



Moreland City Council

Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland

Yellow Gum

Kangaroo Grass





Moreland City Council recognises the importance of open space in the municipality for its residents, and for the plants and animals that inhabit the area and travel along the habitat corridors that criss-cross the region. Residents' gardens can significantly contribute to the municipality's open space, and can provide 'breathing space' for the residents, as well as habitat for the plants, birds and insects that once naturally occurred in the area.

Moreland City Council has a commitment to sustainability. In landscape terms this translates as sustainable landscapes which:

- are less dependent on resources,
- have aesthetic strengths,
- offer broad environmental benefits such as habitat for fauna.

Gardens planted with indigenous (local native) plants contribute to fulfilling these principles. Residents' gardens landscaped in this manner also celebrate the character of the local environment, help conserve the plants of the area and assist us to connect with the cultural history of the land; Wurundjeri (local Aboriginal clan) land for thousands of

years. This booklet, promoting the use of indigenous plants in residents' gardens, is part of Moreland City Council's program to create sustainable landscapes across the municipality's gardens, streets and parks.

Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) works to restore Merri Creek, its parklands and open space to a healthy living stream and bushland environment. The municipalities of Darebin, Hume, Mitchell, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra and Friends of Merri Creek are members of MCMC, providing funding and support for its operations. Project grants are received from State and Federal Government grant schemes as well as other sources. MCMC employs specialist staff dedicated to improving and promoting the creek.

Gardening with Indigenous Plants in Moreland was produced for Moreland City Council by Merri Creek Management Committee, with plant illustrations by Brian Bainbridge and George Stolfo.

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About this booklet

This booklet outlines how and why indigenous (local native) plants can be used in home gardens. Indigenous plants have evolved and adapted to our climate and soils. They are both home and food for a variety of insects, birds and animals. These can be attracted to your garden by planting indigenous plants.

Many indigenous plants have colourful wildflowers which can add interest to the garden. Most of the plants listed in this booklet are tolerant of dry summers and drought, and will only require infrequent watering (once or twice a week during summer) Many will flourish in the heavy clay soils which are characteristic of the northern suburbs of Melbourne, and across the Western Plains of Victoria, with little soil treatment or addition of chemicals or fertilisers necessary (although some plants benefit from the addition of small amounts of native plant fertiliser – see Plant Descriptions later in this booklet).

Indigenous plants can be used to create formal and informal settings in gardens. Indigenous plants can be grown in pots and tubs, and some can be clipped to form hedges. Lawns of native grass can be created by planting densely with Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grasses (these species are not described in this booklet; talk to an indigenous plant nursery or see the references listed at the end of this booklet). Native grass lawns can be mown or can be left unmown depending on the style of your garden and the uses of the lawn area.

A number of garden design plans are included in this booklet, as well as details of almost fifty different indigenous plants considered well suited to home gardens. At the end of this booklet is a list of indigenous nurseries which sell all the plants listed, as well as organisations and books which can provide more information.

The City of Moreland lies on the western basalt plains of Victoria. Although Moreland has a range of different soil types, the predominant one is derived from volcanic lava flows thousands of years ago. These soils are usually heavy, poorly draining black clay soils that may become waterlogged in winter, and dry and crack in summer. Outcrops of older sedimentary yellow clays are also common in some areas.

The indigenous (local native) plants listed in this booklet have evolved to grow and flourish in the clay soils and so soil treatment is usually unnecessary.

PLANNING

When establishing a new garden or modifying an existing garden it is important to first create a plan to guide planting and other works. You will need to consider:

- sunny / shady patches,
- wet / dry areas,
- soil condition,
- high use areas,
- informal paths,
- garden uses (e.g. entertainment, play, quiet enjoyment, habitat).

Collect information about your garden at different times of the day and different seasons of the year. Use this information to select the right plants for these areas.

Decide on a style for your garden, and select plants that will be suited to your garden's spaces. Some design examples are included on the following pages. Work out the number of plants you will need. Use plant size at maturity as a guide to avoid overcrowding your garden. Grasses and small plants can be planted densely, reducing weed invasion (up to 10 plants for medium density and up to 20 plants for

high density in each square metre of planting; see description for each plant later in the book for more detail). Provide adequate space for any shrubs or trees. Many home gardens are too small to accommodate large trees (check location of power lines and plumbing before planting).

PREPARATION

Control of weeds is a key element in successful gardening. It is easier to remove weeds before rather than after planting. Remove weeds by hand-weeding, smothering with mulch (see below), or by careful, targeted, minimal application of herbicides. Do not dig over the soil before planting (this can encourage more weeds), but make sure the soil is moist.

PLANTING

The best time to plant is in autumn or spring when the soil is moist and the weather is not too hot. You can plant in winter but there will not be much growth due to cold weather. Avoid planting during summer as the plants become heat- and water-stressed. Purchase healthy plants from a nursery that sells indigenous plants of local provenance (see inside back cover of this booklet). Indigenous plants are often sold as "tubestock" (the plants are grown in small square deep pots). The plants are relatively cheap, and although small when planted, develop excellent root systems and are more tolerant of drought.

Dig a hole slightly larger than the pot, gently remove the plant from the pot (by holding the pot upside down and tapping it, avoid pulling the plant out by the stem). Because plants grown in tubes do not usually become

pot-bound, don't tease the roots of the plant before planting. Place the plant carefully in the hole, and crumble the soil around the plant, firming the soil as you go. Water the plant using 1/3 of a bucket of water.

MULCHING

Mulch retains moisture in the soil reducing the need to water, encourages beneficial soil animals such as worms, and suppresses weeds. Mulch can be attractive and increase the habitat values in the garden.

There are different types of mulch available; fine pine mulch and eucamulch are very popular. These mulches should be laid to form a 10 cm thick layer. For added weed suppression, a layer of newspaper at least ten pages thick can be laid under the mulch.

Jutemat (a commercially available product) can be used, but may be more difficult to lay in a small garden area. Do not use carpet underlay based on nylon netting.

ONGOING CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Using indigenous plants may reduce maintenance but will not dispense with it altogether.

Watering and fertilising

Generally, an indigenous home garden will require infrequent watering and application of fertilisers. After the initial watering associated with planting, gardens may require watering once or twice a week during summer and drought periods. Some plants may respond to a light application of native plant fertilisers.

Pruning and weeding

Pruning, which mimics the grazing of wallabies and kangaroos, will encourage denser growth in some plants, will prevent legginess and will promote flowering and new growth. Specific notes for each plant are listed in the plant descriptions in the following pages.

The common weeds of all home gardens will also invade the indigenous home garden, and regular weeding is necessary. Mulch layers minimise weed invasion. Dense plantings of groundcovers and small plants may also out-compete most weeds. However some weeding will always be necessary.

Formal gardens and gardens with bare earth require more intensive maintenance to maintain the sharp lines, boundaries and block elements of the original design. Such gardens need more regular pruning, and if there is no mulch, require more regular watering, and more intensive weeding.

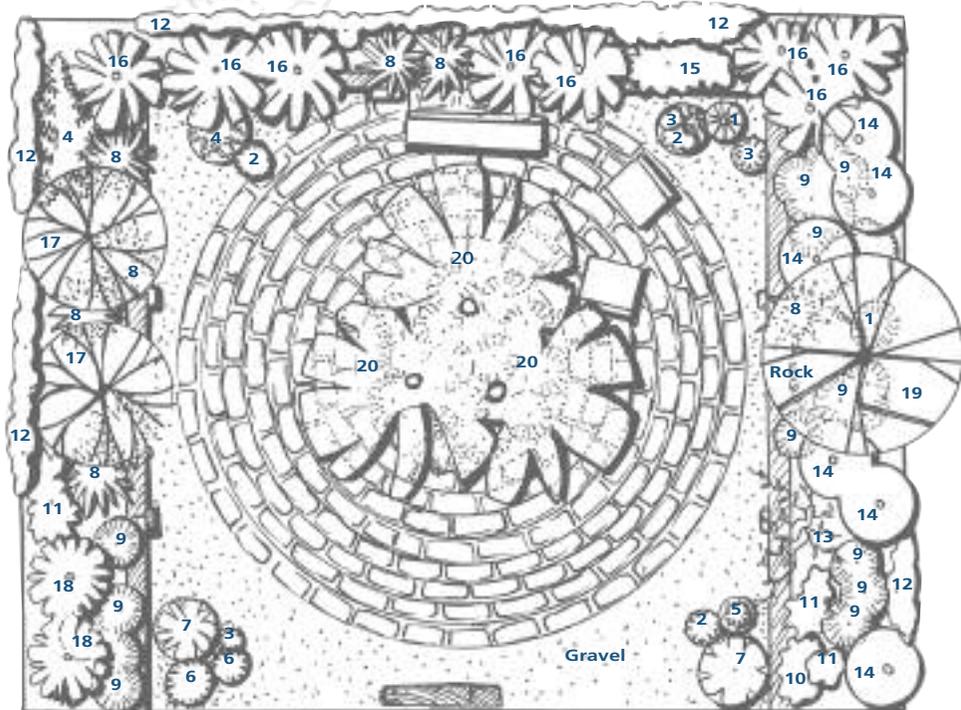
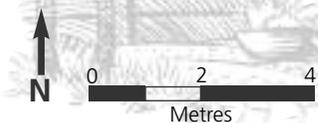
Replacement planting and mulching

As the garden establishes, some plants will flourish, some may not do so well, perhaps because they have been planted in the wrong place. If the successes and failures are noted, this knowledge can be used to plan replacement planting. Ongoing planting is also necessary to replace any of the shorter lived plants (such as Sticky Everlasting and Kangaroo Apple).

