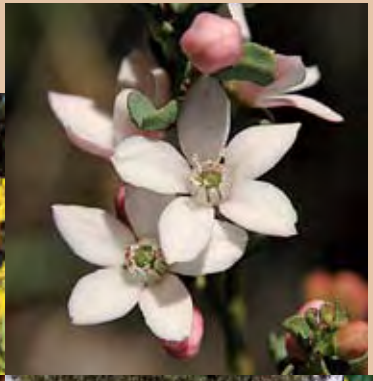
Indigenous Plants of Bendigo



A Gardener's Guide to Growing and Protecting Local Plants

3rd Edition

First Published 2004
Second Edition 2007
Third Edition 2013

Printed by Bendigo Modern Press: www.bmp.com.au

This book is also available on the City of Greater Bendigo website: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Disclaimer

"The information contained in this publication is of a general nature only.

This publication is not intended to provide a definitive analysis, or discussion, on each issue canvassed. While the Committee/Council believes the information contained herein is correct, it does not accept any liability whatsoever/howsoever arising from reliance on this publication. Therefore, readers should make their own enquiries, and conduct their own investigations, concerning every issue canvassed herein."

Front cover - Clockwise from centre top: Bendigo Wax-flower (Pam Sheean), Hoary Sunray (Marilyn Sprague), Red Ironbark (Pam Sheean), Green Mallee (Anthony Sheean), Whirrakee Wattle (Anthony Sheean).

Table of contents

Acknowledgements

The development of this book was a joint initiative of the City of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Native Plant Group. Funding for the project was provided by the City of Greater Bendigo.

Contributors to editions 1 and 2

Fay Boyle, Frances Cincotta, Dianne Davies, John Facey, Dianne Gillies, Geraldine Harris, Lindy Lumsden, Judy Milner, Tony Morton, Ian O'Halloran, Ern and Lesley Perkins, Anthony Sheean, Gary Sobey, Marilyn Sprague and Eric Wilkinson.

Editorial Committee for this 3rd edition

Bev Culvenor, Ian O'Halloran, Ern and Lesley Perkins, Anthony Sheean, Joan Sullivan and Eric Wilkinson.

We also acknowledge invaluable contributions from Frances Cincotta, Ben Goonan, Dianne Gillies and Ashley Elliott.

Contact Details

Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc.
PO Box 669
Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, 3552
Email bendigonativeplantgroup@yahoo.com.au

City of Greater Bendigo
195-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo
Postal PO Box 733, Bendigo 3552
Telephone 5434 6000
Hearing or speech impaired?
Call us via the National Relay Service on 133 677
Fax 5434 6200
Email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au
Website www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Foreword

On the surface, it is hard to see anything good emerging from recent droughts and the inevitable on-going water restrictions. However, we have all learned valuable lessons during this crisis period. Scientists are now telling us that more serious problems lie ahead for life on earth as we know it. Everywhere climates are dramatically changing. Previously dependable weather patterns are now being seriously disrupted and thrown out of balance. The earth is entering a period of continuously extreme weather conditions, including droughts of increasing severity. Gardeners and farmers are being forced to use water sparingly and wisely.

This new, updated and revised edition of 'INDIGENOUS PLANTS OF BENDIGO' will prove both timely and useful for horticulturalists and gardeners. It is essential that we grow trees, shrubs and other plants that are even more drought-resistant than ever. Naturally we are turning towards Australian plants because they handle our climate of extremes with less water. This outstanding book is a superb guide to some of the most beautiful of these plants and how we can grow them.

There has been a revolution in gardening over the last 10 years. Australian plants are now being preferred and planted in gardens everywhere. This has resulted in an astonishing transformation in garden construction and design as the extraordinary beauty, toughness and easy-care characteristics of our plants are taken into consideration.

Even better is the intelligent and necessary trend towards growing local plants. In all States there has been an inspiring increase in the number of new gardens based entirely on Australian plants indigenous to surrounding districts. Such gardens are living proof of a growing awareness that we can conserve water without sacrificing the ornamental value of a garden.

This is a superb book, crammed with beautiful photographs of plants found in and around Bendigo. The descriptions include detailed advice on care and maintenance. The authors are to be congratulated for their efforts in collecting and producing a work of enormous value to anyone interested in growing things.

Peter Cundall
April 2007

Introduction

The uniqueness of the Box-Ironbark forests of Central Victoria has been appropriately recognised with the establishment of national and regional parks, and Bendigo has become known as the "city in the forest".

These forests and woodlands are viewed as vital assets and their preservation is everyone's responsibility and everyone can play a role. Private land conservation is acknowledged as a critical area of nature conservation. Some of the very best remnant native vegetation can be found on private property and there are many wonderful examples of organisations, groups and individuals undertaking vital work to conserve local native (indigenous) vegetation on private property.

Gardeners, whether in urban or rural areas, can play a very valuable role in nature conservation by planting indigenous plants and designing wildlife friendly gardens. The rewards and enjoyment of a garden filled with beautiful wildflowers, butterflies, native birds and wildlife is both satisfying and rewarding. An added bonus is that indigenous plants are uniquely adapted to the climate and soils of Central Victoria, they don't need to be regularly fertilized and with the exception of long dry periods, they don't require regular watering once established.

This book was first published in 2004 as a joint initiative of the City of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Native Plant Group. Its purpose is to foster an appreciation and conservation of our local flora. It provides practical information about protecting native vegetation on private property, relevant Council planning controls and detailed advice on how to cultivate 104 different local species and how they can be used in our gardens.

This 3rd edition has a number of revisions and updates and also includes the addition of indigenous plants suitable for ponds. The book is presented in a user-friendly format which I hope you find useful.

Cr. Rod Fyffe OAM
City of Greater Bendigo

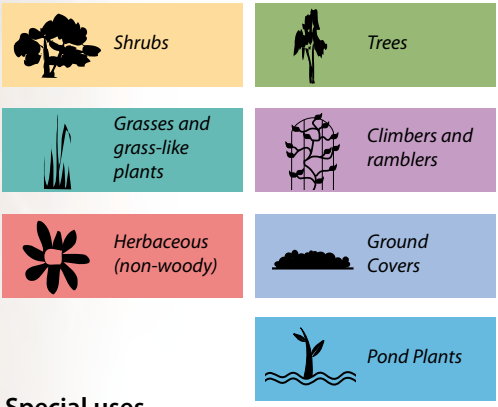
How to use this gardening guide

This gardening guide has been split into seven colour-coded sections, according to plant form. Within these sections the plants listed are arranged alphabetically by botanical name.

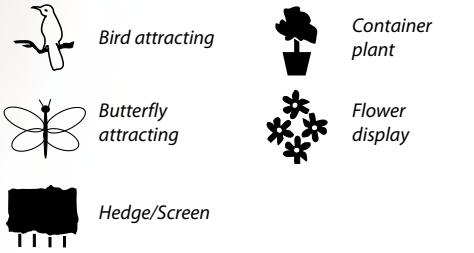
Height and width is a guide only. All sizes are approximates. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of the plant.

The indigenous plants in this gardening guide have been set out with a quick reference key for:

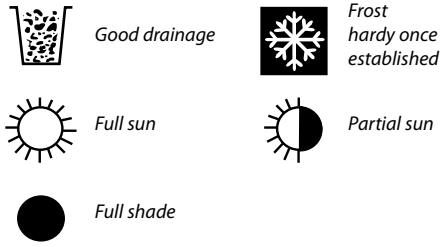
Plant form = Height x Width

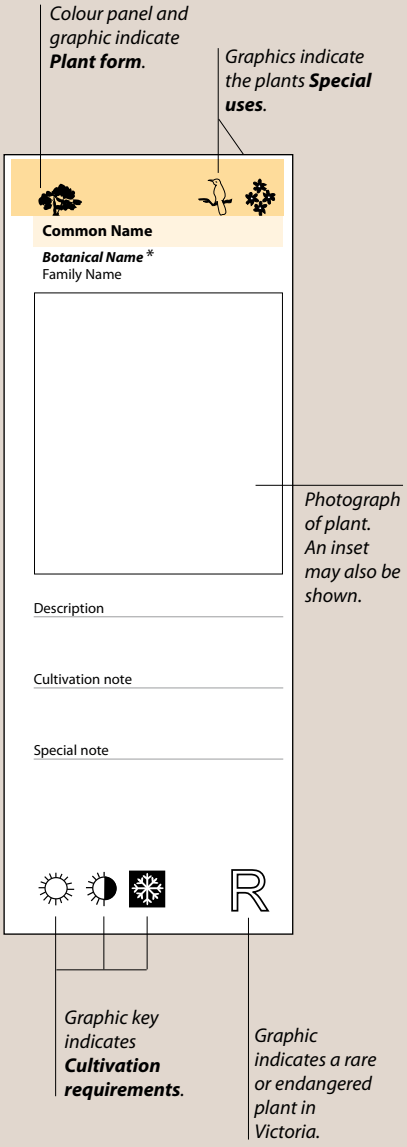


Special uses



Cultivation requirements





* The botanical names and family groups used follow those of the Australian Plant Name Index, published by The Australian National Botanic Gardens and The Australian National Herbarium. Website: http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni

Native vegetation regulations

Check Before You Clear

State and local planning controls are regularly reviewed and do change.

It is essential to check whether planning controls or regulations apply to your land before removing or destroying native vegetation. Early discussions with Council's planning staff will confirm whether a permit is necessary and identify any other requirements. Enquiries should be directed to:

City of Greater Bendigo
Statutory Planning Unit
Telephone 5434 6355

Roadsides and private property contain some of the best quality native vegetation in the municipality. Many threatened species survive in these areas which form important wildlife corridors or linkages through the landscape. Corridors and patches of native vegetation are extremely important for the survival of native wildlife. Even small patches of vegetation can serve as important "stepping stones" for many native animal species. Avoid unnecessary damage to these areas. Seek Council advice before undertaking any works. Photo: Adrian Doye

What is Native Vegetation?

Native vegetation means the suite of plants including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses that would have grown naturally here before European arrival. It does not include plants that originate from other parts of Australia or from other countries.

Planning Controls and Regulations

Planning controls regulating the removal and destruction of native vegetation have been in place in Victoria for many years. They recognise the importance of protecting our remaining native vegetation.

Planning controls and regulations form part of all local Council planning schemes. Planning schemes regulate land use and development and apply to all public and private land so all people and corporations must comply with the requirements of their local planning scheme. The planning scheme that applies in the City of Greater Bendigo is called the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

In Victoria, a planning permit may be required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation on public and private land. On a road reserve, land manager approval must be sought and a planning permit may also be required. In addition, the Planning Scheme also includes overlay controls which specify additional requirements, including native vegetation protection, regardless of the size of the block. Therefore you also need to determine whether any overlay controls apply to your land before removing or destroying native vegetation.

