Frankston City Council
Indigenous Plant Guide

Lifestyle Capital of Victoria

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional lands of the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong people, this special place now known by its European name, Frankston.

Photographs by Mary Trigger; Natureshare.org.au (CC by 2.5A) photograph credits: Russell Best (RB), James Booth (JB), Sue Guymer (SG), Ben Fisher (BF) Chris Clarke (CC), Lorraine Phelan (LP) and Kevin Sparrow (KS).

Cover image: Golden Everlasting (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) by Mary Trigger.

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Introduction

What are indigenous plants?

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

The benefits of growing indigenous plants are that they:

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

Indigenous or native plants

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

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

Indigenous plants in the garden

Many of our local indigenous plant species look great in any garden, providing spectacular displays of colour and texture throughout the seasons. Indigenous plants can be used successfully to create formal, bush-style or cottage gardens, contemporary gardens or planted out in containers to create attractive courtyards or balconies. Local natural reserves such as George Pentland Botanical Gardens and Frankston foreshore are a great place to visit for examples of indigenous plantings.

George Pentland Botanic Gardens

Original vegetation communities

Vegetation communities are groups of plants that share a common environment. Species are indigenous to that place and naturally occur together because they have similar needs.

Frankston City has at least 16 vegetation communities. These are referred to as Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and the adjoining map reflects their original distribution before European settlement. Each EVC is given an identification number as listed in the key below. Many intact EVCs can still be seen in our local nature reserves. Visit: **frankston.vic.gov.au/Things_To_Do/Parks_and_Reserves/Stunning_Natural_Reserves**

Ideally select plants suited to your EVC, however, due to the creation of the urban environment some species might not be suitable, so species selected from a neighbouring EVC can also be used.

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)

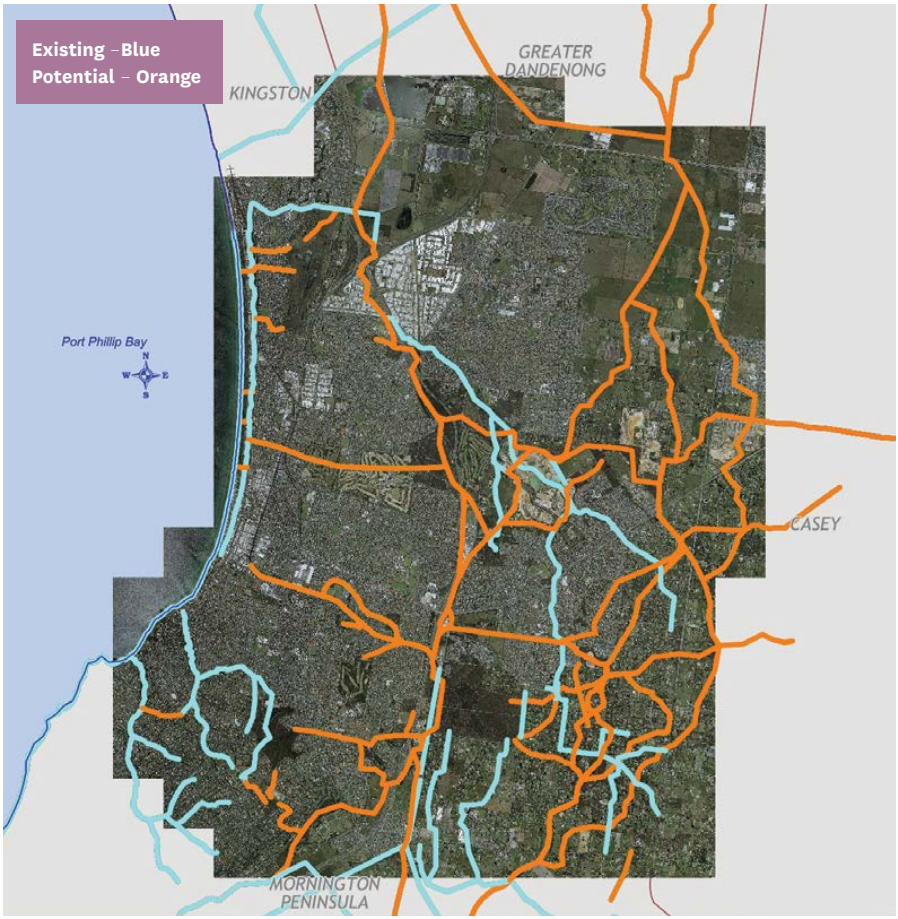
48	Heathy Woodland
897	Plains Grassland/Plains Grassy Woodland Mosaic
175	Grassy Woodland
16	Lowland Forest
3	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland
6	Sand Heathland
83	Swampy Riparian Woodland
53	Swamp Scrub
688	Swampy Riparian Woodland/Swamp Scrub Mosaic
125	Plains Grassy Wetland
902	Gully Woodland
2	Coast Banksia Woodland
904	Coast Banksia Woodland/ Swamp Scrub Mosiac
160	Coastal Dune Scrub
1	Coastal Dune Grassland
161	Coastal Headland Scrub

EVC map of original vegetation communities

This map has been derived from the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Naturekit: biodiversity mapping tool, pre-1750's mapping layer.

Wildlife corridors

Creating a habitat garden using indigenous plants will provide a haven for native insects, birds, frogs, lizards and small mammals. If more Frankston City gardeners incorporate habitat design into their gardens, we can create stepping stones, or resting places, for wildlife to move through our neighbourhoods. Ideally our gardens can create a wildlife corridor for animals to safely move between the large bushland reserves that exist across the municipality.



