil.
- Drought-tolerant once established, but benefit from occasional deep-watering.
- Tip prune for bushier growth and more flowers.
- Frost tolerant.



Weeping Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*)

## *Callistemon* species **Bottlebrushes**



An attractive, versatile and hardy addition to any garden.

### **Garden favourites**

- Weeping Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*)
- Lemon Scented Bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*)

### **Local favourites**

- River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*)

### **Size and habit**

- Woody shrubs ranging from 0.5 to 4m tall.
- Respond well to heavy pruning.

### **Flowers and foliage**

- Distinctive long-lived 'bottlebrush' flowers form in spring.
- A range of colours.
- New leaves can be very ornamental.

### **Preferred growing conditions**

- A sunny position will produce the most flowers, but will tolerate anything but total shade.
- Enjoys occasional watering once established, but can withstand drought.
- Prune annually just behind spent flowers.



Tar Bush (*Eremophila glabra*)

## *Eremophila* species **Emu Bushes**



The beauty and abundance of their flowers, variety of foliage and habit, and extended flowering period make Emu Bushes excellent garden plants.

### **Garden favourites**

- Showy Emu Bush (*Eremophila nivea*)
- Bignonia Emu Bush (*Eremophila bignoniiflora*)
- Tar Bush (*Eremophila glabra*)
- *Eremophila* 'Summertime Blue'

### **Size and habit**

- Usually small to medium shrubs 1 to 3m.
- Larger shrubs and low-growing forms are also available.

### **Flowers and foliage**

- Beautiful tubular flowers in a range of colours.
- Many have greyish, hairy foliage as protection against drying winds.

### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Perform best in well-drained soils and rarely succeed in wet soils.
- Be careful not to overwater.
- Drought resistant and tolerate frost.
- Can be pruned back by about one third after flowering to promote a bushy habit.



Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)

## *Leptospermum* & *Melaleuca* species Tea-trees and Paperbarks



These desirable garden plants are hardy, versatile, have abundant, large, showy flowers and attractive foliage and bark.

### Garden favourites

- Pink Tea-tree (*Leptospermum squarrosum*)
- Violet Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca wilsonii*)
- Grey Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca incana*)
- Showy Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophila*)

### Local favourites

- Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)

### Size and habit

- Range from small to large shrubs.
- Compact growth.

### Flowers and foliage

- Flowers range from white to pink to red.
- Small leaves, sometimes scented, often with red/purple new growth.
- Regular tip pruning will prevent woody appearance.

### Preferred growing conditions

- Full sun is preferred.
- Will tolerate poor drainage.



## *Indigofera australis* Austral Indigo



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

### 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.



Coastal Westringia (*Westringia fruticosa*)

## Westringia species **Westringias**



With fine, dense grey-green foliage that responds well to pruning, Westringia's are particularly useful for hedges, screening or topiary. They are also attractive unpruned in a low maintenance garden. These fast-growing plants are ideal for filling gaps or kick starting an empty garden.

### **Garden favourites**

- Westringia Wynyabbie Gem
- Coastal Westringia (*Westringia fruticosa*)

### **Size and habit**

- Available from 0.5 to 2m.
- Dense compact shrubs.

### **Flowers and foliage**

- Foliage is dense grey or green.
- Prolific delicate mauve, blue or white flowers.

### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Generally like full sun and good drainage but are adaptable to most conditions.



Chef's Cap Correa (*Correa baeuerlenii*)

## Correa species **Correas**



These pretty, small to medium shrubs are a low maintenance and reliable native favourite. They are available in a variety of shapes and colours. Smaller varieties are useful for pots, courtyards or along path edges.

### **Garden favourites**

- Chef's Cap Correa (*Correa baeuerlenii*)
- Rock Correa (*Correa glabra*)

### **Local favourites**

- Native Fuchsia (*Correa reflexa*)
- Mountain Correa (*Correa lawrenceana*)

### **Size and habit**

- Compact shrubs with dense foliage up to 2m.

### **Flowers and foliage**

- Attractive drooping, bell-shaped flowers range from green, yellow to red.

### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun.
- Frost hardy.
- They have shallow roots so will survive beneath large trees.
- Mulch to keep moist but avoid over watering.



