

Indigenous plants of Glen Eira



GLEN EIRA
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INDIGENOUS PLANTS OF GLEN EIRA

Glen Eira is situated within the Melbourne Sandbelt region. Birds and butterflies indigenous to this area rely on indigenous plants for food and shelter. The Sandbelt region once contained more than 800 plant species and the underlying geology is primarily sandstone with overlying sands, sandy loam and clay soils.



WHAT ARE INDIGENOUS PLANTS?

Indigenous plants refer to plants originally found in the Sandbelt region of south-east Melbourne before European settlement. They do not include hybrids. The Sandbelt region extends from the Yarra River to Frankston, between Port Phillip Bay and the Princes Highway (which becomes South Gippsland Highway).

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE INDIGENOUS PLANTS?

An ecosystem is an interaction between its plants, animals and microorganisms with its soil and climatic conditions. Indigenous plants are able to provide a better habitat for native butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. Indigenous plants are also better suited to the local soil and weather conditions. They can better withstand Melbourne's hot and dry summers with little or no watering. Your garden can also provide a stepping stone for native birds and other fauna to travel safely across our urban environment.

HOW DO I ATTRACT NATIVE BIRDS TO MY GARDEN?

Here's how you can attract local wildlife to your garden:

- Create a diverse landscape with a range of heights using local indigenous species, for example, layer native grasses, low shrubs and higher shrubs.
- Reduce your lawn area — some introduced species prefer a simplistic garden structure, so reducing your lawn area is a way you can deter introduced species and attract native species.
- Introduce water into your garden, for example, a bird bath. You can create a sense of security for the birds by placing the bird bath near shrubs.
- Prickly plants such as Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) can help provide safety and shelter from predators.

INDIGENOUS PLANT NURSERIES:

St Kilda Indigenous Nursery






Phone: 9645 2477
525 Williamstown Road
Port Melbourne

Bayside Community Nursery

Phone: 9583 8408
319 Reserve Road
Cheltenham



Groundcovers

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Chocolate Lily (<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	30–60cm high 20–80cm wide.	Chocolate scented deep pink to mauve flowers from September to December.	
Berry Saltbush (<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part-shade. Very hardy.	10–30cm high 1–3m wide.	Small red and orange succulent fruits from December to March.	
Swamp Daisy (<i>Brachyscome cardiocarpa</i>)	Moist to wet soils or in water up to 10cm in depth, full sun or part shade.	10–30cm high 20cm wide.	White/mauve flowers from June to February.	
Yellow Bulbine-lily (<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>)	Moist well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	20–60cm high 30cm wide.	Yellow star-shaped flowers from September to January.	
Common Everlasting (<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>)	Well-drained soils, tolerates dry conditions, full sun.	10–30cm high 50cm–1m wide.	Clusters of yellow daisy flower heads from September to January.	



Chocolate Lily



Berry Saltbush



Yellow Bulbine-lily



Common Everlasting

Grasses

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Pale Flax-lily (<i>Dianella laevis</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	30–80cm high 50cm wide.	Pale blue flowers from August to January.	
Knobby Club-sedge (<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>)	Favours moist soils but tolerates dry periods, full sun or part shade.	50cm–1.5m high 60cm–2m wide.	Semi-spherical brown/cream flower in spring and summer.	
Pale Rush (<i>Juncus pallidus</i>)	Prefers moist to wet soils with periodic inundation, full sun to part shade	50cm–2.3m high 30cm–1m wide.	Clusters of yellow flowers from November to December.	
Spiny-headed Mat-rush (<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>)	Wet or dry soils, full sun and part shade.	90cm–1.2m high 1–1.2m wide.	Clusters of small flowers from September to December.	
Weeping Grass (<i>Microtena stipoides</i>)	Well-drained soils, tolerates dry conditions, full sun or part shade, suitable as an alternative to lawn.	Stems to 1m high 30–60cm wide.	Weeping flowerheads from September to November.	



Knobby Club-sedge



Pale Rush







Spiny-headed Mat-rush



Weeping Grass

Climbers

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Purple Coral-pea (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	Climber	Very attractive lilac to purple flowers in winter and spring.	
Common Appleberry (<i>Billardiera scandens</i>)	Well-drained and dry to moist soils, full sun to complete shade.	Climber	Creamy coloured bell-shaped flowers in spring and summer.	
Small-leaved Clematis (<i>Clematis microphyllia</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	Climber	Masses of starry cream-coloured flowers from July to November.	
Love Creeper (<i>Comesperma volubile</i>)	Well-drained soils, part shade, can be difficult to establish.	Climber	Sprays of vibrant blue flowers from August to December.	
Small-leaf Bramble (<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun to complete shade.	Climber	Deep pink flowers and edible berries from October to December.	