Reference Frankston City Council - Biodiversity Policy
(frankston.vic.gov.au/Environment_and_Waste/Environment/Biodiversity/Biodiversity)

Get involved and learn

Many of Frankston City bushland reserves are supported by the local 'Friends groups.' These 'Friends' groups are community-based volunteers that meet at reserves to weed, plant and help protect our natural areas. It's a great way to learn about indigenous plants and meet wonderful people in your local community. Visit: **frankston.vic.gov.au/EnviroFriends**

Frankston Indigenous Nursery

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

Opening hours (during autumn to spring):

Wednesday, 9am–3pm

And the first Saturday of each month, 9am–1pm or by appointment.

7 McMannis Way (Off McCulloch Avenue). Seaford (next to SES)
Tel: 9768 1513 **Email:** fin@frankston.vic.gov.au

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

Garden design

Creating your indigenous garden.

A good starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis which allows you to identify the limitations and possibilities by considering the external influences your garden experiences such as rainfall, prevailing wind and neighbouring trees that might influence your site.

Think about how you would like to use your garden. Do you want more space for the kids to play? A private reading nook? A more inviting outdoor entertainment area? 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 too much.

Main considerations

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

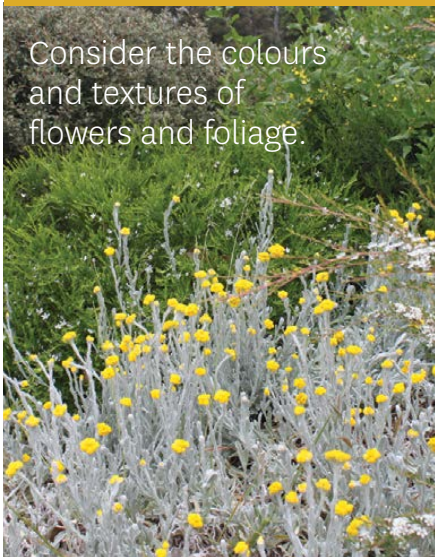
The style of garden you are trying to create, and how you would like it to fit into your local landscape or neighbourhood. Examples include a bush garden, contemporary garden or cottage garden. If you already have an existing garden featuring exotic plants, think about how indigenous species could complement them.

How you use your garden — consider including features such as a bench under a tree to sit and relax, or a path that meanders through different areas within the garden.

Design elements, such as feature trees and the inclusion of different layers of shrubs, grasses, flowers and groundcovers. Consider the colours and textures of flowers and foliage and how they will work together in the garden.

Habitat elements, such as bird baths placed near prickly shrubs (for shelter), nest boxes in large trees, large rocks for lizard lounging, or a pond with refuge logs for frogs.

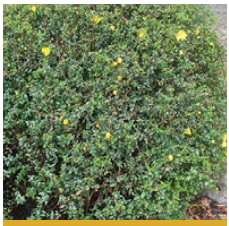
The function, mature size and growing requirements of each plant. Ideally, plants with similar growing requirements should be grouped together to maximise growth and efficiency of water use. Take note of the mature height of tree species before planting to avoid any future problems with amenities.



Before you start to plan your new garden, remember to look up for powerlines and check for services below ground. Dial before you dig for locating any underground services **1100.com.au**

Designing with indigenous plants

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



Guinea-flower

Prickly Spear-grass

Common Everlasting and Long Purple-flags

White Correa

Mat-rush

Hedges and borders

Many indigenous plants are responsive to pruning and can therefore be grown to form a hedge or pruned to shape. Some examples include:

Shrubs that can be pruned to shape include:

Botanical name	Common name	Height range	Page
Acacia verticillata	Prickly Moses	2 – 4 m	47
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria	2 – 6 m	48
Correa alba	White Correa	1 – 2 m	40
Correa reflexa	Common Correa	30 cm – 2 m	40
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	1 – 2 m	42
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	2 – 8 m	60
Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	20 cm – 1 m	43
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	2 - 5 m	51
Olearia axillaris	Coast Daisy-bush	1 – 2 m	52

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	30 & 31
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	32
Patersonia occidentalis	Long Purple-flag	33
Poa labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass	34
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	35

Feature trees

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood	55
Allocasuarina verticillata	Black Sheoak	56
Banksia integrifolia	Coast Banksia	57
Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. *pryoriana*	Coast Manna-gum	60

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Allocasuarina littorallis	Drooping Black Sheoak	56
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	48
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria	48
Eucalyptus pauciflora	Snow Gum	59

Kidney-weed

Running Postman

Groundcovers

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Carpobrotus rossii	Karkalla	24
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	25
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	25
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman	20
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	27

Lawn alternatives

Native lawns, once established, require much less water and fertiliser than traditional lawns. The various grass species tolerate light to heavy traffic, so ask your nursery which is best for your situation. Other species that may be suitable to replace a traditional lawn include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	25
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	25
Microlaena stipoides	Weeping Grass	33
Rytidosperma spp.	Wallaby-grasses	34

Screen plants

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia melonoxylon	Blackwood	55
Acacia oxycedrus	Spike Wattle	37
Banksia integrifolia	Coast Banksia	57
Cassinia aculeata	Common Cassinia	39
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark	50
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	51

Small-leaved Clematis (on fence)

Hop Goodenia (the shrub underneath)

Shady conditions

Indigenous plants that perform particularly well in the shade include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	23
Daviesia latifolia	Hop Bitter-pea	41
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	30 & 31
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	25
Indigofera australis	Austral Indigo	49
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	32
Solanum laciniatum	Large Kangaroo Apple	53
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	27

Rain gardens

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

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	30 & 31
Ficinia nodosa	Knobby Club-sedge	31
Patersonia occidentalis	Long Purple-flag	33
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	32

Wildlife-friendly gardens

Key design elements

Plants and animals need food, water and shelter for their populations to survive. Each species has particular habitat needs.