(TW)

*Mirbelia oxylobioides*  
**Mountain Bush-pea**



A very attractive feature shrub for the garden or a low-level cover in windbreaks.

**Size and habit**

- Grows to 1.5m high and 1m wide.
- Erect, spreading shrub in the pea family.
- Prune to encourage compact shape.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Pea flowers are orange-yellow with reddish centre.
- Flower from spring to summer.
- Stems are covered in downy hairs.
- Leaves are pointed and ovate to 10mm long.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun to part-shade.
- Well-drained soils.
- Tolerates frost.



Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)

*Acacia* species  
**Wattles**



One of Australia's most iconic plants producing abundant yellow flowers. These fast-growing plants are ideal for filling gaps or kick starting an empty garden.

**Garden favourites**

- Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)
- Lime Lights (*Acacia cognata*)
- Ovens Wattle (*Acacia pravissima*)

**Local favourites**

- Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*)
- Box-leaf Wattle (*Acacia buxifolia*)
- Showy Wattle (*Acacia decora*)
- Varnish Wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*)

**Size and habit**

- Range in size from 1 to 4m.
- Be sure to check plant labels.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Foliage varies.
- Different varieties flower at different times of the year; many will provide welcome winter blooms.

**Preferred growing condition**

- Check labels for hardy species.
- Avoid adding phosphorus.
- Does not like heavy pruning but regular light pruning will maintain shape.



# Grasses and grass-like plants

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

Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)





(AB)

*Austrostipa elegantissima*  
**Feather Spear-grass**



This local is a graceful, ornamental grass that is particularly attractive when mass planted.

**Size and habit**

- Grows to 1m high.
- Tussock-forming grass.
- Responds well to pruning.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Feathery silvery-white flower heads that turn purple-grey with maturity.
- Flowers from spring to summer.
- Bronze seed heads with corkscrew twists.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun or part-shade.
- All well-drained soils.
- Grows well on dry, sandy soil.



Wattle Mat-rush (*Lomandra filiformis*)

*Lomandra* species  
**Mat-rushes**



This very hardy group is useful for providing leafy texture, as a border or in harsh locations. The fibrous root system is good for soil or slope stabilisation.

**Garden favourites**

There are large varieties of cultivars available, many of which will grow well in your garden, including:

- ‘Tanika’ Mat-rush
- ‘Fine N Dandy’ Mat-rush

**Local favourites**

- Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)
- Many-flowered Mat-rush (*Lomandra multiflora*)

**Size and habit**

- Check labels for dimensions.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Flowers are generally insignificant, although some have grass-like flowers.
- Foliage is strappy and ranging from bright green to grey.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Extremely hardy, will tolerate sun, shade, wet and dry conditions.



Blue Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)

*Dianella* species  
**Flax-lilies**



Tough and low maintenance. Useful for borders, in pots or suppressing weeds over a larger area.

**Garden favourites**

There are large varieties of cultivars available, many of which will grow well in your garden, including:

- 'Little Devil' Native Flax (*Dianella tasmanica*)
- Utopia Native Flax (*Dianella prunina*)
- 'Little Rev' Native Flax (*Dianella revoluta*)

**Local favourites**

- Blue Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*)

**Size and habit**

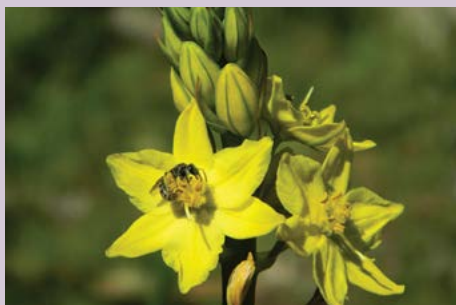
- 0.3 to 1m high.
- 'Running' roots will naturally spread to fill an area.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Strappy, leathery leaves range from dark to blue green.
- Blue-purple flowers usually followed by attractive blue berries.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Will tolerate a range of conditions, but not permanent wet soil.



Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*) (SB)

*Bulbine, Dichopogon and Arthropodium* species | **Small Lilies**



Small perennial pops of colour, great for rockeries, flower gardens and containers. Lovely when planted in large clumps.