Basic principles to remember if you are caring for native vegetation

Avoid Disturbance

Disturbance includes such things as:-

- clearing vegetation
- removing rocks, soil, timber, leaf litter
- soil compaction
- altering natural drainage patterns
- parking equipment on native vegetation
- stock-piling building materials on native vegetation
- grazing stock

Disturbance will increase the likelihood and severity of soil erosion. Disturbing an area of native vegetation may provide the perfect opportunity for weeds to invade or spread. Good quality remnants "weed themselves" because most weeds find it difficult to find a place to grow.

Use Fences

Fencing is one of the most effective methods of protecting native vegetation.

Whether used to control stock, vermin, unauthorised entry or building activity, fencing is a very wise investment.

Keep It Natural

Our local plants have evolved to tolerate the extremes of our natural environment. They rarely require fertilisers, insecticides or artifical watering.

Retain Habitat Features

Hollow trees, fallen timber, rocks and even leaf litter are vital components of wildlife habitat. They are all required to maintain healthy ecosystems. Don't be tempted to "tidy up" by removing them. Many of our native animals depend on these materials for their survival.

Know Your Bushland

Improve your understanding of the bushland. Learn to identify the different plants and animals on your block and the role they play in the ecosystem. If revegetating, look at an area of bushland close by and gain a better understanding and appreciation for what grows naturally in your area.

Encourage Natural Regeneration

Natural regeneration is the process where plants re-establish themselves, by seeding, or sprouting from roots, lignotubers or rhizomes. It is a highly desirable process because it allows the local plants that are adapted to local conditions to re-establish.

Control Weeds

Controlling competition from aggressive, highly competitive weeds should always be a high priority. Make sure you identify the weed before attempting any control. This will greatly assist selecting an appropriate method of control and will ensure you don't remove a desirable plant by mistake.

Rocks, mosses, lichens, and leaf litter are important components of natural systems. Amongst other important functions, they help create and enrich soil and protect it from erosion. Photo: Anthony Sheean

The City of Greater Bendigo Bushcare Incentive Program

The program has been designed to encourage and reward private landholders who protect areas of remnant vegetation on their property. This is achieved through rate rebates and a range of other incentives. For further information, contact the City of Greater Bendigo.

Further Information

Consult the references listed in this guide. The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) produces a series of landcare notes, which provide a wide range of useful information on these and other related topics. The notes can be downloaded from the DEPI website: www.depi.vic.gov.au or telephone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Defining the construction area with a temporary fence is a cheap and effective method of protecting native vegetation during construction works. Photo: Anthony Sheean

A beautiful natural wildflower garden in Junortoun. The pink flowering plant is Rosy Heath-myrtle (Euromyrtus ramosissima). Photo: Anthony Sheean

Geology and soils

The geology of an area is just one of the factors influencing plant distribution, but because it is the major influence on soil type, it is a very important one. Natural plant distribution is often quite tightly controlled by geology and soil types, one of the more obvious examples in the Bendigo area being the abrupt change from the Box-Ironbark forest of the Ordovician sedimentary rocks to the Red Gum Grassy Woodland of the granite areas south of Bendigo. There are plants which grow on a variety of soils, and it is often the case that these plants will adapt more readily to gardens. Conversely, there are other plants which have more specific requirements to do well, and will struggle in soils which differ from their own habitat.

Although the majority of the City of Greater Bendigo's residents live on the sedimentary soils of the Lower Ordovician bedrock (the goldfields soils), the geology of the area within the boundaries of the City of Greater Bendigo is actually quite diverse, as the following very brief summary, in order of geological age, will indicate.

Geological type	Typical soils	Localities
Early Cambrian volcanic and sedimentary rocks	Terra Rossa type soils	Narrow belt through Heathcote and north along the Colbinabbin Range
Lower Ordovician sedimentary rocks, the host rocks of the Bendigo Goldfield	Clayey to silty loam soils of duplex type	The greater part of the City of Greater Bendigo, including the Bendigo urban area
Lower Ordovician metamorphic rocks	Similar to above, but generally deeper and more fertile	Confined to the 1-2 km wide contact zone along the margins of the granitic rocks of the Harcourt Batholith
Late Silurian to Early Devonian sedimentary rocks	Clayey loam soils	East and north of Heathcote, e.g. Mt Ida Range, Costerfield and Redcastle
Lower Devonian granitic rocks of the Harcourt Batholith	Sandy loams	Harcourt North, Ravenswood, Shelbourne
Late Cretaceous to Early Tertiary gravels	Gravelly loam soils	Scattered small areas of hilltop gravels at Axedale, Strathfieldsaye, White Hills, Epsom and Bagshot
Early Permian glacial and fluvioglacial sediments	Clayey soils, with rock particles of variable size	Centred on Lake Eppalock, but extending from Spring Plains in the south to Toolleen in the north
Middle Tertiary marine sands	Clayey sands	Huntly, Bagshot area, fringing low hills
Late Tertiary volcanic rocks	Clayey soils with shrinking and swelling characteristics	Axedale to Barnadown
Alluvial plains	Clayey loams	North of Bendigo (Bagshot, Goornong, Elmore)
Alluvial sediments of the stream valleys	Clayey loams	Bendigo Creek, Bullock Creek etc

For this publication, it was decided that a map showing the distribution of soil types would be more useful to gardeners than a geological map. Geological maps of the area are available from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries website www.depi.vic.gov.au.

Geology and soils Cont.

City of Greater Bendigo
Common Soil Types

Map provided by the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

- Alluvial Soils
- Basalt Soils
- Granite Soils
- Metamorphic Soils
- Sedimentary Soils

For more detailed information on soils of this area, the book, "Caring for Country: A Guide for Sustainable Land Management in Central Victoria", published in 2006 by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, is a good reference. However, the following notes may be of some help in understanding the soil types of the area.

Sedimentary soils

The most widespread of the rock types within the City of Greater Bendigo are the Ordovician sedimentary rocks, and most of the plants covered in this book grow naturally on soils from these rocks. These sediments were laid down in an ancient sea, from about 500 to 460 million years ago, in the Lower to Middle Ordovician period, and consist of thin interbedded layers of sandstone, siltstone and slate, with no one layer being more than a few metres thick. During later earth movements, the sedimentary rocks were uplifted and tightly folded, and quartz veins carrying gold and its associated minerals were intruded, including the saddle reefs for which Bendigo is famous. Younger sedimentary rocks were deposited in shallower seas east of the present day Colbinabbin Range, about 420 to 400 million years ago, in the Late Silurian and Early Devonian periods. They differ from the Ordovician sediments in having thicker and much more uniform beds of sandstone, siltstone or mudstone. These rocks occur in the area north of Heathcote, and Mt Ida and the McIvor Range are landscape features associated with them.

The soils formed over both the Ordovician and Silurian-Devonian sedimentary rocks are generally shallow, poorly structured, and rather infertile. They vary from sandy to silty loams, depending on grain size of the sedimentary rocks at any given location. They are known as duplex soils, because they typically have a thin, grey top-soil layer, and a yellowish sub-soil between this and the bedrock.

The indigenous plants of the Bendigo area are adapted to growing in these shallow, infertile soils, and while some are able to grow in a variety of soil types, others are less able to adapt to "improved" soils. In urban gardens, especially older ones, soils which have been enhanced by the addition of compost, fertilisers, or brought-in-soil may prove to be a difficult environment for some indigenous plants, which are often affected by pathogens introduced during the process of soil improvement. For example, the beautiful Bendigo Waxflower is very tough in its natural habitat, but often struggles or fails in gardens. You will have more chance of success if your soils are still basically bush soils.

All these sedimentary soils become water repellent (hydrophobic) when dry. Mulch slows down the drying out process, but as summer progresses, the soil surface tends to seal over, and organic mulches tend to dry out and become water repellent themselves. The result is, that when water is applied, it runs off, especially on sloping ground, rather than soaking in. Wetting agents, either as dry granules watered in, or in soluble liquid form, can help to overcome this problem. Inorganic mulches such as sand or gravel are advantageous in this situation, as they allow water to pass through to the soil, rather than be taken up by the mulch.

Metamorphic soils

There is a one to two kilometre wide zone along the boundary of the granite area south of Bendigo, where the Ordovician sedimentary rocks were metamorphosed (altered by heat) to much harder metamorphic rocks, such as hornfels ("hard stone") and spotted slate. This happened about 360 million years ago, in the Late Devonian Period, when the granite was intruded as hot, molten rock. This is the origin of the Big Hill Range, which is higher than either the Ordovician sedimentary terrain to the north, or the granite country to the south.

The soils on this range are similar to those on the normal Ordovician sediments, but they are generally a bit deeper, and more fertile. Salinity can be a problem when the native vegetation is cleared, especially on the lower slopes of the range.

Granite soils

The granite rocks were intruded deep in the crust, probably not reaching closer to the surface than a few kilometres. Because they cooled slowly, the crystals are large, and the rocks hard. Erosion over the millennia has exposed these rocks as outcrops of prominent boulders, defined by horizontal and vertical jointing, and known as "tors". Some of the most attractive landscapes in the Bendigo area are seen in the granite areas, dominated by Mt Alexander, and its neighbouring hills. Fresh granite is a hard and tough rock, popular for use as monumental masonry, but granite is very susceptible to chemical weathering, and the tors are gradually reduced in size, or can be totally eroded away. There are some tracts of the granite terrain with no granite tors to be seen. The soils developed on the granite country can be reasonably deep, and moderately fertile, compared to the sedimentary soils, as they contain granules of nutrient rich micas and feldspars, as well as coarse quartz grains derived from the weathering of the granite rocks. They are very prone to becoming sloppy in winter, because of the presence of a "hard pan" layer which prevents water draining away. They may dry out and become very hard in summer. The granite soils are very easily eroded, because of the combination of coarse sand and clay.

Volcanic soils

Volcanic activity affected the Bendigo area from about 4 million years ago until about 1.8 million years ago, and basaltic lava flowed down the ancestral Campaspe and Loddon valleys. The soils developed on the basalt areas are generally deep and fertile, and as a result, were cleared for agriculture very early in settlement. The soils derived from basalt include swelling and shrinking clays, and they can crack deeply when dry, or become waterlogged when wet.

Alluvial soils

The principal remaining soil type, in terms of extent, is the soil developed on alluvial sediments of the stream valleys, and on the alluvial plains to the north of Bendigo. These soils are derived from the detritus washed down into the valleys by erosion. They are deeper and more fertile than the sedimentary rock soils, but are poorly structured and easily eroded, and prone to salinity problems because of relatively high water tables. However, generally speaking plants do better on these soils because of the depth, and relatively high fertility.

The remaining soil types of the area are of more limited extent.

One soil type which deserves special mention is the gravelly soil which formed on the alluvial hill top gravels of the Strathfieldsaye – Junortoun – Axedale, and Epsom – White Hills areas. These soils are orange-reddish in colour because of the presence of iron oxide coatings on the quartz grains and pebbles present in these soils, and iron oxide-rich clays. These soils are not especially fertile, but are well drained, and in their natural state support heath type vegetation, which should be a guide to the kinds of plants which will do well on these soils.