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 height, grasses and groundcovers. Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native wildlife. Likewise, a few logs, rocks, sticks, mulch and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

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 and mature trees can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird, bat and mammal species. Old trees with hollows provide nesting sites for parrots, owls, bats and possums.

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 also provide food for birds, lizards, frogs and mammals. Add a good mix of different plants with varying flowering times to provide a year round range of different food sources.

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.

Rainbow Lorikeet · Tree hollows make perfect habitat for birds and small mammals

Striated Thornbill · Birds need fresh water for bathing and drinking

Gardens for Wildlife

The Gardens for Wildlife program assists residents to create a wildlife-friendly habitat by providing simple, practical advice. The program is provided by Frankston City Council supported by our wonderful garden guide volunteers. Further information visit: **frankston.vic.gov.au/Environment_and_Waste/Environment/Get_Involved/Gardens_for_Wildlife**

Garden layers

Indigenous plant guide

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

If you are keen to attract wildlife to your garden the following icons indicate a section that features a selection of plants that will attract different wildlife:

- **Small birds** such as wrens, robins and fantails
- **Honeyeaters** such as spinebills and honeyeaters
- **Parrots** such as rosellas, lorikeets and cockatoos
- **Large birds** such as owls,Tawny Frogmouth and kookaburras.
- **Butterflies** & **Invertebrates** such as beetles, dragonflies and spiders
- **Frogs** such as the Growling Grass Frog and Striped Marsh Frog
- **Lizards** such as skinks and Blue-tongue Lizards
- **Mammals** such as microbats, bats and possums

Flowering calendar

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Sun requirements

Part sun **Part sun** **Full Shade**

Ecological vegetation classes

refers to the EVCs indicated on the map key on page 4.

Creepers and climbers

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

Comesperma volubile
Love Creeper

Billardiera mutabillis
Common Apple-berry

A vigorous, long-lived climber with bell-shaped flowers. Grows well under established trees, amongst shrubs or trained along a fence or trellis. Take care not to confuse this plant with the weed Bluebell Creeper.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 53, 175, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- A profusion of narrow yellow tubular flowers followed by light-green berries

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained dry to moist heavier soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Clematis microphylla var. *microphylla*
Small-leaved Clematis

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 2, 3,48,160, 161,175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- A scrambling climber to 5m high that grows over shrubs and small trees
- Can be trained to cover a fence or trellis

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of greenish-cream starry flowers 3-4 cm across
- Small, dull-green, oblong leaves
- Feathery seed heads

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows well in all well-drained soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Comesperma volubile

Love Creeper

A beautiful, delicate creeper that can be difficult to establish, but is worth the effort.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 160, 175, 902

Size and habit

- Open slender twiner
- Grows through other plants or on a trellis

Flowers and foliage

- Delicate plant with sprays of vibrant blue to mauve flowers
- Almost leafless foliage it is not particularly noticeable when not in flower

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils with roots protected from drying out

Kennedia prostrata

Running Postman

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 48, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Open trailing plant with long, slender stems, or densely matting
- 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
- Dark-brown leathery pods to 7cm

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soil
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Platylobium obtusangulum

Common Flat-pea

Very showy when in flower. Grows well in containers.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows to a height of 60cm-1m and width of 60cm-1.8m
- Spreading, clumping or arching plant
- Occasional pruning after flowering will encourage bushy growth

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive yellow pea flowers with red central markings
- Pairs of triangular or arrow-shaped dark-green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers drier well-drained soils
- Sensitive to over-watering
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Tetragonia implexicoma

Bower Spinach

Invaluable soil stabiliser in shady, coastal gardens.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 2, 160, 161

Size and habit

- Prostrate or scrambler
- Grows to 2m wide
- Plant at 1m intervals for a dense cover
- Will climb if support is provided

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves edible if blanched under hot water
- Small, strongly-scented yellow flowers.
- Followed by succulent reddish berry

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soil
- Tolerates extreme dry conditions.
- Tolerates extreme salt winds

Herbs and groundcovers

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

Pimelea humilis
Common Rice-flower

Acaena novea-zealandiae

Bidgee-widgee

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 3, 48, 53, 83, 125, 160, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Creeping groundcover that dies back during winter
- Spreads from 1-4m

Flowers and foliage

- Greenish-white globular flowers on stalks
- Fruits are reddish-brown covered with spines

Preferred growing conditions

- Tolerates all soils, wet and dry conditions
- Tolerates salt winds

Brachyscome parvula

Coast Daisy

A locally rare plant suitable for planting around ponds.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 161

Size and habit

- Grows 10-40cm high and up to 2m wide
- Moderately-fast growing

Flowers and foliage

- Single white or mauve flower heads
- Narrow linear leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy, wet soils
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Carpobrotus rossii

Karkalla

An excellent soil binder on sandy, exposed locations.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 2, 48, 160

Size and habit

- A spreading groundcover
- Prostrate to 1-3m wide

Flowers and foliage

- A profusion of showy pink-purple flowers. Flowers only open on sunny days
- Fruits edible in late summer
- Globular, reddish-purple salty fruit
- Clusters of fleshy, succulent leaves
- 3-sided leaves grow to 10cm long

Preferred growing conditions

- Will grow in all well-drained soils
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Common Everlasting

This attractive herb requires regular pruning to encourage new growth.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows to 30cm high and 1-2m wide
- Excellent in rockeries or mass planting