**Local favourites**

- Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*)
- Pale Vanilla Lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*)
- Chocolate Lilly (*Dichopogon strictus*)

**Size and habit**

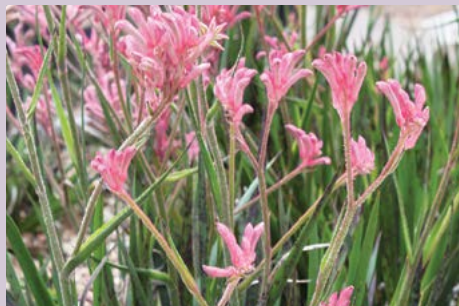
- 0.3 to 0.8m high.
- Dormant in dry times, will re-sprout from underground tubers.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Fine grass-like leaves with many small flowers clustered on long stems.
- Range of colours.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Will suit containers or shallow soils.
- Keep moist to extend growing season.
- Mark or label their position in garden so they are not damaged during dormancy.



Kangaroo Paw 'Pink Beauty' (*Anigozanthos* hybrid)

## *Anigozanthos* species **Kangaroo Paws**



With distinctive, vibrant, fuzzy flowers and green strappy leaves, Kangaroo Paws are uniquely Australian. Best treated as a short-lived perennial providing colour and interest in the garden or in pots.

### **Garden favourites**

There are many interesting varieties available, but the wild species Tall Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus*) is the most reliable and long-lived.

### **Size and habit**

- There are small and tall varieties up to 2m.
- The smaller varieties are shorter lived.

### **Flowers and foliage**

- Strappy green leaves with taller flowers that range that range in colour.
- Flowering time late spring to mid-summer.

### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Can be fussy, so take care to select the right variety for your garden.
- Full sun and soil must be well-drained.
- Remove spent flower heads and blackened leaves.
- Suitable for pots, ensure they are well watered during growing season.



## *Themeda triandra* **Kangaroo Grass**



This local is a great favourite feature tussock in the garden or mass planted.

### **Size and habit**

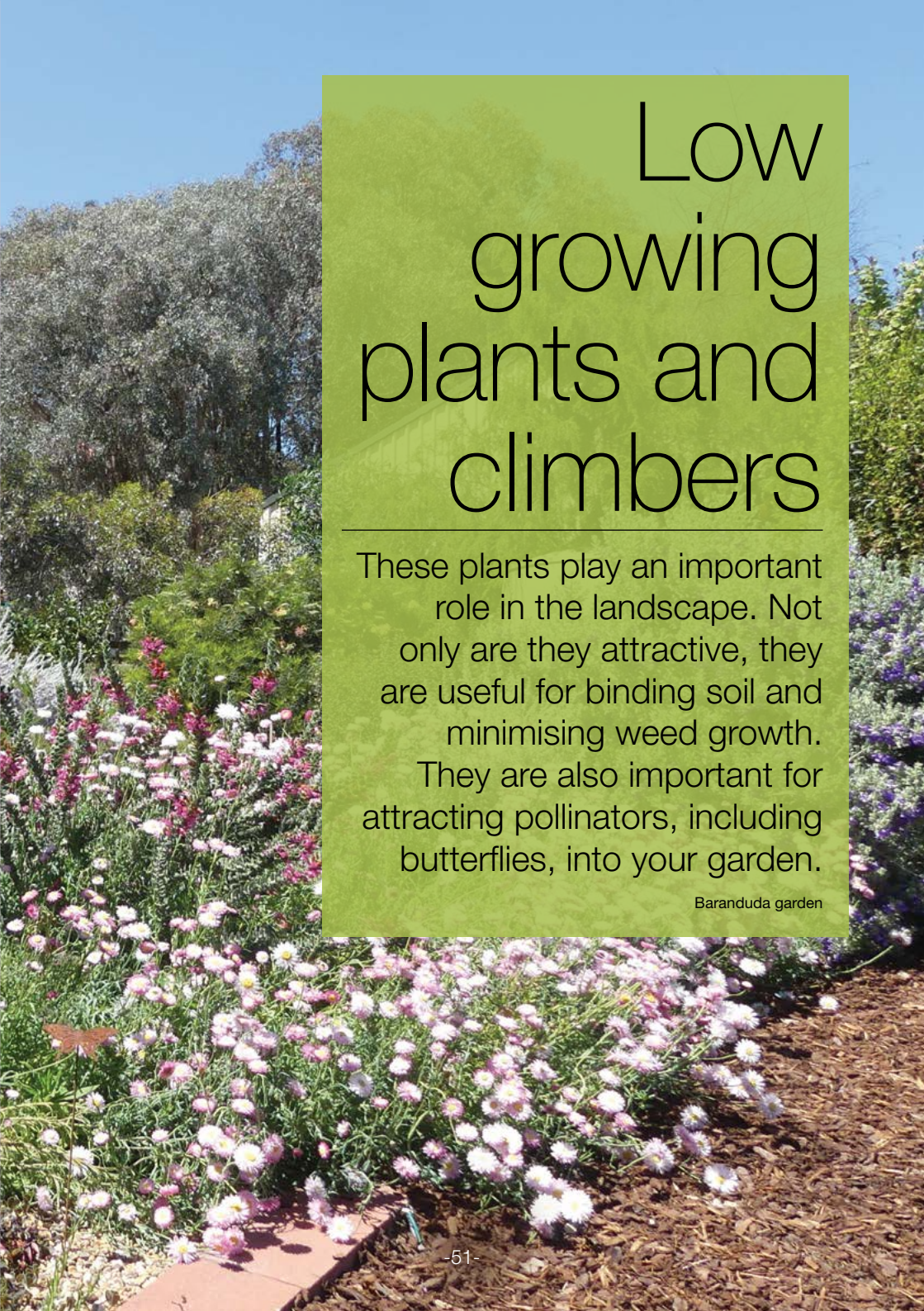
- Tussock leaves grow to 40cm high and 80cm wide.
- Stems grow above the plant to 70-90cm flowering from September to March.