Handy hints on how to grow indigenous plants

Soil Preparation

- Local plants are adapted to the local soils. There is no need to add fertilizers, manures and other soil conditioners – these can actually have a negative effect on growth of indigenous plants.
- Good drainage is essential for most plants. Drainage can be improved by mounding the soil.
- If the soil is broken up, water penetration will be improved and deep rooting will be encouraged.
- In large-scale planting, consider deep ripping but avoid narrow, shallow furrow ripping which can impede natural root spread.

Weeds

- If you have a weedy site, it is easier and better to control weeds before planting. If the soil contains many weed seeds, allow them time to germinate.
- All traces of couch grass and other weeds with underground runners should be removed from the soil. Such weeds are very difficult to remove from around garden plants.
- Plant after all the weeds have been removed.

Selecting Plants from your Nursery

- Choose young plants in small pots.
- Select plants that look healthy, and have been 'hardened off' in the open before planting.
- Avoid pot-bound plants.
- Ask for local provenance. See appendix 2.

Planting

- The best time to plant is in mild, still weather after good rain.
- Plant when the soil is moist. The roots of the plant will grow downwards as the soil dries out.
- Dig a hole that is about twice the width and twice the depth of the pot. If the ground is hard and rocky, loosening with a pick will help with water penetration.
- Fill the hole with water at least once, and allow the water to soak in before planting.
- Thoroughly water the plant in the container before planting. Soaking the plant in a bucket of water is an effective way to do this.
- When removing the plant from the container, avoid disturbing the roots of the plant. However, if the roots are coiled in the pot, gently tease them out. If necessary prune the roots to remove the coils.
- The soil level around the new plant should be fractionally lower than the level of the garden soil. Some gardeners plant in slight depressions to make watering easier.
- Water well after planting. Five to ten litres per plant is suggested.
- Avoid staking of the plant if possible. If a stake is used, it should be hammered into place before putting in the plant, to avoid root damage. Remove the tie as soon as possible.
- Guards may be necessary to protect the plant from grazing or accidental damage, strong wind and frost.

Watering

- If extra water is given, the aim should be to allow the water to penetrate deeply. Deep watering encourages deep rooting. Shallow watering can cause stress to the plant as the surface soil dries out.

Handy hints on how to grow indigenous plants Cont.

Indigenous garden created by The Bendigo Native Plant Group and The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club at the Senior Citizens Club Rooms, Old High St, Golden Square. The garden is open to the public at any time.

Mulch

- Loose gravel, screenings and coarse sand make excellent mulches. They help suppress weeds, allow water to penetrate, retain moisture, and reduce temperature fluctuations.
- Wood chips, eucalyptus mulch, coarse weathered sawdust, chopped up garden prunings, and pea straw can also be used for mulch. These mulches are good for reducing water loss, but rain may not penetrate deeply.
- Hay and grass clippings often contain weed seeds.
- Mulches placed against the stem of a plant may cause it to rot.
- Ground covers such as Creeping Boobialla can be used as a living mulch.
- Mulch should never be taken from the bush.

Maintenance

- Weeds compete with garden plants for moisture, nutrients, light and space, therefore effective control of weeds is extremely important.
- Most shrubs will benefit from an occasional light prune. Pruning can extend the life of the plant, improve the shape and form of the plant, and promote flowering.

Direct Seeding

- Sowing seed directly to the site is called direct seeding. It can be an economical method of establishing plants. For large scale revegetation, expert advice from the local Landcare Group or Department of Environment and Primary Industries should be sought.

Frost

- Most local plants can withstand light frosts. Frosts are more severe in the open and low-lying places. Some indigenous plants need protection from frost when young.

Introducing indigenous plants to established gardens

- Many indigenous plants are suitable for cottage gardens or rockeries.
- Some indigenous perennials respond well to being treated as annuals. Plant en masse, and discard after flowering.
- Seek expert advice when purchasing plants. You will save time, money and effort.
- Group plants with similar requirements together in the garden.

Attracting wildlife to your garden

Gardens are not just for people

One of the delights of a native garden is that it can be home to many kinds of native wildlife, including birds, bats, lizards, frogs, butterflies and other insects. The main requirements for any kind of animal are food, shelter, and protection from predators. A native garden that imitates the natural bushland attracts wildlife. To create a more natural garden use a variety of indigenous plants, including trees, bushy shrubs, small ground-hugging plants and grass tussocks. Also provide fallen logs, branches, leaf litter and rocks.

Attracting Birds

Most gardens will have some birds. Some of the bushland birds can be attracted if there is suitable food and shelter. It is easier to attract these birds if your garden is close to bushland, or to other bird-friendly gardens. Many birds are nomadic. Others stay in the same area, and may even nest in your garden.

Birds require a variety of food sources ranging from pollen, nectar, and seed, to caterpillars and other invertebrates, such as worms, centipedes and spiders. Some birds get food from the ground. Others get food from treetops, shrubs or grasses, so providing a variety of indigenous plants and habitats is a good idea.

Local species of *Callistemon* (bottlebrush), *Grevillea*, *Correa*, *Banksia* and *Eucalyptus* all have nectar-producing flowers that attract honeyeaters, silvereyes and lorikeets.

Insect-eating birds feed on insects and other small animals. Insects will appear when there is a home for them. Some insects live on plants. Others are found on the ground in and under the leaf and twig litter. Plant a variety of indigenous plants, and have a varied ground layer, and let nature take its course. Birds that can be attracted to insects include silvereyes, wrens, Weebills, honeyeaters and thornbills.

Other birds prefer seeds. These birds include finches, parrots and pigeons. Wattles and native grasses are particularly important food sources for these birds.

Eastern Rosella. Photo Geoff Park

Spotted Pardalote. Photo Geoff Park

Small birds need shelter, shade and protection from predators. Some birds use low shrubs, others large shrubs or trees. Dense and prickly plants provide nesting sites, shelter and safety. Birds that may build nests in gardens include wrens, honeyeaters, silvereyes and Willie Wagtails.

Attracting Bats

Although not as obvious as birds, small insect-eating bats are common in our district. They may be seen or heard flying overhead at dusk while searching for flying insects.

There are about ten species of insect-eating bats common to Bendigo. At night they feed on insects such as moths, beetles, flying termites, mayflies and mosquitoes. Bats eat over half their body weight in insects each night, and so are really important in keeping insect numbers in check.

During the day bats roost (rest and sleep) in tree hollows, under loose bark, or in crevices in buildings. They need a site that is dark, humid, maintains a suitable temperature and is safe from predators. You may already have bats living in your garden. You could also provide a home for bats by placing a bat-nesting box in your garden, and have your own natural mossie-catchers.

In March 2010 there was an unexpected addition to Bendigo's mammal fauna when Grey-headed Fruit Bats arrived and adopted the Rosalind Park Fernery as a roosting site.

Eastern Freetail Bat. Photo: Lindy Lumsden

Wood White. Photo: Frances Cincotta

Feeding mainly on flowering eucalypts, their numbers have fluctuated since their arrival and they seem to have made the fernery a permanent home.

Attracting Butterflies and Moths

Australian butterflies and moths have four stages in their life cycle.

- The egg. The female lays her eggs on or near the caterpillar's food plant.
- The caterpillar (larval stage). After hatching, the caterpillars eat and grow fat, shedding their outgrown skin 4 or 5 times.
- The pupal stage. The butterfly caterpillar sheds its final skin and becomes a pupa. The moth caterpillar weaves itself a silken cocoon and pupates inside. In this stage the caterpillar changes to an adult butterfly or moth.
- The adult stage. Adult butterflies are much less fussy about the food plant than the caterpillars, and will drink nectar from any flowers that are available. Moths do the same but usually feed at night.

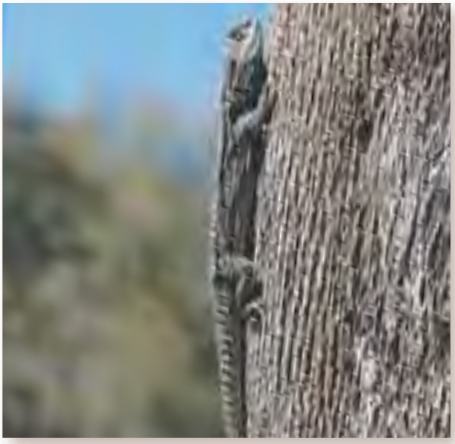
Adult butterflies can travel considerable distances, and may be found even if there is no suitable plant for the caterpillar. They will stay longer if there are flowers present. Although the adult butterflies feed on many kinds of flowers they seem particularly fond of *Bursaria, Kunzea, Callistemon* and *Leptospermum*.

Attracting Insects and other Small Animals

Invertebrates, including insects, spiders, centipedes and millipedes are the key animals for a wildlife friendly garden, because they are essential parts of the food chain. A garden with a range of indigenous plants and with ground litter will attract insects and other invertebrates to your garden. Indigenous plants are best because the local animals are adapted to the local plants. They may not be able to survive with introduced plants. Insects will attract other wildlife. If some insects are in excessive numbers, do not use insecticides – this will kill helpful insects as well as the pest. Manual control is usually sufficient. You can pick off insects or squash them, prune off the infected branches, or wait for the birds and other animals to control them.

Attracting Lizards

Many town areas already have a surprising number of lizards. These include Blue-tongue Lizards, Jacky Lizards, stumpy-tails and the much smaller skinks. Lizards need shelter, which can be provided by dense, low growing shrubs, rocks with space underneath, fallen logs, agricultural pipes or your firewood stack!



Eastern Bearded Dragon Photo: Pam Sheean

Many lizards sun themselves on rocks, so rocks in sunny positions are desirable.

Cats and dogs are responsible for killing many lizards, and you are much less likely to have lizards if cats and dogs are present.

Attracting Frogs

Frogs need food, protection from dryness, and shelter from predators. Although frogs need water to breed, many frogs do not need permanent water to survive. Some frogs are able to survive by burrowing into soil, or sheltering in thick tussocks or under logs and rocks. Frogs have many predators, and they need places to hide such as rocks, fallen timber and tussocks. Frogs eat insects and other small animals, so an abundance of litter, mulch and native vegetation is desirable.

Southern Brown Tree Frog. Photo: Nick Clemann

If you have a shady section in your garden which might get extra moisture when it rains, consider setting up an area for frogs. Plant tussock grasses, and spread mulch. Have some logs and rocks to provide shelter.

Frogs may be dormant or inactive over summer, and reappear when the area becomes moist after rain. It is wonderful to hear the male Pobblebonk or Banjo Frog calling in spring.

Attracting wildlife to your garden Cont.

Water

Many birds will make use of a birdbath. A shallow dish makes a suitable bath. Place it where you can see it easily so that you can watch the birds drinking and bathing. The bath should be in a shady area and close to overhanging branches and shrubs. It should also be well off the ground to help provide protection from cats. The water should be kept clean and changed regularly.

Artificial Feeders

Artificial feeding of wildlife is undesirable. Native animals are able to get all their food from trees, shrubs, grasses and other sources. Artificial feeding can lead to an unbalanced diet and unhealthy animals. It may also attract non-native animals such as foxes, mice, sparrows and starlings, which compete with the native animals.