Top up the mulch layer every two to five years depending on the type of garden and the type of mulch used.

COURTYARD GARDEN

Sun and shade loving plants are arranged around the corners of this small courtyard. Brick paving and gravel create contrasting colours and surfaces against which the plants are displayed.



In pots

Grasses and other tussock plants

1. Pale Flax Lily	PAGE	8
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Small Plants

2. Cut Leaf Daisy	13
3. Clustered Everlasting	14
4. Common Rasp Fern	16

Small and medium shrubs

5. Small-leaved Eutaxia	21
6. Turkey Bush	24

Small and medium trees

7. Silver Banksia	28
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In ground

Grasses and other tussock plants

8. Spiny-headed Mat-rush	8
9. Silky Tussock Grass	10

Small Plants

10. Common Everlasting	PAGE	14
11. Tufted Bluebell	11	

Climbers

12. Small-leaved Clematis	19
13. Purple Coral Pea	19

Small and medium shrubs

14. Large-leaf Bush-pea	20
15. Rock Correa	20
16. Austral Indigo	23
17. Tree Violet	23
18. Gold-dust Wattle	24

Large shrubs

19. Sweet Bursaria	25
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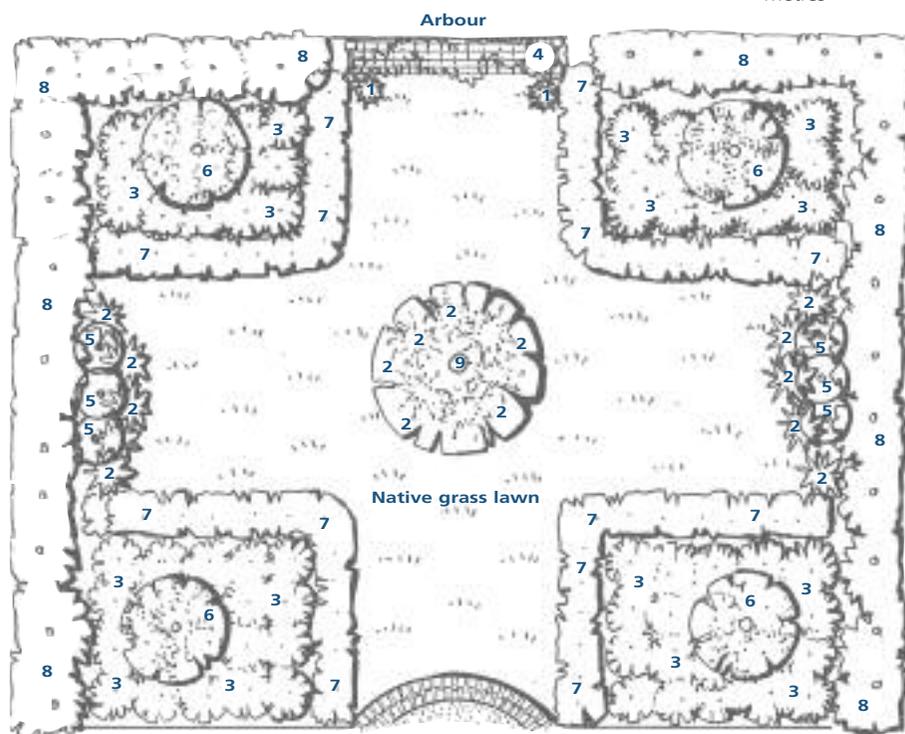
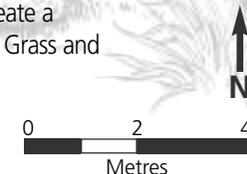
Small and medium trees

20. Lightwood	30
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FORMAL GARDEN

This design utilises strong lines and shapes, clipped shrubs and constructed corner planting beds or bays. The silver-blue leaves of the Common Everlasting contrasts with the green and yellow of the Rock Correa in the bays. An arbour is constructed at the end of the garden, draped with Small-leaved Clematis, to provide a pleasant, shady place to sit, and to create a focal view point from the paved entrance. A fine lawn of Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grass between the bays is maintained by regular mowing.

Regular pruning is required for this dramatic garden.



Grasses and other tussock plants

1. Pale Flax Lily	PAGE	8
2. Spiny-headed Mat-rush	8	

Small plants

3. Common Everlasting	14
-----------------------	----

Climbers

4. Small-leaved Clematis	19
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Small and medium shrubs

5. Large-leaf Bush-pea	PAGE	20
6. Rock Correa	20	
7. Rosemary Grevillea	22	

Large shrubs

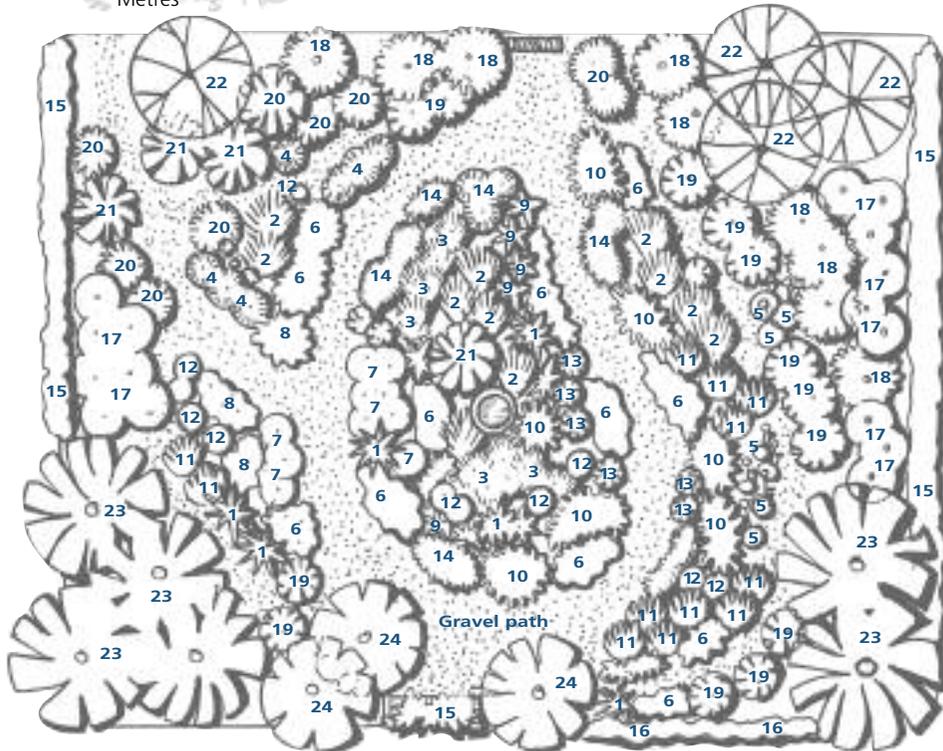
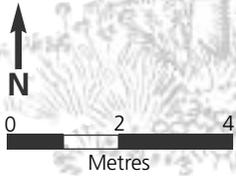
8. Wedge-leaf Hop Bush	26
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Small and medium trees

9. Silver Banksia	28
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COTTAGE GARDEN

A birdbath provides a focal point for this flowering garden, created using dense plantings of small wildflowers and grasses. Informal gravel paths weave through the garden. Clumped small trees provide height contrasts with the wildflowers. Regular watering and pruning will maintain vigorous growth and flowering.