### **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-shade.
- Grass tussocks can be cut back in early spring to encourage new green growth.



# Low growing plants and climbers

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These plants play an important role in the landscape. Not only are they attractive, they are useful for binding soil and minimising weed growth.

They are also important for attracting pollinators, including butterflies, into your garden.

Baranduda garden



Cut-leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*)

### *Brachyscome* & *Xerochrysum* species | **Daisies**



There is a large variety of native daisies that can bring colour to the garden in many ways: as mass plantings for dramatic colour, ground covers, edging plants or for splashes of colour amongst existing plants.

#### **Garden favourites**

- Billy Buttons (*Craspedia globosa*)
- Native Daisy (*Brachyscome* species)
- Everlasting or Paper daisies

#### **Local favourites**

- Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*)
- Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)
- Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*)

#### **Size and habit**

- Low growing, generally 0.1 to 0.6m high.

#### **Flowers and foliage**

- Generally flower in large numbers of yellows, pinks, whites and purple.
- Foliage varies from green to grey.

#### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Will grow in pots or in the ground.
- Full sun for best floral displays.
- Remove spent flowers to avoid self seeding around your patch.



(EL)

### *Pandorea pandorana* **Wonga Vine**



A variable native climber with twining branches. Tough, adaptable and attractive.

#### **Size and habit**

- A fast-growing plant.
- Grows from 2-10m high and 1-9m wide.
- Can be cut back hard after flowering to rejuvenate.

#### **Flowers and foliage**

- Masses of bell-shaped flowers in spring.
- Flower colour variable from white, cream, yellow to gold with purple throat.
- Glossy-green leaves.

#### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun to part-shade.
- Adaptable to most well-drained soils.
- Tolerates light frost.



*Myoporum parvifolium*  
**Creeping Boobialla**



A low maintenance groundcover that is great to deter weeds, cover slopes and banks and can be a lawn substitute for low traffic areas.

**Size and habit**

- Grows 20-30cm high and 1-3m wide.
- Spreading form.
- Fast-growing, prune to encourage annually after flowering to encourage new growth.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Masses of attractive white flowers.
- Flowering time late spring to early autumn.
- Dense, fine green leaves.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun to semi-shade.
- Drought tolerant.
- Tolerates light frost.



Grevillea Gaudi Chaudi (*Grevillea gaudichaudii*)

*Grevillea* species  
**Grevillea**



Fantastic for slopes, as a ground cover and for landscaping large areas.