Nesting Boxes

Some birds and small mammals nest in hollows. It takes many decades before a tree develops nesting hollows. An effective way of providing alternative nesting sites is by installing nest boxes. Different kinds of birds, bats, and possums need different kinds of nest boxes, so it is important to make the box and entrance hole the correct size. For example a pardalote likes an entrance hole 4cm diameter, while a rosella needs an 8cm diameter hole. Nest boxes sometimes attract feral honeybees and introduced birds, so it is a good idea to check the box regularly, and remove unwelcome residents.

For information about nest box sizes: Frank, Alan and Stacey. (2006). *Nest Boxes for Wildlife: A Practical guide.* Bloomings, Melbourne.

Cats

Wildlife and cats are incompatible. Stray and feral cats kill millions of native animals every year. Cats soon learn where birds like to feed, and lie in wait. If you must have a cat, then confine it. The City of Greater Bendigo has declared an order, which applies to the whole municipality, making it an offence for a cat to be outside the owner's premises between the hours of sunset and sunrise, unless the cat is in an enclosed run. If you have problems with neighbourhood cats, contact City of Greater Bendigo for advice. Additional information is available on City of Greater Bendigo's website or from the Customer Service Centre.

For more information visit
www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Recording, enjoying and sharing your success

You might like to keep a diary, recording all the different kinds of animals you see, from day to day, from season to season, and the changes as your garden grows. Make sketches, or take photographs of the wildlife you see in your garden. A group of wildlife friendly gardens will be more attractive to wildlife than isolated gardens, so encourage your neighbours to have wildlife friendly gardens too.

Gold-dust Wattle

Acacia acinacea
Fabaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Very variable species from prostrate to large shrub up to 3m. Masses of small golden yellow balls in spring. Small dark green "leaves". Pods tightly coiled.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide variety of soils, provided they are well drained. Part-full sun. Fast growing. Drought tolerant. Tip prune to promote bushy growth. May spread by suckers.

Special note

Ornamental shrub suitable for dry position. Use in mixed shrub plantings, cottage gardens, and in massed plantings.

Rough Wattle

Acacia aspera* ssp. *aspera
Fabaceae

Photos: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Spreading small shrub to 1.5m x 2m. Branches sometimes arching. "Leaves" about 2cm x 0.5cm, hairy, with soft curved point at tip. Masses of yellow balls in spring. Pods about 4cm long, hairy and twisted or coiled.

Cultivation note

Adapts to range of well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Fast growing.

Special note

Ornamental shrub, which can be grown under trees.

Ausfeld's Wattle

Acacia ausfeldii
Fabaceae

Photo: Eric Wilkinson

Description

Small to medium open shrub to 3m x 2m. Branches often arching. Branchlets have sticky ridges. "Leaves" to 5cm x 4mm with very short stalks. Deep golden yellow balls in spring. Pods light brown, straight and narrow.

Cultivation note

Prefers gravelly soils. Part shade. Needs protection from strong winds. Drought tolerant.

Special note

An elegant open shrub.

Grey Mulga

Acacia brachybotrya
Fabaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Dense spreading shrub to 3m x 3m. Silvery grey rounded "leaves" to 3cm long, with a single vein. Ornamental spring flowering shrub with yellow ball flowers. Pods to 7cm long, wavy and dark brown.

Cultivation note

Adapts to range of well-drained soils. Prefers a sandy soil. Will stand limited water-logging.

Special note

Grey foliage contrasts well with green plants. Suitable for windbreaks. Good plant for northern areas. Occurs naturally north of Bendigo.

Bent-leaf Wattle

Acacia flexifolia
Fabaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Compact/dense shrub 1.5m x 1.5m with narrow grey-green "leaves" to 2.5cm long. "Leaves" have a distinct bend near the base. Winter flowering with lemon or yellow lightly perfumed flower balls. Narrow pods up to 8cm long.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Prune from early age to promote dense growth. Drought tolerant.

Special note

Ornamental suitable for gardens, low windbreaks or hedges.

Spreading Wattle

Acacia genistifolia
Fabaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

An open stiff shrub to 2.5m x 2m. Narrow sharp-pointed "leaves" up to 2.5cm long scattered along stems. Fragrant pale yellow flower balls conspicuous over autumn-spring months. Plants can be found in flower over most months.

Cultivation note

Dappled shade to full sun. Adaptable reliable shrub that tolerates drought and short periods of inundation. Frost hardy.

Special note

Good refuge for small birds. Attracts honeyeaters and insect eaters. Near Heathcote, Spreading Wattle is spring-flowering with bright yellow balls.

Woolly Wattle

Acacia lanigera* var. *whanii
Fabaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Erect or spreading shrub to 1.5m x 1.5m. Young stems and "Leaves" noticeably hairy. "Leaves" to 4cm long with prominent veins. Flower balls usually pale yellow, but may be deep yellow. Flowers May-July.

Cultivation note

Part-full sun in a well-drained position. Frost hardy. Tolerates rocky sites. Responds well to pruning.

Special note

Suitable for low informal hedge or windbreak. Adds colour to the winter garden.

Mallee Wattle

Acacia montana
Fabaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Dense medium spreading shrub to 2m x 3m. Bright green sticky "leaves" about 2cm x 5mm. Bright yellow globular flowers in spring, followed by woolly silvery sticky pods.

Cultivation note

Part-full sun. Stands hot, dry and alkaline conditions.

Special note

Suitable for low windbreak or screen. Dense foliage provides shelter for small birds.

Golden Wattle

Acacia pycnantha
Fabaceae

Photo: Eric Wilkinson

Description

Tall open shrub to 4m x 2m. Glossy dark green "leaves" to 20cm long, tapering at both ends, sometimes curved. Trunk and branches may have white coating. Bright golden ball flowers winter-spring. Flat straight leathery pods to 12cm x 2cm. The local form usually has narrow "leaves".

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part, dappled or full sun.

Special note

Garden ornamental, particularly the weeping forms. Suitable for a low windbreak. Australia's national floral emblem. Seeds have been roasted and ground for food.

Whirrakee Wattle

Acacia williamsonii
Fabaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Dense shrub to 2m x 3m. Narrow grey-green curved "leaves" to 8cm long. Masses of bright yellow balls August-September. Narrow pods to 4cm long constricted around each seed.

Cultivation note

Prefers gravelly to clay/loam soils, but is adaptable to other soils provided they are well-drained. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate part-sun. Drought tolerant.

Special note

Natural occurrence almost limited to the Bendigo Whipstick. This shrub is considered one of the most ornamental wattles for cultivation.

Slaty Sheoak

Allocasuarina muelleriana* ssp. *muelleriana
Casuarinaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Medium to tall shrub to 4m x 2m with grey-green appearance. Individual flowers are small but the whole bush may be rust-red over the summer flowering period. The female plant may have small decorative cones to 2.5cm x 1cm on the bush.

Cultivation note

Fast growing. Suitable for a wide range of soils. Drought tolerant.

Special note

Good foliage contrast. Useful for a particularly dry difficult area of the garden. Can be shaped by pruning. Male and female flowers are usually on separate plants.

Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa* ssp. *spinosa
Pittosporaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

The local form grows as a shrub to 2m x 3m. The sweetly perfumed white flowers are clustered at the ends of the spiny branches. The flowers, from December-February, are followed by clusters of red-brown seed purses.

Cultivation note

Very hardy shrub, which may be pruned to shape.

Special note

Flowers produce copious nectar. Important summer food source for birds and insects. Foliage an important food for butterfly caterpillars.
Subspecies *lasiophylla* is similar. It has fine short hairs on the underside of the leaves, giving the shrub a greyish appearance.

River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi
Myrtaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Medium shrub to small tree 3m x 3m, often with drooping branches. Narrow sharp-pointed grey-green leaves to 4cm long. Young leaves often silky hairy. The short bottlebrush flowers are usually cream. Main flowering in February-March.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide range of soils. Part-full sun. Suits moist conditions but will tolerate dry soils once established. Remove spent flowers to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Good hardy shrub for garden, windbreak or screen. The only bottlebrush native to the Bendigo area. It grows along streams and rivers.

Common Fringe Myrtle

Calytrix tetragona
Myrtaceae

Photo: Pam Sheean

Description

Small-leaved shrub to 2m x 2m. The white-pink flowers are clustered at the end of the branches. The fringed calyx, behind the petals, deepens in colour after flowering.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a wide variety of conditions. Prefers well-drained soils but will tolerate short periods of water inundation. Prune lightly after flowering.

Special note

Excellent garden shrub, particularly for small gardens. Suitable for low windbreaks and informal hedges. An outstanding flowering shrub which produces good cut flowers.

Rock Correa

Correa glabra* var. *glabra
Rutaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Bushy shrub to 2m x 2m. Glossy green leaves, paler underneath. Leaves to 4cm x 2cm, often with wavy edge. Tubular bell flowers to 2cm long, usually pale green late summer-spring.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide variety of soil types. Part, dappled or full sun. Fast growing. After flowering, prune all over by about a third to form a compact bush.

Special note

Hardy adaptable shrub for garden or low windbreak. Good hedging plant. Very attractive to nectar-feeding birds, such as Eastern Spinebills.

Common Correa

Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa
Rutaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Slender upright shrub to 1m x 60cm. Soft green leaves to 4cm x 2cm with short hairs on the under-surface. Tubular bell flowers to 2cm long. The local forms usually have green flowers. Long flowering March-September.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Prefers part or dappled sun. Prune after flowering to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Winter flowering shrub, which attracts nectar-feeding birds. Suitable for rockeries and cottage gardens.

Bitter Cryptandra

Cryptandra amara
Rhamnaceae

Photo: Ben Goonan

Description

Small shrub to 50cm x 50cm. Stiff spiny branches. Leaves small, dark green and crowded. Small white perfumed flowers for a long period during autumn-winter.

Cultivation note

Light or heavy soils in partly shady position. Often slow growing.

Special note

Suitable for rockeries and containers as well as general planting.

Shrubby Dampiera

Dampiera dysantha
Goodeniaceae

Photos: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Erect or prostrate suckering sub-shrub to 70cm high. Leaves to 2cm x 0.5cm, often grouped in threes. Margins rolled back. Undersurface densely hairy-white. Showy purple-blue flowers to 2cm across, August-December.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a range of soils. Full sun. Frost and drought hardy.

Special note

Suitable for containers and rockeries.

Gorse Bitter-pea

Daviesia ulicifolia* ssp. *ruscifolia
Fabaceae

Photos: Ben Goonan, Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Rigid shrub to 1m x 1m. Branchlets and leaves sharp-pointed. Leaves somewhat triangular. Stems angular. Small orange-yellow "egg and bacon" flowers in spring, followed by triangular pods. Pods often turn red and can be showy.

Cultivation note

Hardy over a range of soils and positions. Prefers good drainage and part sun. Occasional light pruning promotes bushy growth.

Special note

Attractive to butterflies and other insects.