Grasses and other tussock plants

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Pale Flax Lily | 8 |
| 2. Feather Spear Grass | 9 |
| 3. Slender Spear Grass | 10 |
| 4. Silky Tussock Grass | 10 |

Small Plants

- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 5. Common Billy Buttons | 11 |
| 6. Tufted Bluebell | 11 |
| 7. Tufted Burr Daisy | 12 |
| 8. Basalt Daisy | 12 |
| 9. Clustered Everlasting | 14 |
| 10. Common Everlasting | 14 |
| 11. Sticky Everlasting | 15 |
| 12. Native Flax | 15 |
| 13. Austral Storks Bill | 16 |

Groundcovers

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 14. Ruby Saltbush | 18 |
|-------------------|----|

Climbers

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 15. Small-leaved Clematis | 19 |
| 16. Purple Coral Pea | 19 |

Small and medium shrubs

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 17. Large-leaf Bush-pea | 20 |
| 18. Rock Correa | 20 |
| 19. Twiggy Daisy-bush | 21 |
| 20. Hop Goodenia | 22 |
| 21. Austral Indigo | 23 |

Large shrubs

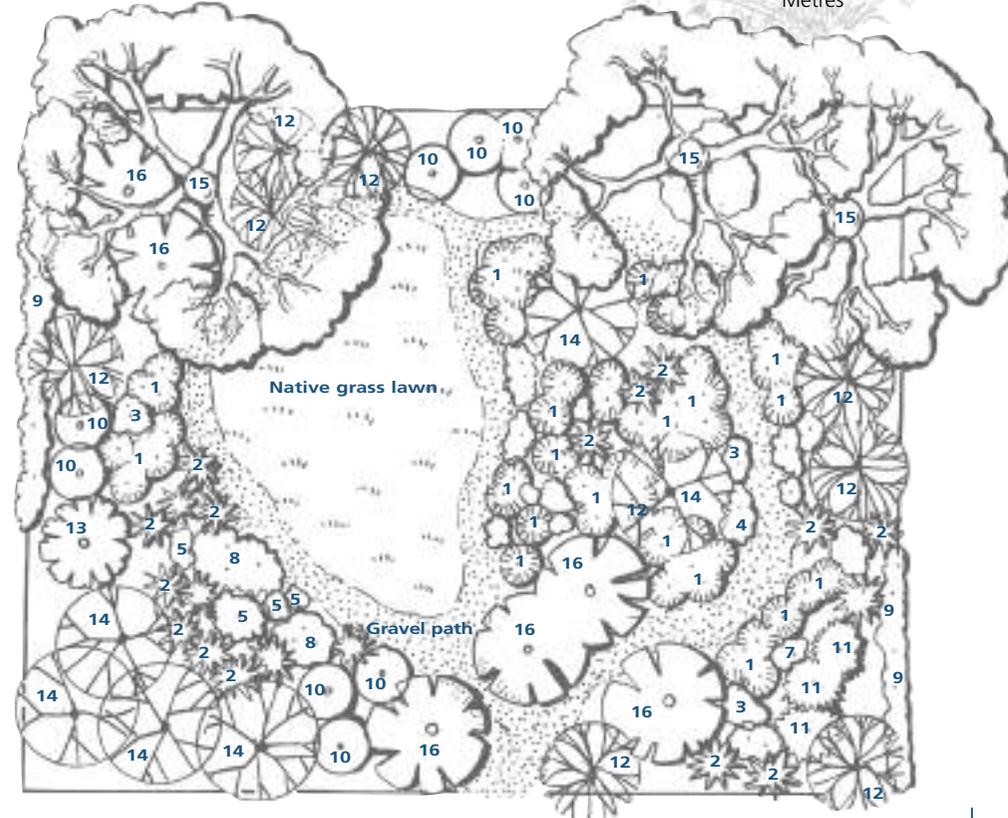
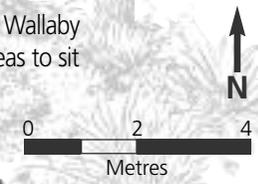
- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 22. Sweet Bursaria | 25 |
|--------------------|----|

Small and medium trees

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 23. Lightwood | 30 |
| 24. Golden Wattle | 31 |

BUSH GARDEN

This bush garden contains a more "natural" mixture of grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees. The trees and native grass lawn of Wallaby Grass and Weeping Grass (occasionally mown) provide peaceful areas to sit and enjoy the bush in your own garden.



Grasses and other tussock plants

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Kangaroo Grass | 9 |
| 2. Spiny-headed Mat-rush | 8 |

Small Plants

- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 3. Tufted Bluebell | 11 |
| 4. Cut Leaf Daisy | 13 |
| 5. Basalt Daisy | 12 |
| 6. Clustered Everlasting | 14 |
| 7. Sticky Everlasting | 15 |

Groundcovers

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 8. Milky Beauty Heads | 17 |
|-----------------------|----|

Climbers

- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 9. Small-leaved Clematis | 19 |
|--------------------------|----|

Small and medium shrubs

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 10. Large-leaf Bush-pea | 20 |
| 11. Rosemary Grevillea | 22 |
| 12. Tree Violet | 23 |

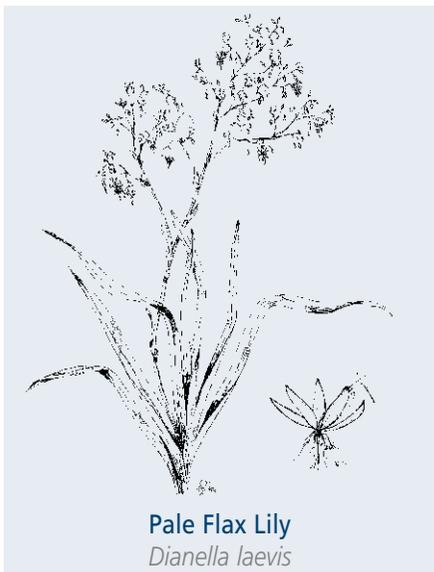
Large shrubs

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 13. River Bottlebrush | 25 |
| 14. Sweet Bursaria | 25 |

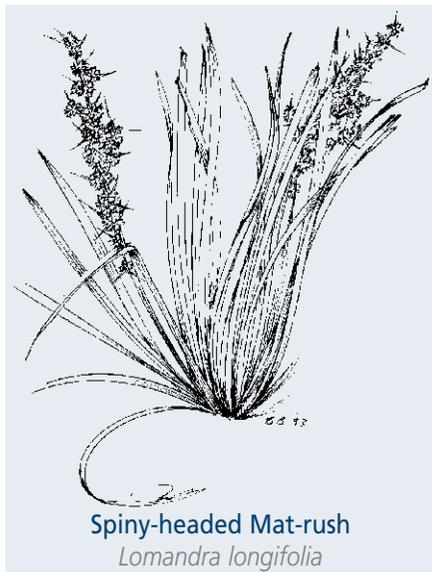
Small and medium trees

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 15. Yellow Box | 29 |
| 16. Golden Wattle | 31 |

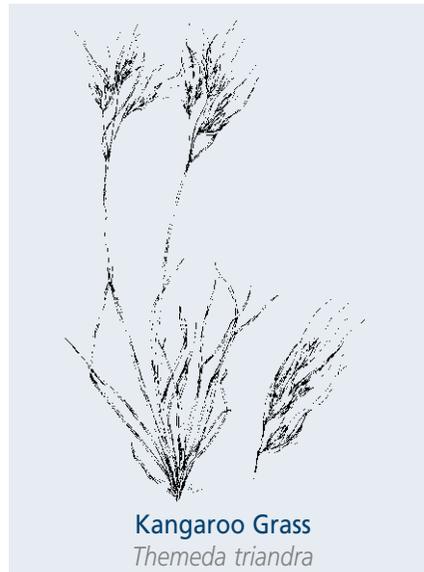
Grasses and other tussock plants



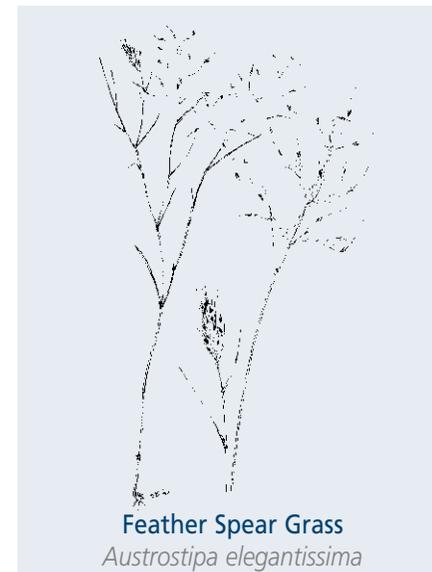
Pale Flax Lily
Dianella laevis



Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Lomandra longifolia



Kangaroo Grass
Themeda triandra



Feather Spear Grass
Austrostipa elegantissima

DESCRIPTION

Sword-shaped leaves of blue-green or light green forming a dense tussock. Slender branched flower stems emerge in spring, spangled with pale blue, starry flowers. Orange and gold anthers are prominently displayed in the centre of each flower. Glossy blue berries follow in summer.