Flowers and foliage

- Bright-yellow, button-like flowers
- Leaves an attractive silver-grey and densely hairy
- Prune heavily in winter to rejuventate

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all well-drained soil and tolerates dry conditions
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Dichondra repens

Kidney-weed

This plant is a vigorous groundcover that can provide a great lawn alternative where traffic is light.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 6, 16, 48, 53, 83, 161, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Light to dark green, kidney-shaped leaves to approximately 2cm across
- Inconspicuous creamy-green flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local soils
- Spreads widely in moist conditions
- Tolerates some salt winds

Einadia nutans

Nodding Saltbush

An excellent groundcover for dry gardens, rockeries and embankments.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 160, 175, 897

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive green leaves
- Clusters of small red and orange flowers
- Succulent, small, red berries after flowering

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soil types and tolerates a dry soil
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Pelargonium australe
Austral Stork's-bill

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 160, 897, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of pink-white flowers on long stalks
- Aromatic, rounded leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Pimelia humilis
Common Rice-flower

An attractive plant with fragrant flower heads.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 10-30cm high and 30cm-1m wide
- Attractive plant with an erect or trailing form

Flowers and foliage

- Scented, creamy-white flowers
- An important source of nectar for butterflies
- Green to grey-green elliptic leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in well-drained, heavier soils
- Will tolerate dryness once established, but is more vigorous and longer flowering with extra summer watering
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Viola hederacea

Native Violet

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 16, 48, 53, 175, 902

Size and habit

- A spreading plant that grows 10-15cm high and 1-2m wide
- Adds colour among others plants or under trees

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of white flowers with purple centres
- Attractive green, kidney-shaped leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to wet soil
- Moderately tolerates salt wind

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Wahlenbergia stricta

Tall Bluebell

Beautiful blue flowers look wonderful mass-planted.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

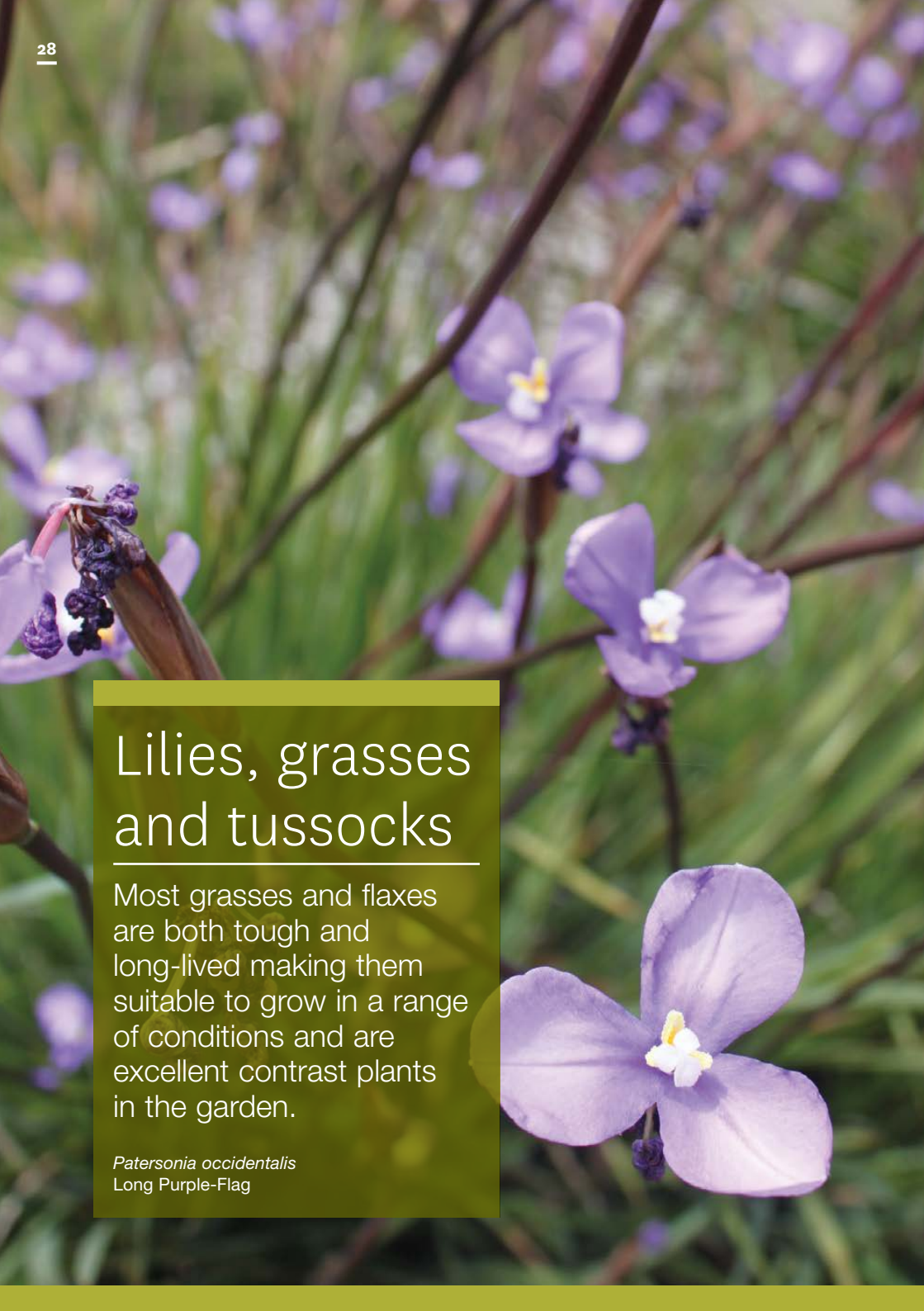
- Grows 20-50cm high and 30-40cm wide
- Erect, clumping plant
- Cutting back after flowering will prolong its life