Grey Parrot-pea

Dillwynia cinerascens
Fabaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Small shrub to 1m x 1m. Narrow grey-green leaves about 1cm long crowded along the stems. Small yellow and red pea flowers clustered along the ends of the branches over spring. Individual flowers are wider than high.

Cultivation note

Prefers well-drained soil, dappled or part sun. Prune after flowering to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Another local Parrot-pea worth trying is the low growing 50cm x 50cm Red Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia hispida*). The red pea-shaped flowers are clustered at the ends of the branches. A good plant for containers and hanging baskets. Leaves and stem are usually hairy.

Showy Parrot-pea

Dillwynia sericea
Fabaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation:

Description

Small shrub to 1m x 1m. Young shoots and branches hairy. Narrow leaves to 2cm long. Yellow-orange-red pea-shaped flowers in spring. Individual flowers wider than high, clustered towards the ends of the branches.

Cultivation note

Prefers well-drained soils, dappled or part sun to full sun. Frost tolerant.

Special note

Suitable for growing as a pot plant.

Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *cuneata
Sapindaceae

Photo: Bev Culvenor

Description

Small to medium shrub 2m x 2m. Leaves variable, compact bushy habit. Inconspicuous flowers August-November, followed by beautiful red to brown seed capsules (hops) to 2cm across which are held for a long time.

Cultivation note

Will adapt to most soil types. Part, dappled or full sun. Benefits from light pruning. Fast growing.

Special note

Excellent contrasting plant in shrub plantings. Branches with hops are good for interior decoration.
There are two other local subspecies, *spatulata* with slightly longer leaves, and subspecies *angustissima* with long slender leaves.

Rosy Heath-myrtle

Euromyrtus ramosissima* ssp. *ramosissima
Myrtaceae

Photo: Ben Goonan

Description

Low spreading shrub to 20cm x 60cm. Small flat green leaves in opposite pairs along the stems. Small flowers like those of tea-trees are mostly deep pink, but can be paler. Long flowering period. Main flowering in September-October.

Cultivation note

Filtered sun or sunny position. Responds to additional water over summer but will survive without it.
May be difficult to establish.

Special note

Good rockery or container plant.

Clasping Goodenia

Goodenia benthamiana
Goodeniaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Small shrub to 30cm x 30cm. Green leaves, with the base of the leaf clasping the stem. Leaf edges toothed. Scattered bright yellow flowers for most of the year. Chief flowering September-February.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soils. A fast growing attractive plant which requires good drainage. Prefers full sun, although will tolerate part shade. Requires occasional pruning to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Useful as a border plant and in cottage gardens. Excellent rockery plant. Sticky Goodenia (*G. varia*), another local Goodenia, is a low spreading shrub growing to 60cm high. Frost and drought tolerant. Attractive yellow flowers in spring. Prefers well drained soil and full sun.

Downy Grevillea

Grevillea alpina
Proteaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small shrub to 1m x 1.5m. Soft hairy grey-green leaves less than 2cm long. Flowers in loose clusters, often hanging down. Flowers cream, apricot, orange or red. Whipstick forms mostly cream-green. South of Bendigo red-flowering forms are common. Long flowering period in spring.

Cultivation note

Good drainage essential. Dappled shade to full sun. Tip prune from start for bushy growth. Dislikes summer watering.

Special note

Nectar-feeding birds are attracted to flowers. Particularly attractive when planted in clumps.

Goldfields Grevillea

Grevillea dryophylla
Proteaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

A compact small shrub to 1m x 1m. The ornamental grey-green leaves to 7cm x 5cm are broadly toothed. The foliage is prickly. The reddish flowers hang below the leaves.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to most well-drained soils. Part, dappled or full sun.

Special note

Cut foliage for indoor use. Good for planting under trees and tall shrubs.

Rosemary Grevillea

Grevillea rosmarinifolia* ssp. *glabella
Proteaceae

Photos: Goldfields Revegetation, Pam Sheean

Description

Medium shrub to 2m x 1.5m. Branches usually erect. Branchlets hairy. Narrow dark green leaves crowded along the stems. Flowers red, green or yellow during May-November.

Cultivation note

Good drainage. Dappled to full sun. Hardy to most frosts. Tolerates extended dry periods

Special note

Attracts nectar-feeding birds and insects. Long flowering over winter. The fine prickly foliage provides shelter for small birds. Usual flower colour is red. Whipstick forms may have green, red or orange shades.

Bushy Needlewood

Hakea decurrens* ssp. *physocarpa
Proteaceae

Photo: Frances Cincotta

Description

A very prickly shrub to 3m x 2m with needle-like foliage. Leaves to 5cm long. The small sweetly perfumed cream to pink flowers from winter to early spring are followed by hard woody fruits to 2.5cm long. These remain on the bush for years.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide range of well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Sometimes short-lived.

Special note

Very adaptable shrub which requires little attention. The prickly foliage provides protection for small birds, particularly when planted in groups.

Erect Guinea-flower

Hibbertia riparia
Dilleniaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Slender erect shrub 50cm x 50cm. Small dark green leaves. Golden yellow flowers up to 2cm across appear August-November.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Prefers an open sunny position. Tip prune from an early age for bushy growth.

Special note

Good rockery or container plant. The Hoary Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia crinita*) is another local guinea-flower. It has broader leaves.

Austral Indigo

Indigofera australis
Fabaceae

Photo: Frances Cincotta

Description

Open shrub to 2m x 2m. Leaves to 8cm x 5cm, often hairy on the upper surface, with grey-green leaflets. Handsome heads of pink pea flowers July-October. Narrow brown pods to 4cm long.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part or dappled sun. Best planted in a sheltered position. Fast growing. Can withstand extended wet periods. Benefits from occasional watering during extended dry periods. Tip prune from an early age to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Very attractive and useful garden shrub. Particularly attractive when planted in groups. Good cut foliage.

Heath Tea-tree

Leptospermum myrsinoides
Myrtaceae

Photo: Frances Cincotta

Description

Medium shrub to 2m x 2m, often with arching branches. Leaves to 1cm long, grey-green, often silky with hairs. Leaves have sharp pointed tips. The five-petalled open white, or occasionally pink flowers to about 1cm across are abundant in spring.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to most soils types. Part-full sun. Drought tolerant. Stands limited periods of water-logging. Tolerates hard pruning.

Special note

Excellent hedge or screening plant. Good cut flower filler. Arching branches provide contrast and interest in the garden.

Totem Poles

Melaleuca decussata
Myrtaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Large spreading shrub to 2m x 3m with small grey-green leaves crowded in alternate pairs along the stem. The pink-mauve flowers are in bottlebrushes to 3cm x 1cm. Flowers October-December.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soil types. Hardy and suitable to a range of positions. Prefers full sun. Tolerates some seasonal water-logging. Salt tolerant. Fast growing.

Special note

Suitable for hedge, screen or windbreak plantings. Provides excellent habitat for small birds. Also known as Cross-leaf Honey-myrtle.

Moonah

Melaleuca lanceolata
Myrtaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Tall shrub to 5m x 5m. Small pointed leaves crowded along the stems. Young foliage bright green, older leaves dark green. Flowers cream or white in spikes to 3cm x 1.5cm near the ends of the branchlets. Main flowering December-March.

Cultivation note

Adapts to wide range of soils and positions.

Special note

Useful for windbreaks and/or screening. Shelter for small birds. Attractive to insects. Rough-barked Honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca parvistaminea*) has smaller cream sweetly-perfumed flowers in November. Broom Honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca uncinata*) has wiry leaves, yellow sweetly-perfumed flowers over summer.

Violet Honey-myrtle

Melaleuca wilsonii
Myrtaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Large spreading shrub to 3m x 4m with small green prickly leaves. The flowers of deep pink to purplish-pink form long clusters along the branches in late spring.

Cultivation note

Grows in gravelly, sandy or clay soils. Part-full sun. Drought tolerant. Will tolerate limited periods of water-logging. Prune after flowering to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Handsome hardy ornamental for the garden. Suitable for hedges and screening. Dense foliage provides safe refuge for small birds.

Heath Myrtle

Micromyrtus ciliata
Myrtaceae

Photos: Pam Sheean, Ern Perkins

Description

Low spreading shrub to 60cm x 1m with small green crowded leaves. Flowers small but profuse, pink in bud, opening white, changing to deep pink and producing a showy display. Flowers September-December.

Cultivation note

Suits sandy or gravelly well-drained soils, including rocky areas. Part-full sun. Can stand short periods of water-logging over winter. Stands very dry conditions, but benefits from occasional watering during extended dry periods. Tip prune from the start to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Ideal for garden, rockery or container. Good cut flower.

Cypress Daisy-bush

Olearia teretifolia
Asteraceae

Photo: Pam Sheean

Description

Small shrub 1.5m x 1m with dark green leaves. The white daisy flowers about 1cm across are in clusters at the ends of the branches. Flowering August-December is showy.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils, though prefers acidic soils. Dappled-full sun. Tip prune from an early stage to promote bushy growth. Prune back by a third after flowering.

Special note

Excellent in mixed shrub plantings and cottage gardens. Good contrast with dark trunks of Ironbarks.

Grey Everlasting

Ozothamnus obcordatus
Asteraceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small shrub to 1m x 50cm. Young growth green, shiny and often sticky. Small round leaves glossy dark green above, woolly white underneath. Golden yellow flowers in flat heads at the ends of branches in spring. Flowers age to grey and are held by the plant for some months.

Cultivation note

Part, dappled or full sun in well-drained soil. Tip prune from start to encourage bushy growth.

Special note

Good container plant. Attracts butterflies and other insects. Suitable as cut-flower.

Bendigo Wax-flower

Philotheca verrucosa
Rutaceae

Photos: Pam Sheean, Frances Cincotta

Description

Small spreading shrub 1m x 1m with aromatic warty leaves and stems. Flowers August-November. Pink buds open to starry white or pale pink flowers 1cm across.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soil types but requires good drainage. Will not grow in alkaline soils. Part-full sun. May be difficult to establish. Best planted during winter. Once established, prune to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Ornamental long-flowering plant for garden, rockery or container. Good cut flower. Also known as Fairy Wax-flower. A double flowered form 'Semmens Double Wax-flower' (see inset) is available from specialist nurseries.

Common Rice-flower

Pimelea humilis
Thymelaeaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Low spreading shrub to 50cm x 50cm. Young growth hairy. Narrow grey-green shortly stalked leaves in opposite pairs. Small creamy white flowers in heads to 2cm across, showy and sweetly perfumed. Flowers September-January.

Cultivation note

Well-drained soil in sun or semi-shade. Hardy to most frosts and to extended dry periods. Responds well to pruning. May sucker.

Special note

Suitable for understorey planting, rockeries and containers. Butterflies feed on flowers. Small Rice-flower (*Pimelea glauca*) is similar. Slender Rice-flower (*Pimelea linifolia* ssp. *linifolia*) has larger flower heads and grows to 75cm x 50cm.