**Garden favourites**

- Mt Tamboritha Grevillea (*Grevillea lanigera*)
- Grevillea Gaudi Chaudi (*Grevillea gaudichaudii*)
- Grevillea Bronze Rambler
- Poorinda Royal Mantle

**Size and habit**

- Generally 0.3 to 0.6m high.
- Low growing varieties will vary in how far they spread, so check labels.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Flowers in shades of red, orange or yellow.
- Evergreen foliage ranges from needle shaped to fern-like, some have bronze tips and some may cause mild skin irritation.

**Preferred growing condition**

- A sunny position with free-draining soil.
- Drought tolerant once established, but will appear healthier with occasional deep watering.
- Avoid fertilisers containing phosphorous.



*Kennedia prostrata*  
**Running Postman**



This local, trailing, hardy and adaptable groundcover grows well in rockeries or hanging baskets where flowers can cascade down the sides.

#### **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.



*Hardenbergia violacea*  
**Purple Coral Pea**



Very showy scrambler which will lightly twine over shrubs and on trellises or remain flat. A bush local, with many forms commercially available.

#### **Size and habit**

- A climbing plant whose woody branches twist around the stems of other plants.
- Moderately vigorous, but rarely covers other plants so extensively as to cause damage.
- For compact growth, prune after flowering.

#### **Flowers and foliage**

- Large sprays of pea flowers, massed along branches.
- Purple flowers appear in winter and spring.
- Dark, glossy-green leaves.

#### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Flowers best in full sun.
- Adaptable to most soils.
- Tolerates light frosts.





*Glycine clandestina*  
**Twining Glycine**



Light, open twining herb with long stems, often not noticed until it flowers. This local favourite is a gentle climber for a shady garden.

**Size and habit**

- Slender, light climber.
- Hardy once established.
- Grows from 30cm to 2m.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Loose sprays of attractive blue-mauve pea flowers.
- Flowering from spring to summer.
- Sparsely scattered small, dark-green leaves.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Part-shade to shade.
- Moist well-drained soils.
- Tolerates dryness once established.



Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)

*Rhagodia*, *Einadia* & *Enchylaena* species | **Saltbushes**



Small to medium plants that tend to spread out. Very hardy with attractive dense foliage and some have brightly coloured berries.

**Garden favourites**

- Spiny saltbush (*Rhagodia spinescens*)
- Nodding saltbush (*Einadia nutans*)
- Ruby saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)

**Size and habit**

- 0.4 to 1.5m in height, width will vary with species up to 4m.

**Flowers and foliage**

- Flowers are insignificant.
- Foliage is fine and dense, often silver-grey.

**Preferred growing conditions**

- Full sun or part-shade.
- Will cope with poor or saline soils, frost and drought.

# Windbreaks and hedges

Many plants are responsive to pruning and can be shaped into a hedge or mass planted to form a windbreak.

Tea-tree (*Leptospermum* species)



*Correa alba*  
**White Correa**



A hardy shrub that responds well to pruning.

#### **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 extended dry periods.



Victorian Christmas Bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos*) (RE)

*Prostanthera* species  
**Mint Bushes**



An excellent shrub for moist, sheltered positions. Contact releases a minty fragrance.

#### **Size and habit**

- Grows 1-3m high and 2-3m wide.
- Fast-growing, dense rounded shrub.
- Pruning after flowering maintains bushiness and vigour.

#### **Flowers and foliage**

- Shrub with dark mauve, pink or white flowers.
- Flowers from spring to summer.
- Rounded, dark-green leaves with a strong minty aroma.

#### **Preferred growing conditions**

- Part-shade to full shade.
- Moist well-drained soils.

# Pest plants

Non-native or 'exotic' plants can be useful for shade, structure, colour and interest in the garden. However, we need to be constantly aware that they also make up the vast majority of Australia's invasive 'pest plants'.

What is a pest plant? A plant that escapes from your garden into parks, bushland and other spaces is a pest.

Plants can spread from people dumping garden waste in reserves and waterways. Pest plants are a problem because they out-compete native plants and change local ecosystems so that habitat no longer supports native birds and animals.

Some local pest plants are listed here but your local council will have more species that are pests in your area, and it's best not to plant these. You can sometimes observe plants having escaped from your garden. If so it's a good idea to remove and replace them.

When removing pest plants be sure to target their removal before they set seed. This is particularly important with grass species.