Tussock of glossy, strappy bright green leaves. Each leaf has a 'bitten off' tip. Flower spikes with clusters of small yellow flowers and spiny bracts are produced amongst the foliage in spring. Shiny brown seed capsules follow in summer.

Dense grass tussock of fresh green arching leaves. Leaves turn purple with cold weather in winter, and in late summer take on an orange hue. Tall flower stems emerge in spring in subtle pink and purple colours. Flower-heads turn a brassy orange as the seeds mature in mid-summer.

A dense grass tussock of stiff, upright, bright green leaves. In spring the tussock elongates as delicate, intricately branched, soft, hairy flower-heads emerge. At maturity, flower-heads form a shivering, silvery mound.

SIZE

60 cm high and across.

80cm high and across.

40cm high and across, flower stems to 1m.

30cm high and across, flower-heads to 60cm.

GARDEN USES

Grows best in moist soil and dappled light but also copes well with full sun and dry conditions once established. May die back in summer.

Looks good planted densely as a low maintenance groundcover, beside driveways and in narrow spaces. Plant in drifts among native grasses, below native trees or amongst rocks.

Berries are eaten by birds and Blue-tongue Lizards.

Most vigorous in moist soil with light shade but copes with a wide range of conditions. Nearly indestructible once established. Trim ragged leaves to stimulate new growth and a fresh appearance.

Plant densely as a hardy ground cover. Plant individuals as strongly 'structural' features amongst frothier grasses and wildflowers. Leaves are eaten by some butterflies, the flowers are valuable to nectar-feeding insects.

Grows best in full sun and moist soil but is tolerant of summer drought and light shading. It is essential to remove dead leaves every two years by trimming or burning. Looks good planted in groups at about 30cm spacing. Use to support delicate wildflowers. Caterpillars of the Common Brown Butterfly and native moths eat the leaves. This was the dominant grass of the Victorian Volcanic Plains Grasslands, covering the plains in a rich carpet of seasonally changing colours, from purple to green to orange.

Likes exposed, sunny conditions, requires good air movement or wind to prevent mildew. May grow in the dry shade below native shrubs and trees. Severe pruning in autumn will rejuvenate tussocks. Will do well in rockeries, the edges of retaining walls and dry exposed slopes. Looks good in small clumps. Avoid planting where dogs may get the sharp seeds in their fur. In its natural habitat this plant helps to slow erosion on dry cliff-faces.

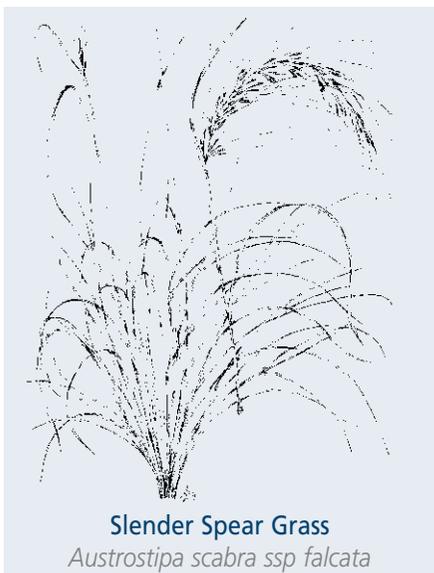
FAMILY

LILIACEAE

XANTHORRHEACEAE

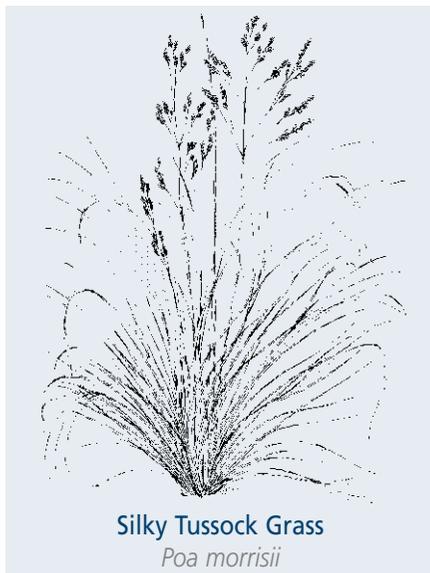
POACEAE

POACEAE



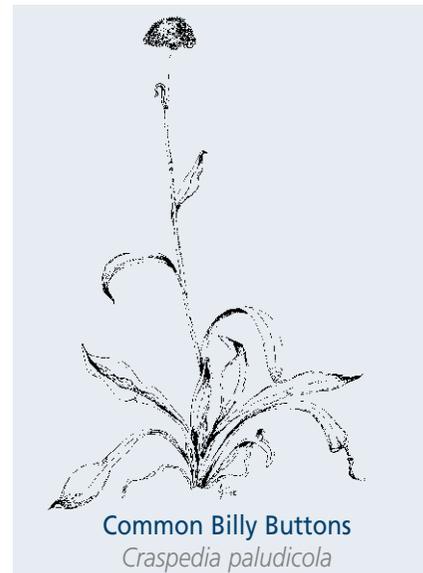
Slender Spear Grass

Austrostipa scabra ssp. falcata



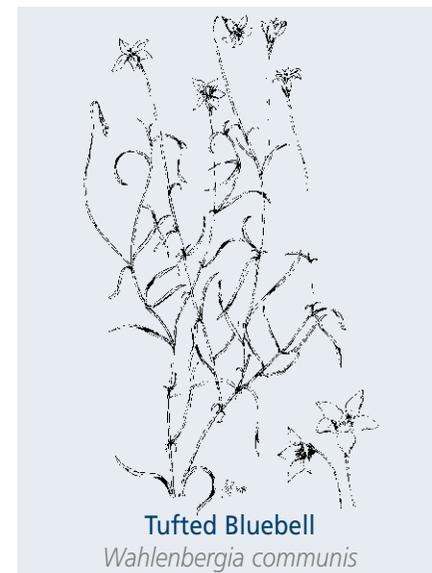
Silky Tussock Grass

Poa morrisii



Common Billy Buttons

Craspedia paludicola



Tufted Bluebell

Wahlenbergia communis

DESCRIPTION

Medium-sized, dense grass tussock of fine greyish leaves. In spring, shining pink flower-heads emerge above the foliage. These fade to silver as the seeds develop, the fine seeds curling into loose spirals before falling.

Medium sized rounded grass tussock with numerous fine blue-grey leaves that feel softly velvet to touch.

Purplish-green flower-heads emerge in spring, soon fading to gold as the seeds mature.

Rosettes of softly hairy spoon-shaped leaves. Flowering stems develop in spring, each topped with a golden ball-shaped flower-head.

Bright green herb with small narrow leaves, held on slender upright stems that emerge from creeping underground stems.

Delicate sky-blue star shaped flowers on slender stalks are produced over spring and summer.

SIZE

30cm high and across.

30cm high and across.

20 cm high, flowering stems to 1 m.

30 cm high, may spread over 1 m wide.

GARDEN USES

Favours dry soil and exposed conditions with good air movement to prevent mildew. Will grow in dry shade below native shrubs. Trimming in autumn will help retain vigorous tussocks.

Looks good planted in drifts on exposed banks, retaining walls and amongst rocks. A good choice for windswept areas such as roadsides. Keep away from areas where dogs may get the sharp seeds in their coats. Good shelter for skinks.

Likes moist, well-drained conditions in full sun or dappled shade with good air movement. Can cope with periods of waterlogging and summer drought. Occasional trimming close to the ground is required to maintain appearance.

Attractive planted in drifts or in a mixture with other grasses or wildflowers. Seeds are eaten by parrots and finches.

Likes sunny areas in boggy soil. Will cope with some light shade and summer drought. Very prone to snail and slug attacks; so avoid favoured snail haunts.

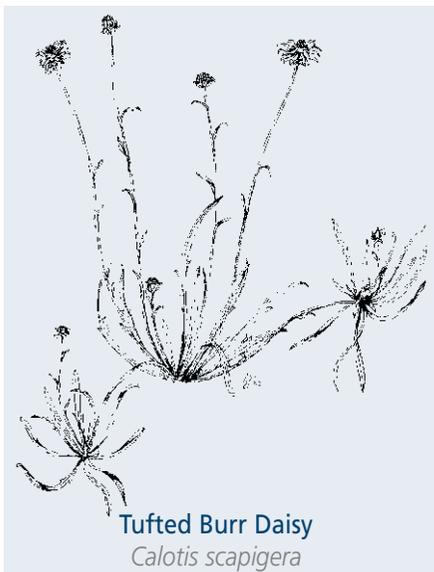
Looks best grown in groups (about 30cm spacing). The flower display is short-lived, so plant among structural species, such as Knobby Club Rush, whose foliage always looks effective. Can be grown in pots kept in a tray of water.