Flowers and foliage

- Beautiful light blue, bell-shaped flowers with a white throat
- Small, linear leaves mainly at the base

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Tolerates some dryness once established
- Does not tolerate salt winds



Lilies, grasses and tussocks

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

Patersonia occidentalis
Long Purple-Flag

Arthropodium strictum

Chocolate Lily

Attractive and adaptable plant with delightful chocolate-scented flowers. Looks great planted in a group or singularly to add interest to the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 16, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows from 20cm-1.2m high and 20-80cm wide
- Dies back to tuberous rootstock after flowering then re-shoots with autumn rains

Flowers and foliage

- Purple to deep-pink flowersto 3cm wide.
- Flat, strappy leaves from the base of the plant

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Austrostipa stipoides

Prickly Spear-grass

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 48, 161

Size and habit

- Can take around 3 years to reach a good size
- Grows to 80cm high and 60cm wide

Flowers and foliage

- Long pale-coloured flower heads
- Leaves are a striking brown-bronze and prickly
- Excellent in mass planting

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soil types
- Tolerates salt winds

Bulbine bulbosa

Bulbine Lily

Looks great planted *en masse*. Grows well in containers.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 20-50cm high and 30cm wide
- Densely tufted plant
- Dies back to tuberous rootstock after flowering if the weather is dry, then re-shoots with autumn rains and germinates from seed shed around the plant

Flowers and foliage

- Yellow star-like flowers to 3.5cm wide clustered on 1-2 leafless flowering stems
- Green to grey-green tall, narrow, rounded leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Dianella brevicaulis

Small-flowered Flax-lily

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 48, 160, 161, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 30-50cm high and wide
- Rounded tussock

Flowers and foliage

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

Preferred growing conditions

- prefers sandy soil and tolerates a dry soil
- Tolerates moderate to high salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Dianella longifolia var. *longifolia*

Pale Flax-lily

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 30cm-1.5m high and 50cm wide

Flowers and foliage

- Light-green, strappy leaves
- Fragrant, pale-blue flowers with orange to yellow centres
- Round pale-blue berries after flowering

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained clay soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Ficinia nodosa

Knobby Club-sedge

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 2, 16, 48, 125, 160, 161, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Tufted, wiry leaves grow to 15cm-1m high and 60cm-2m wide
- Look great as mass planting or around the edge of a frog pond

Flowers and foliage

- Distinctive round, brown flower heads for most of the year makes this an attractive feature plant

Preferred growing conditions

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

Lomandra filiformis
Wattle Mat-rush

An attractive, long-lived plant that adds texture and interest to the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 25-50cm high and 20cm wide
- Moderately slow-growing
- Responds well to pruning or fire

Flowers and foliage

- Male and female flowers are on separate plants
- Small, cream ball-like flowers
- Strappy green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained clays or sands
- Tolerates dry, shady conditions once established
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Lomandra longifolia
Spiny-headed Mat-rush

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 16, 48, 53, 83, 160, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Many clusters of small, yellow flowers with purple bases
- Greenish-brown capsules remain on the plant
- Smooth, bright-green, strap-like leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most soil types
- Performs best in well-drained soils. Will tolerate dry periods
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Microlaena stipoides

Weeping Grass

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 16, 48, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Foliage grows typically 30-50cm tall forms short underground runners

Flowers and foliage

- Soft emerald-green leaves
- Narrow, arching flower heads

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all soils
- Grows best with reliable moisture

Patersonia occidentalis

Long Purple-flag

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 48, 83, 125

Size and habit

- A compact plant that grows from 20-80cm high to 30-60cm wide
- Not always long-lived, but will rejuvenate when the dead thatch is burned

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive purple flowers
- Shorter, strappy green foliage

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most soil types
- Suitable for pond edges
- Tolerates inundation during winter and some dryness during summer

Poa labillardierei

Common Tussock-grass

Ornamental grass that looks great planted amongst other grasses of varying height and texture.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 48, 53, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- A vigorous tussock-grass that forms large clumps up to 1m high and 1.5m wide

Flowers and foliage

- Fine blue-green leaves
- Cut back every few years to de-thatch dead leaves
- Produces many flowering stems with pale-yellow flower heads

Preferred growing conditions

- An adaptable grass that thrives in most soils with reliable moisture
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Rytidosperma caespitosum

Common Wallaby-grass

Attractive flower heads add texture and colour to the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 125, 160, 161, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 90cm-1.2m high and 40cm wide
- Tussock-forming grass
- May be mowed to form a native lawn

Flowers and foliage

- Young flower heads can be silvery-purple drying to a fluffy cream colour
- Narrow, flat or loosely rolled leaves, often blue-green on upper surface

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils
- Tolerates some salt winds

Stylidium graminifolium

Grass Trigger-plant

A very attractive plant that looks great planted *en masse* or singularly to add texture and colour.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 6, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 20-75cm high and 10-50cm wide
- Tufted plant
- Can be difficult to establish, but worth the effort

Flowers and foliage

- Spikes of pink flowers
- Narrow, strappy leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most well-drained local soils, but prefers sandy or gravelly soil
- Tolerates both wet and dry periods once established

Themeda triandra

Kangaroo Grass

A great feature tussock in the garden or mass planted.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 83, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Tussock leaves grow to 1m high and 60cm wide
- Stems grow above the plant to 70-90cm

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
- Responds well to pruning

Preferred growing conditions

- Adapts to most well-drained soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Small shrubs