Large Quaking-grass (*Briza maxima*)

## PEST PLANT



**Watsonia**  
*Watsonia meriana*  
var. *Bulbillifera*

Aggressive weed forming continuous stands which exclude ground layer species.



**Italian or Topped Lavender**  
*Lavandula stoechas*

Forms dense thickets, easily spread by graders, walkers, wind and water.



**Freesia**  
*Freesia* hybrid

Readily spread by corms and seeds, especially in dumped garden waste.



**Brooms**  
*Cytisus* and  
*Genista* species

Forms dense thickets, spread by soil movement, ants.



**Cotoneaster**  
*Cotoneaster* species

Spreads by birds eating fruits and passing seeds in droppings.

## REPLACEMENT PLANT



**Flax-lily**  
*Dianella* species



**English lavender**  
*Lavender*  
*angustifolia*



**Bulbine Lily**  
*Bulbine bulbosa*



**Gold-dust Wattle**  
*Acacia acinacea*



**Lilly Pilly**  
*Acmena* species

**PEST PLANT**

**REPLACEMENT PLANT**



**Bluebell Creeper**  
*Billardiera heterophylla*

Spread by birds and foxes, seed pods burst open spreading seeds.



**Cootamundra Wattle**  
*Acacia baileyana*

Seeds spread by ants and water, replaces native habitat.



**Olive**  
*Olea europaea*

Fruit easily dispersed by birds, dense canopy suppresses native regeneration.



**Peppercorn**  
*Schinus molle*

Seeds dispersed by birds long distances. Seeds stored in soil for many years.



**Sweet Pittosporum**  
*Pittosporum undulatum*

Fleshy seed often spread by birds and animals.



**Purple Coral-pea**  
*Hardenbergia violacea*



**Showy Wattle**  
*Acacia decora*



**Feijoa**  
*Feijoa sellowiana*



**Wilga**  
*Geijera parviflora*



**Native Frangipani**  
*Hymenosporum flavum*

# Further reading and links

## Local resources

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network  
Local Landcare groups, workshops and  
information [wodongalandcare.org.au](http://wodongalandcare.org.au)

Gardens for Wildlife Albury-Wodonga  
(Facebook page) [facebook.com/G4WAW](https://facebook.com/G4WAW)

Albury Conservation Company  
[alburyconservationco.org.au](http://alburyconservationco.org.au)

Parklands Albury Wodonga  
[parklands-alburywodonga.org.au](http://parklands-alburywodonga.org.au)

Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare plant  
database. Local native plants information  
[wtlandcare.org](http://wtlandcare.org)

Euroa Arboretum Great information  
about native plants and wildlife notes  
[euroaarboretum.com.au/catalogue](http://euroaarboretum.com.au/catalogue)

Local sustainable living events and groups  
[ecoportal.net.au](http://ecoportal.net.au)

## Become a citizen scientist

You might like to record your wildlife  
observations. The iNaturalist platform  
helps you to share your observations, see  
sightings near you and have your records  
added to the national biodiversity database  
for use by others including scientists. Find  
out more at [inaturalist.ala.org.au](http://inaturalist.ala.org.au)

Or participate in backyard wildlife surveys  
such as the Aussie Backyard Bird Count  
([aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://aussiebirdcount.org.au)), Wild Pollinator  
Count ([wildpollinatorcount.com](http://wildpollinatorcount.com)) and  
Frog ID week ([frogid.net.au](http://frogid.net.au)).

## Gardening with bushfires in mind

The CFAs *Landscaping for Bushfire:  
Garden Design and Plant Selection*  
provides information on garden design and  
plant selection which can be used for new  
or existing gardens in bushfire prone areas.  
[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/  
landscaping](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/landscaping)

Australian Plant Society Victoria – *Fire  
Resistant Plants*  
[apsvic.org.au/fire-resistant-and-  
retardant-plants/](http://apsvic.org.au/fire-resistant-and-retardant-plants/)

## Gardening books

*Habitat Gardening- A practical guide to  
creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden.*  
By A.B. Bishop

*Creating an Australian Garden.*  
By Angus Stewart

*Garden pests, diseases and good bugs.*  
By Denis Crawford



ALBURY WODONGA

# Garden Guide