The flowers are especially attractive to butterflies.

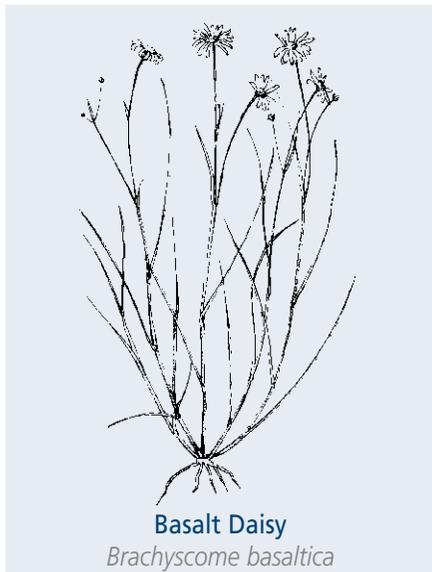
Likes moist, well drained soil but will tolerate shade, occasional waterlogging and summer dryness. Extra water in summer will keep plants flowering profusely.

Plant several in a clump to create a light groundcover. Mix with grasses to create a natural wildflower grassland effect. Rejuvenate established plants by cutting to ground level then watering. The flowers will attract native bees.

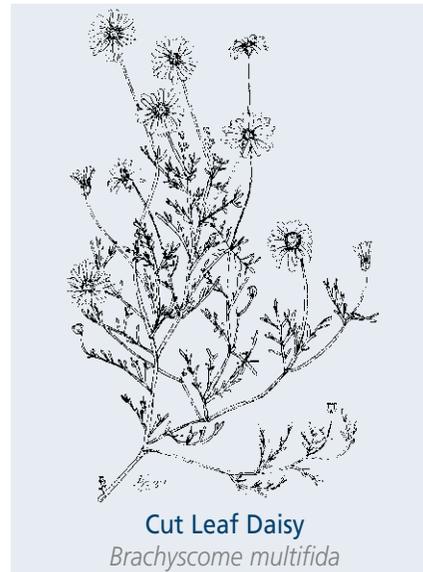
Small plants



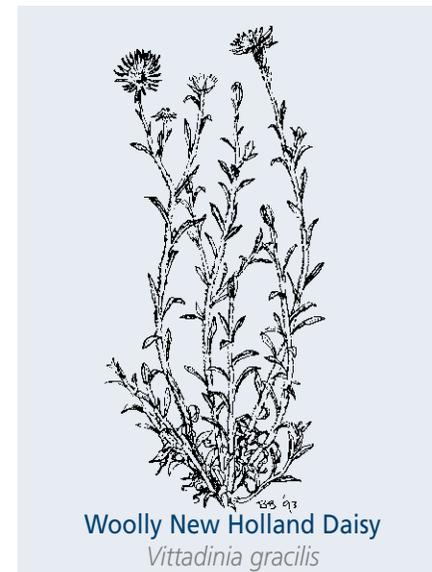
Tufted Burr Daisy
Calotis scapigera



Basalt Daisy
Brachyscome basaltica



Cut Leaf Daisy
Brachyscome multifida



Woolly New Holland Daisy
Vittadinia gracilis

DESCRIPTION

Small rosettes of dark green leaves. Special stems bud off new rosettes at their ends and establish around the parent plant, eventually developing a mat of rosettes. Daisy flowers with thin white rays are produced in spring. These are followed by spiny burrs that persist on the plant until caught in the fur of an animal (or a sock!).

Slender herb with fine upright stems that emerge from creeping underground stems. Narrow, bright green leaves are sparsely scattered on the stems. Delicate white daisy flowers emerge at the top of the plant through spring and summer.

Small groundcover herb that suckers from underground stems, spreading to create a good groundcover. The leaves are small, dark green and finely divided.

Mauve daisy flowers emerge above the foliage in spring and summer.

Small herb with grey felted leaves and stems. Tiny purple daisy flowers in summer are followed by fluffy seed heads.

SIZE

10 cm high, flowers to 20cm.

about 40 cm high.

20 cm high, spreading to 50cm across.

30 cm high, 40 cm across.

GARDEN USES

Likes boggy soil and full sun, though will accept light shade and summer drought. Planted in ideal conditions this plant soon forms a light groundcover.

Daisy flowers are especially attractive to butterflies and other nectar-feeding insects.

Does well in full sun and boggy soil. It copes with inundation in winter and short periods of summer drought. The plant may die back in summer and re-emerge in winter. The plant works best when grown with supporting plants such as tussock grasses or groundcovers. The daisy flowers attract nectar-feeding moths and butterflies.

Favours light shade and dryish soils. Can cope with summer drought.

Plant in patches to form a light groundcover.

Looks good dotted amongst native grasses, providing a contrast in form.

The flowers are produced over a long period and are popular with nectar-feeding insects such as butterflies.

Favours moist, well-drained soil. Will cope with summer drought. May grow in the dry shade below native trees and shrubs.

Best planted in patches where the silver foliage will make a stronger impression. The foliage contrasts well with native grasses.

The daisy flowers attract native butterflies and other nectar-feeding insects.

FAMILY

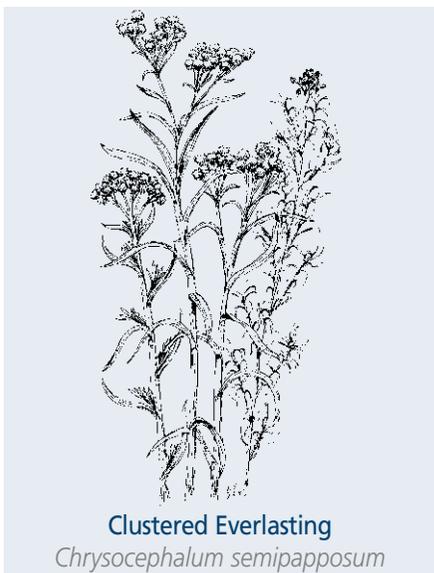
ASTERACEAE

ASTERACEAE

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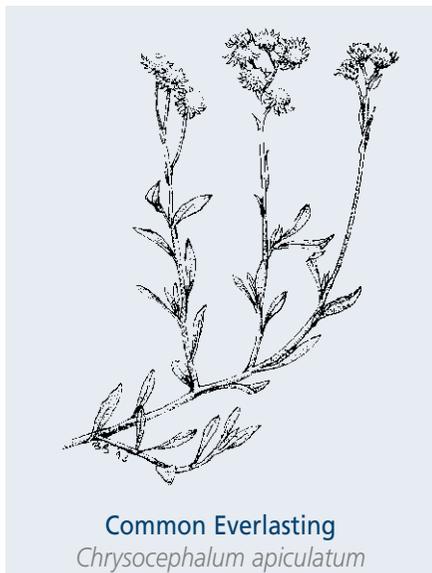
ASTERACEAE

Small plants



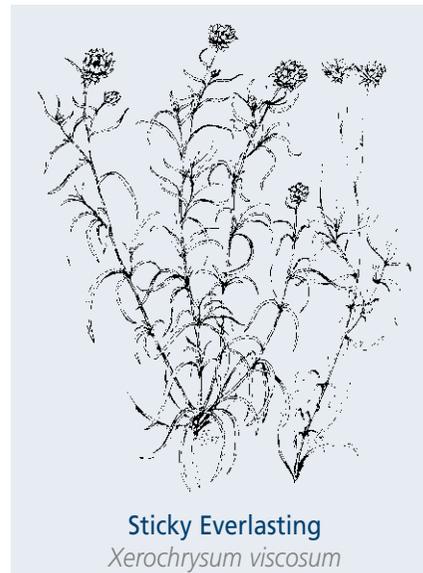
Clustered Everlasting

Chrysocephalum semipapposum



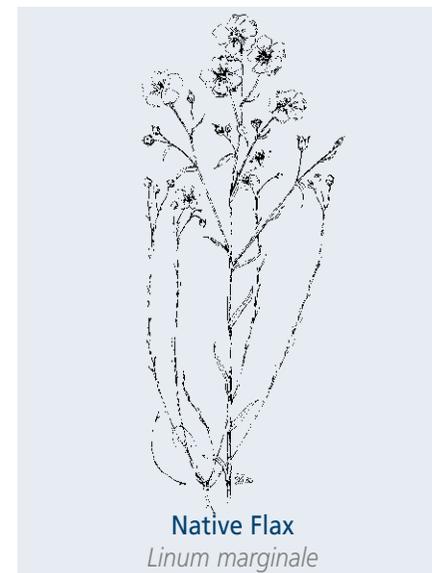
Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum



Sticky Everlasting

Xerochrysum viscosum



Native Flax

Linum marginale

DESCRIPTION

Herb with many erect stems and thin felty grey leaves. Showy blossoms made up of many small everlasting-type daisies top the stems in spring and summer.