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

Pultenaea gunnii
Golden Bush-pea

Acacia oxycedrus

Spike Wattle

Attractive, adaptable shrub that looks great on its own or pruned into a hedge.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 48

Size and habit

- Grows 1-3m high and 2-5m wide
- Stiffly spreading plant that responds well to pruning

Flowers and foliage

- Bright-yellow flower spike 2-5cm long
- Prickly foliage provides ideal shelter for small birds

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all soils
- Withstands both dry and wet periods
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Acacia suaveolens

Sweet Wattle

A fast-growing wattle that makes an ornamental low screen or windbreak, especially in coastal areas.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 48

Size and habit

- Grows 1-3m high and 2-5m wide
- Open spreading shrub

Flowers and foliage

- Fragrant, cream ball-shaped flowers
- Attractive purple-blue seed pods
- Narrow, long bluish-green foliage
- Responds well to pruning after flowering

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained dry sandy soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N

Allocasuarina paradoxa

Green Sheoak

An unusual conifer-like native that adds texture and colour to the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 48

Size and habit

- Grows 50cm-2m high and 1-2m wide
- Separate male and female plants

Flowers and foliage

- Reddish-brown male flowers in 1-3cm spikes
- Thin, segmented needle-like leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Atriplex cinerea

Coast or Grey Saltbush

An excellent low screen for coastal gardens.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 160, 161

Size and habit

- Grows 1-2m high and 2-3m wide
- Fast-growing, dense spreading plant
- Responds well to pruning to keep it in check

Flowers and foliage

- Male and female flowers on separate plants
- Male flowers reddish-purple in dense spikes
- Female flowers cream

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soil
- Tolerates salt winds

Bossiaea cinerea

Showy Bossiaea

An ornamental shrub with masses of colourful pea flowers.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 48

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green leaves, with bronze new growth
- Profuse yellow and red flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Adapts to most well-drained soil
- Tolerates dry conditions once established
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Cassinia aculeata

Common Cassinia

A fast-growing plant that makes an excellent screen.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 16, 48, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 2-4m high and 1-2m wide
- Upright open shrub
- Responds well to pruning after flowering

Flowers and foliage

- Domed flower heads of small white flowers
- Flower buds an attractive pink
- Linear, dull-green leaves with a curry fragrance

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy, moist well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Correa alba

White Correa

A hardy shrub that responds well to pruning.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 160, 161

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

Preferred growing conditions

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

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Correa reflexa

Common Correa

An excellent plant to grow under established trees.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 175, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Soft, hairy leaves with wrinkled margins
- Bell-like flowers vary from red to green

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local well-drained soils
- Tolerates dry conditions
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Daviesia latifolia

Hop Bitter-pea

A striking plant in flower. Useful in massed plantings for screens or hedges.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 1-3m high and 1-2m wide
- Open spreading shrub
- Responds well to pruning after flowering

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive orange-yellow pea flowers with maroon central marking
- Leathery grey-green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to most soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Epacris impressa

Common Heath

Attractive rockery plant and spectacular when mass planted

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 83, 175

Size and habit

- A small, upright, wiry shrub to 1.5m tall, branching near the base

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, sharply-pointed leaves
- Pink, white or red flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Requires moist, well-drained soils
- Tolerates limited dry and wet periods once established
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Goodenia ovata

Hop Goodenia

A versatile plant that is great for brightening shady parts of the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 16, 48, 53, 83, 160, 161, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Bright-green, oval-shaped leaves
- Vibrant yellow flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Favours damp soils, but tolerates dryness
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Hibbertia sericea

Silky Guinea-flower

A moderately fast-growing shrub with beautiful bright flowers.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6

Size and habit

- A small erect shrub
- Needs care in the establishment phase, but long-lived once established
- Grows 30-100cm high and 60cm wide

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green leaves
- Beautiful clusters of yellow flowers to 2.5cm wide

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained, sandy soils
- Avoid clay
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Leptospermum myrsinoides

Silky Tea-tree

An attractive shrub mass planted for hedging, or as a singular plant in the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48

Size and habit

- Grows 50cm-2.5m high and 1m wide
- Compact or wiry shrub
- Smooth bark on smaller branches sheds in stringy strips

Flowers and foliage

- White or pale-pink flowers
- Dull-green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- An adaptable plant that will grow in most soil types, but prefers deep sandy soil
- Tolerates salt winds

Leucophyta brownii

Cushion Bush

Excellent contrast plant or hedging plant.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 1, 160, 161

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Unique, grey scale-like leaves
- Cream to pale-yellow globular flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soil, tolerates alkaline soil
- Tolerates salt spray

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Leucopogon virgatus

Common Beard-heath

A beautiful plant when in flower. Grows well in containers and excellent for filling small gaps between other plants.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 175

Size and habit

- Grows 30cm-1m high and 20-60cm wide
- Upright wiry shrub
- Responds well to pruning

Flowers and foliage

- Dense spikes of fragrant white flowers
- Edible fruit
- Prickly, dull-green, small leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Favours well-drained sandy soils
- Tolerates some dryness once established
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Ozothamnus turbinatus

Coast Everlasting

Easily-grown and useful in binding sandy soil.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 160

Size and habit

- Grows 1-2m high and 1-3m wide
- Dense, upright shrub
- Benefits from hard pruning after flowering

Flowers and foliage

- Dense clusters of cream to yellowish tubular flowers
- Stiff, narrow grey-green leaves to 2cm

Preferred growing conditions

- Sandy, well-drained soils
- Tolerates salt winds

Pomaderris paniculosa

Coast Pomaderris

An unusual coastal shrub that makes a good screen plant.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 160, 161