Scarlet Mint-bush

Prostanthera aspalathoides
Lamiaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Low growing bushy shrub 50cm x 50cm with dark green crowded small leaves. The foliage is strongly aromatic when crushed. Scarlet tubular flowers to 2cm long over spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils. Prefers full sun. Prune after flowering to promote bushy growth.

Special note

Good ground covering plant with flowers over a long period. Good for garden, rockery or container.
The Rough Mint-bush (*Prostanthera denticulata*) is worth trying in full or part sun. An open shrub to 1m x 1.5m, with small aromatic leaves and mauve flowers to 1cm across, September-November.

Dusty Miller

Spyridium parvifolium
Rhamnaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Upright shrub to 1.5m x 1m. Dark green oval wrinkled leaves to 2cm long. Flowers small white-cream in heads at the ends of branches, surrounded by powdery white leaves. Long-flowering over spring.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Dappled or part sun.

Special note

Good container plant. Attracts insects including butterflies and birds.

Digger's Speedwell

Veronica perfoliata
Plantaginaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Spreading shrub to 1.5m x 2m with heart-shaped grey-green stem-clasping leaves. Leaves to 8cm x 5cm. Individual blue-mauve flowers about 1cm across, in spikes held well above the leaves in late spring.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soils. Part-full sun. Prune after flowering. Cutting back to near ground level may rejuvenate old plants. Remove promptly any branch which develops black spot or scale.

Special note

Handsome foliage plant, with attractive flowers. Ideal for use in cottage gardens and rockeries. Formerly classified as *Derwentia perfoliata*.

Whipstick Westringia

Westringia crassifolia
Lamiaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Open erect shrub to 2m x 2m. The bright green narrow leaves are arranged in groups of three. White or mauve flowers similar to those of a mint-bush are scattered over the bush in spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Part-dappled sun. Tolerates shady dry conditions.

Special note

Suitable for rockeries or in mixed plantings of shrubs. Occurs naturally only in the Whipstick and the Little Desert. The Slender Westringia (*Westringia eremicola*) to 1m x1m, with white or mauve flowers spring-summer, is a similar hardy adaptable shrub worth trying for general planting.

Silver Wattle

Acacia dealbata
Fabaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague, Frances Cincotta

Description

Erect smooth-trunked small to medium tree to 10m x 5-10m. Branches and trunk often have silvery patches. Young branches silvery-white. Ferny blue-green leaves. Globular yellow sweetly perfumed flower heads in sprays at the ends of the branches July-October. Purplish brown pods to 8cm x 1cm often have a silvery bloom.

Cultivation note

Tolerates wide range of soils but prefers moist conditions. Part or dappled shade to full sun. Fast growing. May spread by suckers.

Special note

Good for birds and insects. Late Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) is a similar spreading small tree 10–15m high. The ferny leaves are dull green. Pale yellow flower balls October-December.

Lightwood

Acacia implexa
Fabaceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean, Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small upright tree 4-10m x 3-7m. Green sickle-shaped "leaves" to 20cm long. Flowers over summer with pale yellow balls. Pods are curved and twisted, often forming quite large clusters. A white "stem" is folded under each seed.

Cultivation note

Grows on a range of soils. Needs good drainage. Part, dappled or full sun. Good small shade tree. Suitable for windbreaks.

Special note

Excellent tree for small to medium gardens. Leaves used in dyeing. Long lived tree. The timber can be used in furniture making

Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon
Fabaceae

Photo: Eric Wilkinson

Description

Handsome shapely tree 6-20m x 4-10m. Dense crown of dark green "leaves" about 20cm long, broadest at the middle. Prominent veins running the length of the "leaves". Creamy globular flower balls about 1cm across borne in sprays in spring. Pods to 15cm x1cm, lightly coiled or twisted. Shiny black seeds with a red "stem" surrounding each seed.

Cultivation note

Prefers moist well–drained soils. Dappled, part or full sun. Suckers may develop if the roots are damaged.

Special note

Attractive to birds and insects. Leaves used in dyeing. Timber used in furniture and instrument making.

Drooping Sheoak

Allocasuarina verticillata
Casuarinaceae

Photos: Ern Perkins, Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small spreading tree 4-10m x 2-5m. Rounded canopy with a drooping habit. Dark green branchlets are prominently ridged. The male and female flowers are on different plants. Male flowers in short spikes at the ends of the side branches. Female flowers close to the branches develop into cones to 4cm x 3cm which have sharp pointed valves. Flowers March-December.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a range of soils and positions, including rocky outcrops.

Special note

Suitable for light shade, shelter and as ornamental specimen. Plant for the music of the wind through the tree. Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*) is more erect with short cones about 2cm across.

White Cypress-pine

Callitris columellaris
Cupressaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Generally a conical tree to 20m high, but may be much smaller in hard conditions. Bark grey or brown, furrowed. The narrow leaves are about 3mm long, mostly grey-green though sometimes green. The 2cm female cones usually drop after opening.

Cultivation note

Grows on a range of soils including loamy plains, sandy rises and rock outcrops. Open sunny position. Slow growing.

Special note

Shape and foliage provide attractive contrast to other trees. The durable timber is resistant to insect attack. Good container plant.

Bull Mallee

Eucalyptus behriana
Myrtaceae

Photos: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Small tree 3-10m, mostly with several trunks. Bark dark, rough and persistent at base. Upper bark smooth grey, shed in ribbons late summer-autumn. New bark shiny green-grey. Leaves to 10cm x 3cm, stalked, thick green, shiny. Creamy white flowers conspicuous November-February.

Cultivation note

Well-drained medium soils. Sunny position. Responds well to pruning. Will coppice if cut back very hard.

Special note

Bull Mallee has broader leaves than other mallee eucalypts.

Kamarooka Mallee

Eucalyptus froggattii
Myrtaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Tree 4-10m high, often with several slender trunks. Bark grey and scaly on lower trunk, smooth and peeling in strips from upper branches. Thick glossy green leaves to about 10cm long. Buds and nuts square in cross-section. White flowers September-October.

Cultivation note

Prefers good drainage but can tolerate short periods of water-logging.

Special note

Natural occurrence restricted to the Whipstick and a few scattered areas of western Victoria. Good small tree for windbreak or shelter belt. Excellent tree for small gardens.

Red Box

Eucalyptus polyanthemos* ssp. *vestita
Myrtaceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean, Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Medium sized tree to about 25m x 15m. Very attractive tree with dense spreading crown. Bark rough, grey and scaly on trunk and limbs. Grey-green oval shaped leaves to 8cm x 3cm. Creamy white flowers at the ends of the branchlets during spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Suitable for a wide range of well-drained soil types, including poor shallow soils. Full sun. Adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Drought tolerant.

Special note

Specimen tree. Excellent shade tree. Attractive foliage. Subspecies *marginalis* is smaller and often mallee-like and may be more suitable for small gardens.

Blue Mallee

Eucalyptus polybractea
Myrtaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small tree 3-9m x 6m with slightly open crown. May form multiple trunks. Bark rough and grey at base, smooth grey and deciduous on limbs. Freshly exposed branches white-pale green. Bluish green-grey leaves to 10cm x 1cm. Slightly open crown with creamy white flowers in autumn-winter.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils with good drainage, though prefers acidic soils. Full sun. Tolerates periods of drought. Fast growing.

Special note

Ideal for small gardens. Attractive foliage. May be planted as an informal screen or windbreak. Young foliage used for the production of eucalyptus oil.

Red Ironbark

Eucalyptus tricarpa
Myrtaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Medium tree 10-30m x 12m. Attractive thick reddish brown to black bark. Produces abundant flowers, which range from white, pale yellow to pink in autumn-winter.

Cultivation note

Will grow in a wide range of soil conditions and is particularly useful in poor shallow soils. Adaptable and easy to grow. Very drought tolerant.

Special note

Useful as a specimen tree and for ornamental plantings. Excellent for avenue plantings. Provides good shade and is fast growing. Flowers an important source of nectar for insects and birds.

Green Mallee

Eucalyptus viridis* ssp. *viridis
Myrtaceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean

Description

Small tree 2-10m x 4m. Attractive mallee, which may develop several slender stems. Compact, dense habit. Bark rough and grey on lower stems, smooth white-grey and peeling in ribbons from the branches. Leaves to 8cm x 0.5cm, dark green, with noticeable oil glands. Abundant white flowers in summer.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide range of soils and conditions. Very hardy.

Special note

May be used to create low informal screens. Group planting creates an interesting landscape feature. Leaves used for the production of eucalyptus oil. Flowers are a source of honey.

Weeping Pittosporum

Pittosporum angustifolium
Pittosporaceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean, Ern Perkins

Description

Large shrub to small tree 3-9m x 2-5m with attractive weeping habit. Leaves smooth yellow-green 4-10cm long, under 1cm wide. Pale creamy yellow perfumed flowers about 1cm across, July-November followed by pale yellow to orange fruits up to 2cm long.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a range of conditions. Drought tolerant. Will not tolerate water-logging. Moderate growth rate.

Special note

Attractive in mixed shrub plantings. Decorative foliage, flowers and fruit. Also called Native Apricot from the colour of the fruit.

Sweet Quandong

Santalum acuminatum
Santalaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Erect shrub or small tree to 5m x 3m. Dark grey rough bark. Leaves to 8cm x 1.5cm, yellowish green. Small sweetly perfumed green-orange flowers in groups at the ends of the branches. Flowers September-May, followed by globular fruit to 2.5cm across, yellow or more often glossy red.

Cultivation note

Well-drained soils. Full sun. Drought tolerant. Plant with small acacias for protection and as host plants.

Special note

Parasitic on the roots of other plants. May sucker to form a colony. Handsome small ornamental tree with edible fruit.

Feather Spear–grass

Austrostipa elegantissima
Poaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Perennial tussocky grass with cane like stems. Ornamental feathery flowerheads on stems to 1m tall August-January.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soil types. Part-full sun.

Special note

Good combination with Native Flax (*Linum marginale*) which has blue flowers. Useful in mixed borders and rockeries. Flowerheads particularly attractive viewed with light streaming through them.

Soft Spear-grass

Austrostipa mollis
Poaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Tufted perennial tussock. Leaves to 30cm long, edges often rolled in. Flower spikes to 20cm on stems to 1m high. Shimmery heads particularly attractive when viewed with light through them. Flowers late spring-early summer.

Cultivation note

Adapts to wide variety of soils. Part, dappled or full sun. Remove spent flower stems in winter.

Special note

Crested Spear-grass (*Austrostipa blackii*) is another with shimmery heads on stems to 1m high. *Austrostipa densiflora* is another tall growing spear-grass worth trying.

Variable Spear-grass

Austrostipa scabra* ssp. *falcata
Poaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small perennial tussock with leaves to 20cm long. Shiny flowerheads on stems to 60cm high. Flower heads straw-coloured deepening to golden brown. Particularly attractive viewed with light through them. Flowers October-January. Seeds very sharp.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soils. Part, dappled or full sun. May self-seed. Remove spent flower stems in winter.

Special note

Suitable for rockery and wildflower areas.