Sprawling herb with silvery hairy leaves. Small clusters of golden everlasting-type daisies are produced on short ascending stems through the warmer months.

Erect herb with narrow, emerald-green, stickyleaves. Brilliant golden everlasting daisies top the plant in summer. Annual or short-lived perennial.

Short lived herb. Erect stems with small, blue-green leaves emerge from the base of the plant. Delicate sky-blue flowers appear over several weeks at the top of the plant in spring.

SIZE

40 cm high.

30 cm high.

1 m high and 40 cm across.

up to 1 m high.

GARDEN USES

Does well in moist, well drained soils, resents permanently humid conditions. Can grow in the dry shade of native trees and shrubs. Is well adapted to coping with summer drought. Cut back plants to rejuvenate them. Grows well in a rockery, retaining wall or on a sloping bank. Plant in groups for a massed display or singly as a contrast to native grasses.

The long-lasting flowers attract butterflies and other nectar-feeding insects.

Does best in moist, well drained soil in full sun with good air movement. It will tolerate light shading and summer drought. Cut back plants to rejuvenate them.

Makes an excellent groundcover if planted at about 40 cm apart. Suits rockeries, retaining walls, dry banks and busy roadsides. The long-lasting flowers are attractive to nectar-feeding butterflies and other insects, and provide shelter for skinks.

Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun. It copes well with summer drought and light shading. Looks good planted in groups for a spectacular floral display that will last through spring and summer.

The flowers are attractive to nectar-feeding insects and the leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of the Painted Lady Butterfly.

Prefers moist to boggy soils in full sun. It will readily self-seed into suitable positions, often along the edges of paths. It may die back during summer drought then re-sprout following rain.

Most spectacular when grown in groups (about 30 cm spacing). It can be allowed to self-seed to create an informal, wildflower effect.

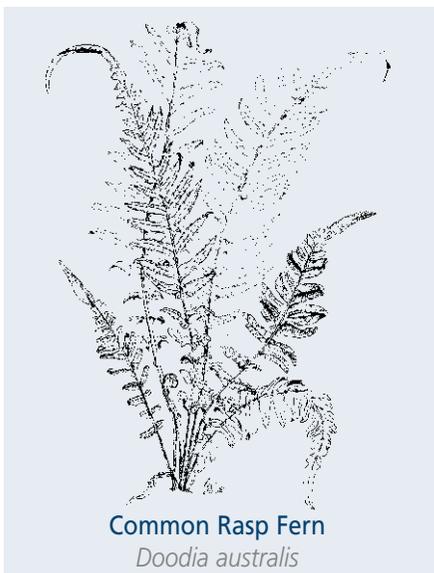
FAMILY

ASTERACEAE

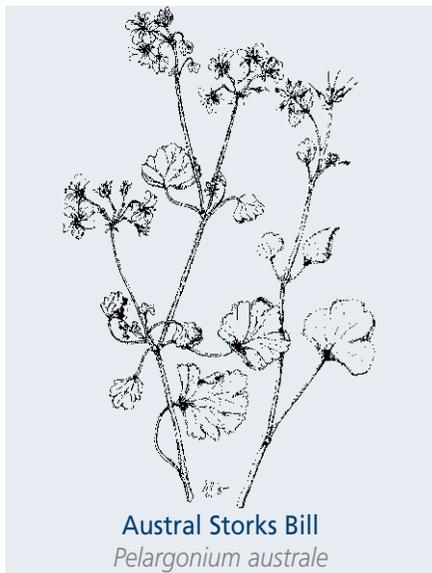
ASTERACEAE

ASTERACEAE

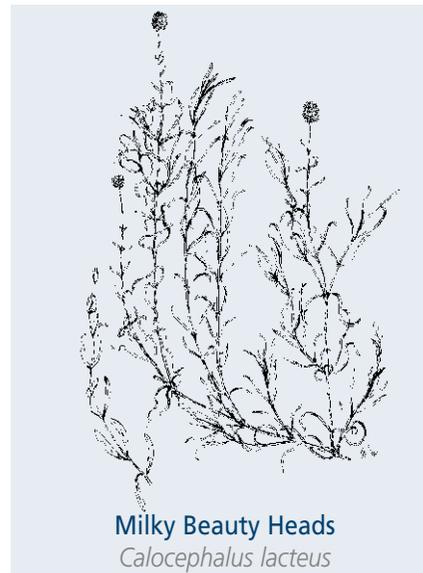
LINACEAE



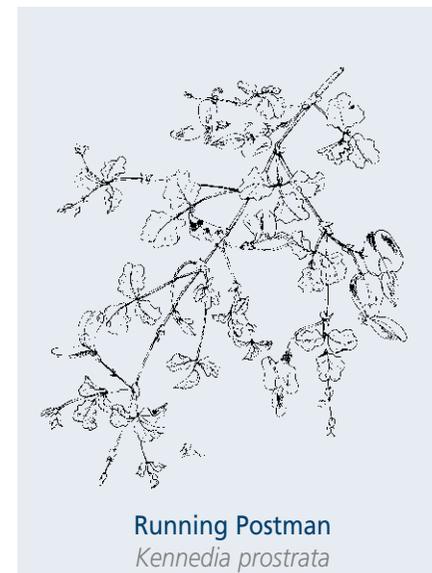
Common Rasp Fern
Doodia australis



Austral Storks Bill
Pelargonium australe



Milky Beauty Heads
Calocephalus lacteus



Running Postman
Kennedia prostrata

DESCRIPTION

A fern with bright green fronds that have an attractive, red blush when young. The edges of the leaflets are finely saw-toothed. May spread by underground stems to form a groundcover in ideal conditions.

Soft, hairy herb with rounded, bright green leaves held on slender stalks. As the plant matures, trailing stems with smaller leaves sprawl for up to one metre. Clusters of slender pink flowers, finely striped with red are produced in early summer. As leaves die they may develop vivid pink, purple and red colours.

Sprawling groundcover with dense, silvery foliage and trailing stems. Chalky white, ball-shaped flowers are produced above the foliage in spring. The seed heads are long-lasting, fading to grey over a period of several months and may still be present when the next flowers emerge.

Trailing groundcover with foliage of three rounded, hairy, wavy-edged leaflets. The plant will rapidly cover several square metres in ideal conditions. In spring, clusters of scarlet pea flowers with yellow centres are produced over several weeks. These are followed by narrow, hairy pods that pop open on hot summer days.

SIZE 30 cm high.

40 cm high.

20 cm high and up to 1 m across.

5 cm high, may cover more than 1 m across.

GARDEN USES

Grows best in damp soil with high humidity, light to heavy shade and sheltered conditions. It will grow under trees and shrubs where these conditions exist. It will survive periods of summer drought, dying back and re-sprouting when rain returns.

Plant in damp areas, in greenhouses and beside pools or drains where humidity is high.

Grows best in moist, well-drained soil with some light shading.

This species grows particularly well amongst rockeries and retaining walls. It tolerates summer drought though it may die back and reshoot in autumn. The leaves provide an interesting contrast to other foliage types and are pleasantly scented.

Prefers boggy soil and full sun. Will tolerate some light shading and summer drought. It can be grown beside pools and in bog gardens. The flowers attract nectar-feeding insects such as butterflies. It creates good daytime and summer-time shelter for frogs near ponds.

Favours dry soils and sunny conditions though it will tolerate light shading. Drought tolerant.

The plant works particularly well on the edges of retaining walls, amongst rockeries and dry slopes.

The hard seeds are extremely long lived and may germinate decades after the parent plant has died.

Pea Blue Butterflies eat the seeds within the pods. Common Blue butterflies eat the leaves.

FAMILY BLECHNACEAE

GERANIACEAE

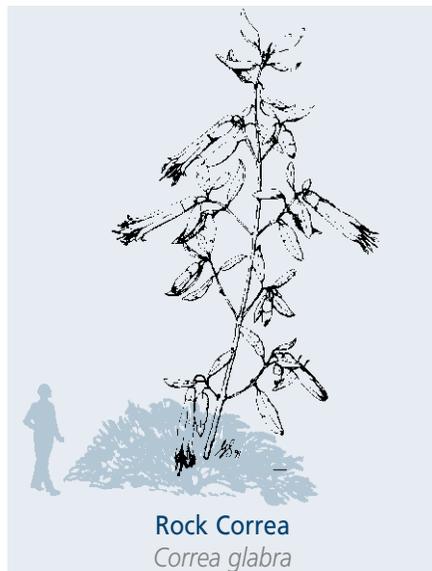
ASTERACEAE

FABACEAE

Small and medium shrubs



Large-leaf Bush-pea
Pultenaea daphnoides



Rock Correa
Correa glabra



Twiggy Daisy Bush
Olearia ramulosa



Small-leaved Eutaxia
Eutaxia microphylla var microphylla

DESCRIPTION

A slender, erect, lightly branched shrub. It has a small canopy of dark green, blunt-ended leaves. A short but spectacular floral display in spring features bunches of gold and brown pea flowers.