Size and habit

- Grows 1-2m high and wide
- Compact coastal shrub
- Pruning after flowering encourages the reddish new growth

Flowers and foliage

- Many small cream flowers
- Oval leaves to 5cm long
- Leaves shiny green above, pale and hairy below

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soil
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Pultenaea gunnii

Golden Bush-pea

Spectacular in flower, it grows well under established trees.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 16, 48, 83, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 50cm-1.5m high and 50cm to 1m wide
- Wiry erect or straggling shrub

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of 3-8 bright yellow-orange and red flowers on the ends of branches
- Small, oval, dark-green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils

Large shrubs

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

Melaleuca ericifolia
Swamp Paperbark

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Acacia verticillata

Prickly Moses

Attractive in flower this shrub also makes an excellent hedge.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 53, 83, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 2-6m high and 3-5m wide
- Variable open shrub
- Pruning when young encourages a bushy form

Flowers and foliage

- Light-yellow flower spikes
- Narrow, flat, dark-green leaves
- Prickly leaves provide excellent shelter for small birds

Preferred growing conditions

- Tolerates all local soils
- Withstands periods of waterlogging and drying in summer
- Tolerates slight salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Alyxia buxifolia

Sea-box

A coastal shrub for hedging, singular in the garden or grown in a container.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 160, 161

Size and habit

- Grows 1-2.5m high and 1-3m wide
- Slow-growing, dense, spreading shrub

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of scented white flowers with orange tube
- Attractive orange-red berries after flowering
- Leathery, dark-green, glossy leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soils
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Banksia marginata

Silver Banksia

A striking feature tree or excellent screening plant.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 160, 161, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 1-6m high and 1-4m wide
- Can be quite open or dense depending on the form and pruning
- Attractive, woolly-brown new growth encouraged by pruning

Flowers and foliage

- Grey-green leaves on top with silver undersides
- Striking yellow flower spikes

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained local soils, but tolerates being wet in winter and dry in summer
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Bursaria spinosa

Sweet Bursaria

This easily grown, long-lived plant is attractive in flower and fruit.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 83, 160, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 2-6m high and 2-3m wide
- Variable form from rounded shrub to small open tree
- Responds well to pruning after flowering and can be hedged

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of fragrant, creamy-white flowers
- Attractive orange-brown seed capsules after flowering
- Shiny, narrow, dark-green leaves
- Spines provide protection for small birds

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained to moist soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Goodia lotifolia

Golden Tip

Given plenty of room it makes a beautiful feature plant or it can be used to cover a fence or arbor.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 48

Size and habit

- Grows 1-5m high and wide
- Fast-growing open shrub
- Pruning after flowering is necessary to maintain bushy growth

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of fragrant yellow flowers with red markings
- Bluish-green leaves to 3cm

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to dry well-drained soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Indigofera australis

Austral Indigo

A graceful plant useful for understorey planting.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 83, 175

Size and habit

- A graceful, open shrub
- Benefits from pruning after flowering to maintain bushiness
- Grows 1-2m high and wide

Flowers and foliage

- Blue-green feathery leaves
- Abundant sprays of mauve to pink flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Any well-drained soil
- Water regularly during dry periods
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Leptospermum continentale

Prickly Tea-tree

A hardy plant that can be used as a screening plant or a feature plant in the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 53, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 1-2m high and wide
- Dense, multi-stemmed shrub
- Moderately fast-growing
- Responds well to pruning after flowering

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of attractive white flowers
- Rigid, prickly leaves to 3cm long

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to most soil types
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Melaleuca ericifolia

Swamp Paperbark

A very adaptable plant. With age, the trunks take on interesting forms and the papery bark adds interest to the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 6, 16, 48, 53, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 4-9m high and 2-6m wide
- Moderately fast-growing
- Open to bushy shrub or small tree

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of cream bottlebrush flowers
- Woody seed capsules popular with parrots
- Narrow, thin, dark-green leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to wet soils
- Tolerates dry conditions once established
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Melaleuca squarrosa

Scented Paperbark

An attractive shrub with unusual leaves and fragrant flowers.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 48, 53

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Stiff, dark-green triangular leaves
- Spikes of scented cream to yellow flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to wet soils of all local types
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Myoporum insulare

Common Boobialla

An attractive, dense shrub useful for screening.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 160, 161, 175

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Smooth, dark-green leaves
- Clusters of fragrant white flowers with purple spots

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soil tolerating dryness once established
- Tolerates salt winds

Olearia axillaris

Coast Daisy-bush

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 48, 160

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive, aromatic leaves that are dark-green above and silver underneath
- Small yellow flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained, dry sandy soils
- Tolerates salt winds

Olearia lirata

Snowy Daisy-bush

An excellent shrub brightening a sheltered position in the garden in spring.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 16, 48, 83, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 2-5m high and 2-3m wide
- Soft, open shrub
- Pruning will prevent legginess and encourage flowering

Flowers and foliage

- Masses of white flower heads
- Dark-green, shiny narrow leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist, well-drained soil
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Solanum laciniatum

Large Kangaroo Apple

Fast-growing and flowering for a long time this shrub is an excellent and attractive screen plant.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 6, 48, 53, 83, 160, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 1-3m high and wide
- Fast-growing, short-lived shrub
- Hard pruning after flowering encourages a bushy growth

Flowers and foliage

- Attractive deep bluish to purple flowers
- Fruits are poisonous and should not be eaten
- Yellow-orange fruit after flowering

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local well-drained soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Viminaria juncea

Golden Spray

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 48, 53, 83, 175, 897

Size and habit

- An open shrub with drooping branches
- Grows 1.5-5m high and 1-2.5m wide

Flowers and foliage

- Long, flexible branches, virtually leafless
- Fragrant, yellow flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to poorly-drained soils
- Tolerates moderately salty winds