Tall Sedge

Carex appressa
Cyperaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Tussock to 1m high. Slender bright green leaves to 1 cm wide. Flower head a narrow spike with brown flowers.

Cultivation note

Will stand boggy conditions. Prefers full sun.

Special note

Suitable for pond edges or water courses. Plant in clumps for best effect. *Carex tereticaulis* is similar but has taller, round flower stalks rather than triangular stalks.

Windmill Grass

Chloris truncata
Poaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Perennial clumping grass to 50cm. Dull green rough leaves from basal clump. Flower spikes form windmill shape well above leaves. Flowers, often purplish, October-January.

Cultivation note

Suits most soil types and will tolerate heavy clay soils. Full or part sun. Remove spent flower heads. May self-seed. Any unwanted seedlings are easily removed. Frost hardy.

Special note

Good rockery plant.

Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella admixta
Hemerocallidaceae

Photos: Frances Cincotta, Pam Sheean

Description

Robust, tussocky perennial forming spreading clumps. Blue flowers on 1m tall stems in spring, followed by oval blue berries up to 1cm long in summer.

Cultivation note

Suits most conditions. Flowers best in full sun. Drought hardy.

Special note

Ideal for rockeries. Used by Aboriginal people as a source of food and blue dye. Effective in groups or with other suckering plants, such as *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*. *Dianella* sp. aff. *longifolia* (Benambra) and *Dianella tarda* have longer greener leaves and flower stalks to 1.5m high. Both have starry blue flowers followed by blue berries.

Wattle Mat-rush

Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *coriacea
Asparagaceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean, Frances Cincotta

Description

Small 30cm x 10cm tufting plant with narrow grey-green grass-like leaves. The flowers look like small sprays of pale yellow wattle. Flowers late spring.

Cultivation note

Adapts to range of well-drained soils. Part-full sun.

Special note

Good for rockeries or as foliage contrast in mixed planting. Important food plant for the caterpillars of some butterflies. *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *filiformis* has narrower leaves.

Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia* ssp. *longifolia
Asparagaceae

Photo: Cath Dalton

Description

Dense tussock forming plant to 1m x 1m. Long strap-shaped leaves yellow-green to dark green. Flower stems to 90cm high, usually branched. Small sweetly perfumed cream or yellow flowers in spikes, followed by shiny brown seed capsules on female plants.

Cultivation note

Good, hardy adaptable plant for a range of soils. Part-full sun.

Special note

Attractive to butterflies. Provides shelter for small animals. Good container plant.

Weeping Grass

Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides
Poaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Perennial grass with tufted or spreading stems to 50cm long. Slender stems often arch with tips pointing down. Flat bright-dark green leaves. Stays green over summer. Flower spikelets fairly open, usually hanging down.

Cultivation note

Prefers moist soils. Shaded to part sun.

Special note

Spreads by underground stems and self-sows so can be used as a lawn alternative for light use areas. Mow only 3 or 4 times a year. May become invasive.

Common Tussock-grass

Poa labillardierei* var. *labillardierei
Poaceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Large dense tussock 1m x 1m with greenish plume-like flowerheads in spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Very vigorous grass, tolerating a wide range of conditions but preferring moist, well-drained soil. Rejuvenate old tussocks by severe pruning and extra water.

Special note

Suitable for a wide variety of landscape uses including around ponds and water features. Good for mass plantings.

Fine-leaf Tussock-grass

Poa sieberiana* ssp. *sieberiana
Poaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small tufting grass with narrow leaves to 20cm long. The edges of the leaves often rolled in. Graceful open flower heads on stems to 30cm high late spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soils. Part, dappled or full sun.

Special note

Good rockery plant, suitable for wildflower areas with lilies and daisies. *Poa morrisii* is similar and has soft hairy leaves.

Red-anther Wallaby-grass

Rytidosperma pallidum
Poaceae

Photos: Frances Cincotta, Pam Sheean

Description

Tussocks of grey-green slender leaves to 70cm long. Tall flower spikes to 1.5m November-January. Spikelets are purplish when young, ageing to straw colour. Conspicuous red-crimson anthers particularly attractive viewed with light through them.

Cultivation note

Adapts to range of soils. Good drainage. Dappled or full sun. Drought hardy.

Special note

Tussocks are good habitat for small animals. Leaves important as food plant for some butterfly caterpillars. Formerly classified as *Joycea pallida*.

Wallaby-grass

Rytidosperma setaceum
Poaceae

Photo: Frances Cincotta

Description

Erect perennial grass to 50cm high. Narrow leaves form tussocks. Flower heads 6-8cm long, with a silvery sheen, often with a purplish tinge. Flowers October-February.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part to full sun.

Special note

Interplant with lilies, small daisies and herbs. Suitable for rockeries and wildflower areas. Attractive to butterflies and other insects. The Kneed Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma geniculatum*) and Hill Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma erianthum*) are two other small attractive adaptable tussock grasses. The small Wallaby-grasses were formerly classified as *Austrodanthonia*.

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra
Poaceae

Photos: Ern Perkins

Description

Dense tussocky perennial. Foliage 30cm tall. Decorative purple and green flowerheads held above the foliage in early summer, changing to red-brown in autumn.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to any soil except water-logged. Drought resistant. Part-full sun. Fast growing. Rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely in winter.

Special note

Useful in rockery or amongst established plants. Stems and leaves used for string by Aboriginal people to make nets.

Sweet Apple-berry

Billardiera cymosa
Pittosporaceae

Photos: Frances Cincotta, Marilyn Sprague

Description

Climber to about 3m. May become shrubby when planted in the open. Narrow dull green leaves to 3cm long. Attractive tubular-shaped, cream, pale blue or purplish flowers to 2cm across. Flowers September-December, followed by green oblong berries to about 2cm long.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Sunny position. Adaptable and hardy.

Special note

Ideally suited for use in hanging baskets. Useful for growing over old stumps, or use on wire frames and fences.

Small-leaved Clematis

Clematis microphylla
Ranunculaceae

Photo: Pam Sheean

Description

Climber to 3m x 3m. Decorative light green foliage. Leaves divide 2 or 3 times, with leaflets to 1.5cm long. Attractive creamy white star-shaped flowers cover the plant July–November. Fluffy white seed heads on female plants in summer.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a wide range of soils, other than water-logged soils. Part-full sun. Drought tolerant. Hardy, fast growing, long lived climber.

Special note

Useful for screening when supported. A very attractive, interesting plant which merits wider cultivation.

Purple Coral Pea

Hardenbergia violacea
Fabaceae

Photo: Ben Goonan

Description

A climbing or rambling plant with large glossy-green leaves and masses of brilliant blue to deep purple pea-shaped flowers in late winter-spring. The species is very variable. The local form is not as vigorous as many nursery cultivars, such as 'Happy Wanderer'.

Cultivation note

A very hardy plant that will adapt to a range of soil types but prefers clay soils. Prefers filtered sun but will tolerate shade. Requires well-drained soils and withstands periods of drought.

Special note

Useful as a groundcover and can be grown in hanging baskets and containers.

Austral Bugle

Ajuga australis
Lamiaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Low growing perennial to 20cm x 50cm. Rosette of leaves to 10cm x 3cm long at base, smaller leaves up the stems. Leaves soft, often hairy, may be toothed or lobed. Tubular purple-blue flowers in spikes on stems to 40cm high.

Cultivation note

Adaptable to a range of soils. Prefers part or dappled sun.

Special note

Suitable for rockeries and cottage gardens. Aboriginal people used a decoction of leaves to treat sores.

Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum
Asparagaceae

Photo: Norm Stimson

Description

Herb with grass-like leaves to 40cm long. Sprays of chocolate-perfumed mauve-purple flowers on fine stalks October-December.

Cultivation note

Well-drained soils. Part or dappled shade.
The leaves die back over summer. May self-seed.

Special note

Suits rockeries, containers and cottage gardens. Plant between grasses and small shrubs. Used for a food plant by Aborigional people.

Cut-leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida
Asteraceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

A pretty perennial with compact, suckering growth to 10cm high x 50cm wide. Soft dark green ferny foliage. Local forms produce mauve or white daisy flowerheads with yellow centres throughout the year.

Cultivation note

Hardy and adaptable to a whole range of situations. Adapts to a range of soils. Part-full sun. May be rejuvenated by severe pruning.

Special note

Ideal for rockery or hanging basket. Useful as a border plant and in cottage gardens.

Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa
Asphodelaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Perennial herb with a basal clump of leaves like onion leaves to 30cm high. Single flower stalk to 50cm has clear yellow flowers to 2cm wide forming a spike. Flowers September-November.

Cultivation note

Prefers moist soil. Dappled to full sun. May self–seed. Leaves may die back over summer.

Special note

Suits rockeries and wildflower areas. Good planted with grasses and other lilies. Attractive container plant. Aboriginal food plant.

Lemon Beauty-heads

Calocephalus citreus
Asteraceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Tufted perennial with fine silvery foliage and a mass of oblong yellow flowerheads in summer. Flowerheads to 1.5cm long.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Remove old stems in autumn then plant will re-shoot in winter. May self-seed.

Special note

Ideal for rockeries and cottage style gardens, especially effective in massed plantings. Useful cut flower and dries well.

Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Asteraceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Suckering tufted perennial plant 20cm x 70cm. Silvery-grey soft woolly leaves to 5cm x 2cm. Golden yellow flowerheads to 1cm across in clusters above the leaves. Peak flowering October-March.

Cultivation note

Adapts to range of well-drained soils. Fast growing and adaptable. Part-full sun. Long flowering particularly in full sun. Remove spent heads to encourage further flowering. Responds well to pruning.

Special note

Suits rockery or hanging basket. Spectacular when planted in groups. Useful as cut or dried flowers.

Clustered Everlasting

Chrysocephalum semipapposum
Asteraceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Perennial to 1m x 1m. Leaves silver-grey or green, narrow, to 5cm long. Bright yellow flowerheads in flat-topped clusters at the ends of branches. Main flowering October-February.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part-full sun. Very hardy. Prune late autumn to make room for new growth in winter.

Special note

Very effective in massed plantings. Good for mixed borders, rockeries and cottage gardens. Excellent cut flower. Pick in bud and hang upside down to dry. Long flowering period.

Common Billy-buttons

Craspedia variabilis
Asteraceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Tufted perennial to 30cm x 50cm. Basal leaves to 10cm x 2cm taper to the end. Smaller leaves up the stems. Globular pale yellow flower heads to 2.5cm across on slender erect stalks up to 50cm high October-November.

Cultivation note

Well-drained soil in part-full sun. Plants may die back in autumn.

Special note

Suitable for containers and rockeries. Good planted between grasses and lilies.

Blue Devil

Eryngium ovinum
Apiaceae

Photos: Ern Perkins, Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Perennial to 50cm x 50cm. Stiff much-branched stems. Leaves to 20cm, stiff and finely divided. Very prickly plant. Cylindrical or egg-shaped flower heads give metallic blue sheen to plant, September-January.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a range of soils. Open sunny position. Dies back during autumn. Ideal for heavy clays and wet soils.