Densely branched, low growing shrub. Foliage is dark green and shiny above, paler and duller below. In autumn and winter, lime-green tubular flowers are produced profusely amongst the foliage.

Upright shrub, densely covered in small narrow green leaves. In spring the shrub produces a showy display of white daisy flowers along the branchlets.

Small shrub with slender branches covered with regularly arranged, tiny blue-green leaves. In spring the plant is liberally covered with small yellow pea flowers. The closely related *Eutaxia microphylla* has a prostrate, groundcover habit.

SIZE 3 m high.

1.5 m high, 3m across.

2 m high and 1.5 m across.

1 m high and 50 cm across.

GARDEN USES

Prefers moist, well-drained soil, in full sun or light shade of native trees, tolerant of summer drought.

Most attractive planted in small groups about one metre apart. It can form a quick growing screen. It is generally short lived and may require replacing after several years.

Various insects feed on the leaves, nectar and seeds of this plant.

Grows vigorously in moist, well-drained soil and light shade but tolerant of dry soil and full sun to deep shade.

This plant makes an excellent understorey to large trees. It can be planted as a hedge and will respond to light trimming with increased foliage density.

It is a very strong attractor of Honey-eaters in winter, especially the Eastern Spinebill and New Holland Honey-eater.

Thrives in moist, well-drained soil but is tolerant of dry areas. It prefers full sun or light shade.

This is a rapidly growing shrub that will form a low, quick-growing screen. Light pruning will help maintain bushiness. The plant is short-lived in most conditions, requiring replacement after several years.

The blossoms are particularly attractive to native nectar-feeding insects.

Tolerant of dry soils and full sun. It will grow slowly in the dry shade of mature native trees. Very attractive in a rockery, retaining wall or dry sloping bank.

The plant creates excellent shelter for small skinks. Native bees are attracted to the flowers.

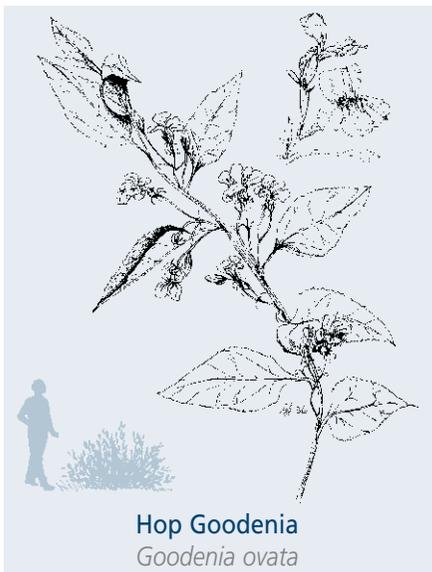
FAMILY FABACEAE

RUTACEAE

ASTERACEAE

FABACEAE

Small and medium shrubs



Hop Goodenia
Goodenia ovata



Rosemary Grevillea
Grevillea rosmarinifolia



Austral Indigo
Indigofera australis



Tree Violet
Melicytus dentatus

DESCRIPTION

Small, rounded shrub with fresh green, aromatic foliage. Yellow flowers appear amongst the foliage for much of the year.

Small prickly shrub with dense, dark green needle leaves clothing the branches. Pink, spidery flowers are produced amongst the foliage throughout winter. Plants from the local area are smaller and less rampant than most garden cultivars of this species.

A slender, sprawling small shrub with an open habit. The stems hold sparse, blue-green feathery foliage. In spring, sprays of pink pea flowers are arrayed on the ends of the branches, followed by bunches of narrow brown pods.

Variable in form. It will be dense, leafy and supple in shady moist areas. In dry, exposed sites it is smaller with rigid, spiny branches and sparse foliage. Tiny, creamy-coloured, perfumed flowers cluster along branches in mid-winter. Purplish berries are produced in summer.

SIZE

1 m high and across.

1 m high and 1.5 m across.

1.5 m high.

up to 3 m high and across.

GARDEN USES

Most vigorous in moist soils in semi-shade but also tolerant of drought, waterlogging, dense shade and full sun. Occasional severe pruning can rejuvenate a straggly plant.

Looks good in a mass planting, adds interest to shady corners and will quickly give a new bush garden an established feel.

It is host to a wide range of insects and provides excellent food and shelter for small insect-eating birds.

Prefers dry soils in full sun, will tolerate light shade below native trees and windswept areas near roadways.

Responds well to regular pruning to maintain a bushy appearance or to create a hedged effect.

The flowers are a particular favourite of Honey-eaters. The non-flowering period is important for maintaining bird diversity (some garden cultivars flower year-round, resulting in aggressive honey-eaters setting up a permanent territory). The prickly foliage shelters small birds such as wrens.

Prefers moist, well drained soils in a semi-shaded position. Will tolerate dry soils, summer drought and full sun.

The plant is naturally open and responds well to frequent light pruning to promote bushiness. It is short lived and may require replacing after several years. In ideal conditions new plants will germinate readily from seed nearby.

Makes a greater impact when grown in groups. Is especially attractive grown amongst rocks and below trees.

The seeds in the pods are eaten by caterpillars of butterflies and moths.

Tolerant of a wide range of conditions from full sun to full shade and dry to wet soils.

Especially valuable as an understory shrub below trees. Provides an effective barrier or hedge. May be pruned lightly to promote bushiness or heavily to rejuvenate a plant.

Valuable shelter for small birds. The berries attract Silvereyes and other fruit-eating birds in summer.

FAMILY

GOODENIACEAE

PROTEACEAE

FABACEAE

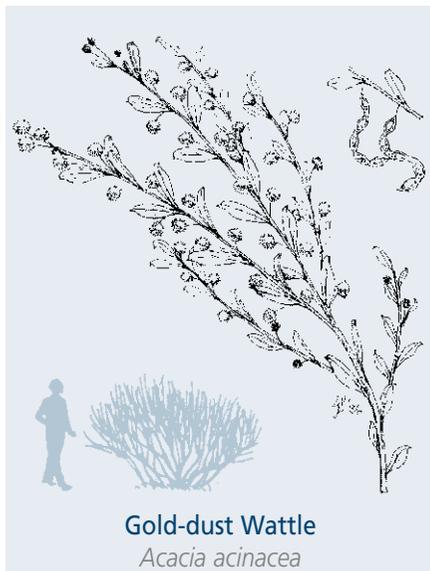
VIOLACEAE

Small and medium shrubs

Large shrubs



Turkey Bush
Eremophila deserti



Gold-dust Wattle
Acacia acinacea



River Bottlebrush
Callistemon sieberi



Sweet Bursaria
Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa

DESCRIPTION

Very robust small rounded shrub with dense, glossy, bright green foliage. In summer, tiny delicate white flowers hang below the stems. These are followed by creamy coloured fruits.

Erect, small to medium shrub. Attractive bright green foliage consisting of small rounded leaves regularly arranged along the stems. Some plants tend to sucker, producing a dense thicket of plants. In spring, bright, golden blossom covers the branches.

An erect shrub that tends to be dense and bushy in cultivation. Light green, narrow leaves are clustered densely at the end of the branches, fresh growth is often pink-tinged. Chalky white bark clothes the trunk and branches. A scattering of pale cream, bottlebrush flowers are produced in summer.

An erect shrub whose spiny branches are covered sparsely with small green leaves. In summer, bunches of tiny, white, sweetly scented flowers are produced profusely. Flowers are rapidly followed by persistent brown pods. Bark on the trunk soon develops a corky, aged appearance.

SIZE

1 m high and across.

2 m high and across.

5 m high and 3 m across.

up to 6 m high and 1.5 m across.

GARDEN USES

Likes dry soil and full sun. Tolerant of the light shade below native trees. Very drought and wind tolerant once established. The foliage retains a fresh green appearance throughout summer. Makes an excellent groundcover below native trees and can be grown as a low hedge. Light trimming promotes bushiness. Fruits are eaten by birds.