Trees

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

Eucalyptus paucifolia
Snow Gum

Acacia implexa

Lightwood

Fast-growing tree with rough greyish bark.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 48, 160, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 5-15m high and 4-7m wide

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves of the Lightwood are more sickle-shaped than those of the Blackwood
- Light-green foliage
- Perfumed, ball-shaped cream flowers
- The attractive seed pods are a feature after flowering

Preferred growing conditions

- Tolerates both moist and dry well-drained clay soil
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Acacia melanoxylon

Blackwood

Blackwood is a fast-growing screening or feature tree.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 53, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 5-30m high and 4-15m wide
- Narrow and upright in shady conditions and a broad shade tree in the open when sufficient moisture is available

Flowers and foliage

- Matte green foliage
- Cream ball-shaped flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows best in deep, moist soil, but is adaptable
- Tolerates some dryness once established
- Does not tolerate salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Allocasuarina littorallis

Black Sheoak

An attractive ornamental tree that makes an excellent screen or windbreak.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 48, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 4-8m high and 2-5m wide
- Upright, evergreen tree
- Male and female plants
- Responds well to pruning

Flowers and foliage

- Male trees covered in tiny orange flowers
- Female plants have small reddish flowers along branches, followed by hard seed cones
- Narrow, needle-like, segmented leaves

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils
- Low tolerance to salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Allocasuarina verticillata

Drooping Sheoak

A tall, graceful tree that is ideal as a feature tree or screening.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 160, 161, 175, 897

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Fine weeping branches
- Small male flowers provide a golden effect
- When mature, a carpet of leaves is created under its canopy suppressing all vegetation

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all local well-drained soils
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Banksia integrifolia

Coast Banksia

A sturdy and attractive tree that is a useful ornamental shade tree in the garden.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 160

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green leaves with silvery undersides
- Provides nectar when most other plants are not in flower
- Striking, pale-yellow flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all well-drained local soils
- Responds well to summer watering
- Tolerates salt winds

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

River Red Gum

A large, graceful tree for large properties rather than small gardens.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 125, 175, 897

Size and habit

- Grows 12-50m high and 15-35m wide
- Large, open, spreading tree
- Smooth, mottled bark becoming rough at the base

Flowers and foliage

- Profuse white flowers
- Young leaves are bluish-green and oval-shaped; mature leaves elongated and dull-green

Preferred growing conditions

- Favours damp, deep, sandy soils
- Tolerates very dry periods and inundation once established
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Eucalyptus cephalocarpa

Mealy Stringybark

The attractive silver-grey foliage on new growth is popular in flower arrangements.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 53, 83, 175

Size and habit

- Grows 8-20m high and 5-15m wide
- A medium-sized tree with dense canopy and thick, fibrous bark

Flowers and foliage

- Profuse flowering of white flowers
- Juvenile leaves round and silver-grey
- Mature leaves grey-green and sickle-shaped

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist soils
- Tolerates slight salt winds

Eucalyptus ovata

Swamp Gum

Flowers and seeds are a valuable food source for birds and koalas eat the leaves of this tree.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 53, 83, 125, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 8-25m high and 8-20m wide
- A fast-growing, open tree with mostly smooth bark apart from the base

Flowers and foliage

- Flowering time is variable
- Attractive cream flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers moist to dry soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

Eucalyptus pauciflora

Snow Gum

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 175

Size and habit

- A low-branching, spreading tree
- Grows 8-30m high and 6-10m wide

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, bright-green leaves
- White to cream flowers
- Moderately fast-growing

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in all local moist to dry soils
- Does not tolerate salt winds

Eucalyptus radiata

Narrow-leaf Peppermint

A beautiful, spreading shade tree with fibrous bark.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 3, 16, 48, 83, 175, 897, 902

Size and habit

- Grows 10-30m high and 6-20m wide
- Moderately fast-growing
- An attractive low branching tree with a dense canopy and rough bark

Flowers and foliage

- Cream-coloured flowers
- Juvenile leaves elliptical becoming elongated with maturity

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils

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Eucalyptus viminalis spp. *pryoriana*

Coast Manna-gum

An ornamental tree best suited to large gardens. A favourite food source for Koalas.

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 3, 6, 48, 160, 175, 897

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, sickle-shaped, dark-green leaves
- White flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- An adaptable plant that tolerates all soils
- Tolerates moderate salt winds

J F M A M J J **A** **S** **O** N D

Leptospermum laevigatum

Coast Tea-tree

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

Ecological vegetation classes

- 2, 48, 160, 161

Size and habit

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

Flowers and foliage

- Flat, dull-green leaves
- Attractive white flowers

Preferred growing conditions

- All local, well-drained soils
- Tolerates dryness once established
- Tolerates salt winds

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Further reading

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

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

Melbourne's Wildlife: A Field Guide to the Fauna of Greater Melbourne. Museum Victoria, CSIRO Publishing, 2006.

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

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

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

Habitat: a practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden. A.B. Bishop, Murdoch Books, 2018.

Sustainable Gardening in Frankston City (Frankston City Council publication).

Natural Reserves within the Frankston City (Frankston City Council publication).

Frankston City Invasive Species guide (Frankston City Council publication).

Useful websites

Australian Plant Society, Victoria
apsvic.org.au

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

Flora of Victoria
vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au

Frankton City council website
frankston.vic.gov.au

Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association
iffa.org.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia
sgaonline.org.au

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
fncv.org.au

Weeds Australia
weeds.ala.org.au

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