Purple Coral-pea



Small-leaved Clematis




Love Creeper



Small-leaf Bramble

Wildflowers

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Tufted Bluebell (<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>)	Moist, well-drained soils, full sun or partial shade, suitable as mass planting.	15–50cm high 15–40cm wide.	Unforgettable brilliant blue flowers from October to March.	
Tall Bluebell (<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>)	Well-drained to dry soil, prefers full sun.	20–30cm high 10–20cm wide.	Large blue bell-shaped flowers with a white throat from August to January.	
Native Flax (<i>Linum marginale</i>)	Moist and well-drained soils, full sun or part shade.	30–80cm high 30cm wide.	Pretty blue flowers from September to March.	
Running Postman (<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part shade, drought tolerant, can be planted in hanging baskets.	Prostrate, 1–2.5m wide.	Scarlet pea-shaped flowers from April to December.	
Pigface (<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>)	Full sun, drought tolerant, an excellent groundcover in a hot and exposed area.	Prostrate, 1–3m wide.	Pink and purple flowers during spring and summer.	



Tufted Bluebell



Native Flax



Running Postman



Pigface

Small shrubs

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Common Heath (<i>Epacris impressa</i>)	Moist and well-drained soils, full sun.	50cm–1.5m high 20–60cm wide	Masses of stunning white, pink or red flowers from March to November.	
Austral Indigo (<i>Indigofera australis</i>)	Adapts to all soils, full sun to complete shade, prune to maintain bushiness and remove dead wood.	1–2m high 1–2m wide	Sprays of mauve pea-shaped flowers from September to December.	
Hop Goodenia (<i>Goodenia ovata</i>)	Tolerates dryness and waterlogging, full sun to complete shade.	1–2m high 1–3m wide	Bright yellow flowers from August to February.	
Showy Bossiaea (<i>Bossiaea cinerea</i>)	Tolerates dry conditions and full sun, prefers part shade.	1–2m wide 1–2m high	Yellow and red pea-shaped flowers from July to December.	
Heath or Silky Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>)	Tolerates dry conditions, full sun or part shade.	50cm–2.5m high 1m wide	Flowers best in sunny sites, masses of white to pink open flowers from September to November.	



Common Heath



Austral Indigo




Hop Goodenia



Showy Bossiaea

Medium to large shrubs, 2m–5m

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
Coast Wattle (<i>Acacia longifolia</i>)	Tolerates dry conditions, prefers full sun.	1–3m high 4–8m wide.	Golden yellow spiked flowers in spring.	
Hedge Wattle (<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>)	Adapts to all soils, full sun or part shade, may be pruned for hedging.	2–4m high 2–5m wide.	Gold ball-shaped flower heads from August–November.	
Prickly Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>)	Adapts to all soils, full sun or part shade, suitable as a screen or hedge.	1–4m high 1–2m wide.	Attractive white flowers massed along stems from October to March.	
Large Kangaroo Apple (<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun to complete shade, fast growing but short-lived.	1–3m wide 1–3m high.	Unforgettable deep blue to purple flowers and attractive fruit from September to March	
Coast Everlasting (<i>Ozothamnus turbinatus</i>)	Well-drained soils, full sun or part-shade, very hardy.	2–3m high 1–3m wide.	Dense creamy yellow heads from January to March.	



Hedge Wattle



Prickly Tea-tree








Large Kangaroo Apple



Coast Everlasting

Trees

Name	Growing conditions	Size	Flowers	Attracts
River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)	Prefers deep, damp and heavy soils, a large tree that may be too large for suburban gardens.	12–50m high 15–20m wide.	White flowers from July to December or January to February.	
Drooping Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>)	Well-drained soils, prefers full sun, suitable as a screen or hedge.	4–11m high 3–6m wide.	Weeping dark green-grey foliage with brown male flowers from winter to early spring.	
Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>)	Tolerates dryness, full sun or part shade, suitable as a screen or hedge, valuable habitat tree.	4–6m high 2–4m wide.	Massed bunches of white fragrant flowers at the ends of branches from November to February.	
Coast Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>)	Well-drained soil, full sun or part shade, tolerates dryness once established, suitable as a screen or hedge.	2–8m high 2–4m wide.	Small white flowers scattered throughout the tree in spring or early summer.	
Swamp Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>)	Requires moist soils, tolerates dryness once established, excellent hedging tree.	2–9m high 3m wide.	Cream coloured spike-shaped flowers from October to November.	



Drooping Sheoak



Sweet Bursaria



Coast Tea-tree



Swamp Paperbark

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PROGRAM

Do you:

- > Want to learn more about gardening?
- > Love indigenous plants?
- > Observe the birds and bees that visit your home?
- > Want to grow your own food?

JOIN
FOR FREE

Then join Council's *Neighbourhood Sustainable Gardening Program*.

Residents, schools, community groups and businesses can join the Program for free. You will receive a welcome pack; regular gardening tips and information; and invitations to gardening events, tours and workshops.

Joining is easy and free. Fill out the short online form at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/sustainable_garden or contact Council's Sustainability Team on 9524 3333.



CREDITS

The information contained in this publication is based on *Indigenous Plants of the Sandbelt* by Rob Scott, Neil Blake, Jeannie Campbell, Doug Evans and Nicholas Williams

Biodiversity in Glen Eira, Dr Graeme Lorimer, February 2018.

All photographs by Colleen Miller except

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Love Creeper, Common Heath,
Large Kangaroo Apple, Coast Everlasting.
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GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Mail address: PO Box 42
Caulfield South, 3162

Phone: (03) 9524 3333

Fax: (03) 9523 0339

mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au

www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

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