Favours dry soil and full sun, will tolerate light shading and moist, well-drained soil. Wind tolerant and copes with summer drought. Pruning established shrubs to the ground can encourage fresh stems and suckering. Looks good as a planting below established trees, on dry exposed slopes. Blossom and seedpods attract a large variety of native insects and the animals that feed upon them.

Favours moist or waterlogged soils in full sun. Will tolerate semi-shade and the light shade of native trees. Tolerates summer drought. Makes a quick-growing screen. Can be severely pruned to encourage bushiness or strategically pruned to display trunk and branches. Flowers attract nectar-feeding birds and insects, the dense foliage and flaky bark make good hunting grounds for insect-eating birds.

Favours dry soils and full sun, will tolerate moist soils, shade and drought. A good feature 'tree' in a small garden since its narrow, sparse canopy permits under-planting. The trunk is an attractive feature and strategic pruning can highlight this. Alternatively, plant in groups and prune to promote bushiness for a hedge or screen. The flowers attract butterflies and beetles.

FAMILY

MYOPORACEAE

MIMOSACEAE

MYRTACEAE

PITTOSPORACEAE

Large shrubs



Wedge-leaf Hop Bush
Dodonea viscosa



Kangaroo Apple
Solanum laciniatum



Slender Pomaderris
Pomaderris racemosa



Woolly Tea-tree
Leptospermum lanigerum

DESCRIPTION

Dense rounded shrub with glossy, mid-green foliage. Older shrubs develop sparse crowns and the twisted trunk covered in fissured grey bark becomes obvious. Tiny greenish flowers are followed by papery red or purple pods.

A very fast growing shrub with dense, dark green, glossy foliage. The large leaves may have up to four pointed lobes. Attractive violet flowers are produced over several months in spring and summer. Egg-shaped fruit follow, maturing from green to yellow to orange.

Erect slender shrub. The foliage is dark green and undersurfaces of the leaves are pale and felted. Heads of tiny, cream-coloured flowers are produced in spring.

A large sprawling shrub. The dense foliage is a silvery blue colour. White flowers festoon the outer branches in summer, followed by woolly coated, woody fruits.

SIZE

4 m high and across.

3 m high and across.

3 m high and 2 m across.

3 m high and 4 m across.

GARDEN USES

Favours dry soils, full sun and exposed conditions. Tolerant of moist, well-drained soils and light to medium shade.

A useful, fast growing shrub, especially in the shade of native trees or on dry exposed slopes. Can form a dense screen or hedge. May be lightly pruned to promote bushiness.

Makes an excellent shelter for small birds such as wrens.

Favours moist, well-drained soils and dappled light. May tolerate summer drought and full sun to full shade.

Older plants tend to sprawl and will smother smaller plants or weeds below them. Can make an attractive feature plant though it is usually short-lived and will require replacing after several years.

The fruits are eaten by possums and by native and introduced birds.

Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun or light shade, will tolerate summer drought and full shade.

This species makes a fine screening plant. It can be lightly pruned to promote bushiness or strategically pruned to reveal the fine grey bark of the trunk.

The flowers attract nectar-feeding insects, the dense canopy is the right height for Ringtail Possums to nest within.

Favours moist soil in full sun. Can cope with medium to full shade and occasional soil dryness. May die in severe summer drought.

This species is useful for run-off areas, boggy sites or sides of ditches. Light pruning may be used to promote bushiness.

The dense canopy is excellent shelter and foraging site for small insect-eating birds. Insects are attracted to the nectar of the flowers.

Small and medium trees



Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata



Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon



Golden Spray

Viminaria juncea



Lightwood

Acacia implexa

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree with rigid, upright branches. The leaves are dark green above, silver below and create a dense canopy. In winter the shrub produces egg-sized, lemon coloured spikes of flowers. Some of these will develop into woody cones. Very wide variety of forms across Victoria; the local form has a narrow canopy.

A large shrub or small tree. The dense, dark green canopy casts a deep shade. In late winter, pale lemon blossoms are displayed over the outer foliage. Long pods then form, splitting to reveal shiny black seeds embedded amid coiled orange stalks.

A small tree whose leaves are dispensed with at an early age, the role of photosynthesis being taken over by bright green rush-like branchlets. Shrubs are initially erect but later develop a weeping habit. In spring, small golden pea flowers cluster thickly along the tips of the branchlets. Small brown pods follow.

A small, narrowly erect tree with graceful drooping foliage. The canopy is open and a fresh green. Rugged grey bark soon develops. Pale creamy blossoms in summer are followed several months later by coiling pods that may persist on the tree for a year.

SIZE

6 m high, 3 m across.

10 m high and 6 m across.

up to 5 m high and 3 m across.

up to 15 m high, but will usually remain smaller.

GARDEN USES

The local form favours wetter soils but tolerates heavy soils seasonal waterlogging. Banksias tend to resent soil disturbance near their roots and excess fertilisers.

Makes a good specimen tree in small gardens.

The flowers attract Honey-eaters, Lorikeets and nectar-feeding insects throughout winter.

Most vigorous in moist, well drained soils and full sun but will grow well in a range of soils and light conditions. It is moderately drought tolerant.

This tree forms a dense, fast-growing screen or wind-break. Can be used as a specimen tree or in groups to create a grove.

The dense foliage provides excellent foraging and shelter for insect-eating birds and is a favoured place for Ring-tailed Possums' nests.

Favours damp soils and full sun. It will tolerate waterlogging and summer drought.

It has a dramatic appearance and looks good in a bog garden or beside a pool. It may be planted in a group to provide a light screen.

The tree creates homes for insects, especially the fissured bark that develops on the trunk which is a popular foraging area for insect-eating birds.

Prefers dry soils in full sun but will grow in moist, well-drained soils and light shade. Damage to the roots may cause suckering.

The tree grows rapidly and is long lived. The open canopy allows for under-planting and the erect form is useful in narrow spaces.

This tree is attractive to insect-eating birds that hunt bark crevices and the dense tangles of pods. Caterpillars of the Double-spotted Line-Blue Butterflies eat the flowers.

FAMILY

PROTEACEAE

MIMOSACEAE

FABACEAE

MIMOSACEAE



Drooping Sheoak
Allocasuarina verticillata



Golden Wattle
Acacia pycnantha



Yellow Box
Eucalyptus melliodora



Yellow Gum
Eucalyptus leucoxydon ssp. connata

DESCRIPTION A small to medium, rounded tree. A dense canopy of fine dark green branchlets develops in mature trees. Male trees produce tiny flowers along the tips of the branchlets. Female trees have flowers on older branches that develop into spiky wooden cones.

A large shrub to small tree. It tends to be slender and upright in harsh sites, spreading and dense in open sites with moist, fertile soils. The foliage is bright green, glossy and broad. In late winter golden blossom is prominently displayed.

A large spreading tree with small green or bluish-green leaves arrayed in a light canopy. The trunk has flaky bark in warm grey and yellow tones. Young branches are smooth and white. Honey-perfumed, creamy-blossom is produced spring or summer.

Medium to large tree that generally develops a light canopy. Smooth white bark is streaked with cream and yellow tones. Abundant cream-coloured blossoms are produced in winter, followed by persistent gum-nuts. This is the local subspecies; there are six subspecies in Victoria.

SIZE 10 m high and 8 m across.

4 m high.

30 m high and 15 m across.

30 m high and 15m across.

GARDEN USES Grows in dry, well-drained soil in full sun. It favours windy and rocky sites. It is very graceful as a young tree and will develop its dense crown from about six years old. Female trees next to pathways shed round cones that can be a hazard to pedestrians. Small birds search the foliage, fissured bark and dense leaf-litter for spiders, moth cocoons and other insects.

Requires dry, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade, very intolerant of impeded drainage or waterlogged soil. It looks good grown in groups with several planted less than one metre apart. Can be short lived, requiring replacement after about ten years. The leaves have a gland that secretes sweet liquid, attracting native ants and honey-eaters. Aging trees may host many native moth and beetle larvae.

Favours dry soils and open conditions. Will grow in moist, well-drained soils. This is a large tree, so is unsuited to small gardens. It may spend several years as a rounded shrub before developing a distinct trunk. The tree is valuable to wildlife, fostering a large number of native insects. These occasionally defoliate the tree, slowing its growth. Older trees provide nectar and nesting sites, leaf litter, bark and ultimately hollows.

Grows well in dry soil in full sun. Needs good drainage. This is eventually a large tree so is unsuitable for small gardens (dwarf cultivars of this species originate in coastal South Australia). These trees are amongst the most attractive to lorikeets and honey-eating birds. Older trees will develop bark and leaf litter below, important shelter for insects and spiders, and the birds and skinks that hunt for them.

FAMILY CASUARINACEAE

MIMOSACEAE

MYRTACEAE

MYRTACEAE