Special note

Unusual color and form add interest to the garden.

Golden Pennants

Glischrocaryon behrii
Haloragaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague, Ern Perkins

Description

Perennial herb to 50cm high. Erect blue-green stems appear leafless. Clear yellow flowers to 1cm across clustered in heads at the ends of the stems. Seed cases to 1cm x 1cm yellow changing to red. Flowers August-November.

Cultivation note

Tolerates wide range of soils including clay. Part–full sun. May spread by suckering.

Special note

Plant in drifts. Very attractive against dark trunks of Ironbarks. Long flowering. Good for containers and rockeries. Good cut flower.

Rock Isotome

Isotoma axillaris
Campanulaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Low growing herb to 40cm x 50cm. Leaves grey-green, 10cm long, deeply lobed. Flowers mauve-blue, to 4cm across September-April.

Cultivation note

Generally grows on rocky hills, particularly granite and basalt outcrops. Prefers moist well-drained soils and full sun. Fairly short lived but often self sows. Hard pruning in autumn can rejuvenate older plants.

Special note

Good for rockeries, informal drifts, wildflower areas, cottage gardens. Long flowering season. The sap can cause severe irritation to eyes and skin.

Scaly Buttons

Leptorhynchos squamatus* ssp. *squamatus
Asteraceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Small perennial herb to 30cm x 30cm, easily overlooked when not in flower. Narrow leaves on lower stems, dark green above, hairy white beneath. Flower heads on long narrow stalks. Bright yellow buttons to 1cm across September-January.

Cultivation note

Suits most well-drained soils. Part-dappled-full sun. Does not need watering, though watering in extended dry season may produce more flowers.

Special note

Suitable for container, rockery, planting between grass tussocks. Long lasting cut flower. Wiry Buttons (*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*) is similar and grows best in full sun.

Hoary Sunray

Leucochrysum albicans* ssp. *albicans
Asteraceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Herb to 30cm x 30cm. Silvery hairy foliage. Showy golden paper-daisy heads to 2cm across on stems well above the leaves. Flowers October-February.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils. Sunny position. Sometimes short–lived, but may self-seed.

Special note

Suitable for container, rockery and planting between grass tussocks.

Austral Stork's-bill

Pelargonium australe
Geraniaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague, Anthony Sheean

Description

Rounded perennial plant to 50cm x 50cm. Leaves to 10cm x 6cm, green, softly hairy. Foliage pleasingly fragrant when crushed. Flowers white-pale pink, to 1.5cm across in small clusters. Flowers in spring - autumn.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Responds well to pruning. Fast growing. May self-seed in the garden.

Special note

Ideal rockery plant. The astringent red taproot used by Aboriginal people as food.

Magenta Stork's-bill

Pelargonium rodneyanum
Geraniaceae

Photos: Dianne Davies, Bev Culvenor

Description

Very showy small perennial 30cm x 30cm. Leaves at base to 3cm x 1cm, green with wavy edges. Bright magenta flowers to 3cm across October-April, with a few flowers clustered on a long slender stalk.

Cultivation note

Often grows in rocky situations. Adapts to a range of well-drained soils. Part-full sun. Likes root protection (rocks or mulch). May die down after flowering, and sprout in late winter. May self-seed in the garden. Can be divided.

Special note

Suitable for a small rockery pocket. Develops a thickened taproot, a nutritious and starchy Aboriginal food.

Showy Podolepis

Podolepis jaceoides
Asteraceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Perennial wildflower that shoots each year from thickened roots. Leaves at base to 15cm x 2cm, dark glossy green, forming a clump. Stem leaves are smaller. Flower stalks to 50cm with showy yellow daisy flowers to 3cm across. Flowers October-February, followed by fluffy white seed heads.

Cultivation note

Adapts to a wide range of soils. Part-full sun. Remove spent flowers to encourage further flowering. Extra summer watering prolongs flowering beyond spring.

Special note

Suitable for massed planting, borders and containers. Roots used as Aboriginal food. Looks great amongst bluebells and grasses.

Pink Mulla-mulla

Ptilotus exaltatus
Amaranthaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Small perennial herb to 50cm x 50cm. Young growth densely hairy. Stems prostrate or erect. Leaves to 30cm x 9cm at base, smaller up stem, margins often wavy. Showy flower spikes to 15cm x 5cm, cone-shaped, pink-purple over summer.

Cultivation note

Well-drained acid soil. Full sun. Tolerates most frosts. Often short-lived.

Special note

Good container plant. Others worth trying. Hairy Tails (*Ptilotus erubescens*) has pink-white flowers. Feather-heads (*P. macrocephalus*) has pale green-white flowers. Pussy Tails (*P. spathulatus*) is a low growing spreading herb with smaller yellow-brown heads.

Drumsticks

Pycnosorus globosus
Asteraceae

Photo: Anthony Sheean

Description

Tufted perennial with silvery foliage to 30cm high. Large globular yellow flowerheads to 3cm diameter on stiff stems 45-60cm high, late spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Prefers moist soils. Cutting flowers encourages new growth and second flowering.

Special note

Suitable for rockeries and mixed borders. Good cut flower. Has potential for use as a container plant.

Thick-fruited Buttercup

Ranunculus pachycarpus
Ranunculaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Tufting perennial herb to 10cm x 20cm. Young stems and leaves hairy. Leaves lobed, mid-green. Open flowers to 2cm across with 5 shiny bright yellow petals. Long flowering August-November.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part-full sun. Dies back over summer and shoots again in early winter.

Special note

Intermix with lilies and grasses. Suitable for general planting. Good rockery and container plant.

Ivy-leaved Violet

Viola hederacea
Violaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Small spreading perennial herb with long runners. Leaves kidney-shaped to 3cm x 5cm on long stalks. Dainty white flowers with purple centres held above foliage most of the year.

Cultivation note

Prefers moist clay soils. Semi-shaded position. Suitable for use as understorey plant. May form dense groundcover.

Special note

Suitable for use as understorey, in rockeries, containers and hanging baskets.

Tufted Bluebell

Wahlenbergia communis
Campanulaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Small perennial herb 30cm x 50cm, stems usually erect. Leaves narrow 2cm x 0.8cm, pale green. Blue flowers to 2cm across on slender stalks above leaves, profuse over warmer months.

Cultivation note

Forms a dense colony. Needs good drainage and prefers a sunny open position. Responds well to watering in extended dry conditions. Frost hardy. Cut back to near ground in late autumn.

Special note

Tall Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia stricta* ssp. *stricta*) is a taller slender plant with larger flowers above foliage. Yellowish Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia luteola*) is similar with flowers distinct bronze-yellow on the under surface of the petals.

Sticky Everlasting

Xerochrysum viscosum
Asteraceae

Photos: Anthony Sheean

Description

Stems and branches dark green and sticky. Branching stems to 70cm tall, topped by showy bright yellow (sometimes orange) papery daisy flowerheads 2-3cm across in spring to autumn.

Cultivation note

Drought hardy but responds to additional water over dry periods. Prune in autumn to promote bushy growth and prolong the life of the plant. May self-seed.

Special note

Suits rockeries. Especially effective massed. Ideal for massed plantings in cottage gardens. Excellent cut flower. Pick in bud and hang upside down to dry.

Inland Pigface

Carprobrotus modestus
Aizoaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Prostrate spreading plant to 3m across. Thick fleshy grey-green leaves. Mauve-pink flowers to 2cm across August-January. Fruit oblong to 2cm long, ripening to purple.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most soils. Part-full sun. May layer and self-seed.

Special note

Hardy attractive groundcover. Fire retardant.

Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa* var. *tomentosa
Chenopodiaceae

Photo: Ern Perkins

Description

Low spreading shrub or groundcover to 50cm x 1m. Crowded narrow fleshy blue-green leaves. Insignificant greenish flowers then long lasting succulent decorative red berries.

Cultivation note

Very adaptable, tolerating dryness, poor soils and some salinity. Part-full sun. Fast growing. Benefits from pruning. Self-seeds readily. Any unwanted plants are easily controlled.

Special note

Good foliage contrast for rockeries. Leaves and the sweet berries are Aboriginal foods. Saloop Saltbush (*Einadia hastata*), Coral Saltbush (*Einadia nutans* ssp. *nutans*) and Berry Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*) are also good groundcovers with red berry-like fruits. All may self-seed.

Common Eutaxia

Eutaxia microphylla* var. *microphylla
Fabaceae

Photo: Marilyn Sprague

Description

Prostrate plant spreading to 1.5m across, or a small shrub to 30cm high. Small green crowded leaves. Small yellow and red pea flowers August-October.

Cultivation note

Grows in sandy or clay loams which are sometimes water-logged. Will grow in shade but prefers part-full sun. Tolerates extended dry periods. Responds well to occasional pruning. May self-layer.

Special note

Useful groundcover with attractive foliage.
Erect forms also occur.

Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata
Fabaceae

Photo: Frances Cincotta

Description

Groundcover with prostrate stems to 1m long. Soft, green clover-like leaves. Brilliant red pea flowers to 2cm across in spring.

Cultivation note

Adapts to wide range of soils. Prefers well-drained soils but will stand limited water-logging. Dappled-full sun. Fast growing, drought tolerant and fire resistant. Protect from snails.

Special note

Suitable for rockery, ground cover under trees, hanging basket or dam wall. Aboriginal uses include: stems as twine, nectar as a drink.

Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium
Scrophulariaceae

Photos: Marilyn Sprague, Lyndall Rowley

Description

Dense matting groundcover which can cover up to 3 square metres. Narrow green leaves to 3cm long. Masses of small white open flowers spring-summer.

Cultivation note

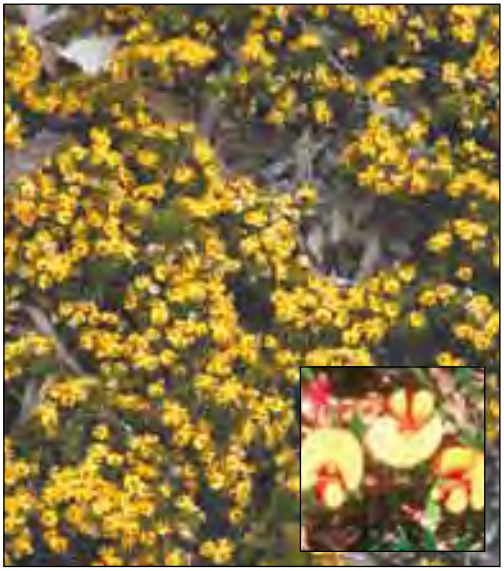
Adapts to a range of soils. Part-full sun. Grows more densely in full sun. Very adaptable, hardy and fast growing. May self-layer.

Special note

Excellent in rockeries. Plant at 1m intervals on dam banks or nature strips as a lawn alternative. Fire resistant.

Matted Bush-pea

Pultenaea pedunculata
Fabaceae



Photos: Ern Perkins

Description

Prostrate, densely matted plant. Narrow dark green leaves to 1cm long have pointed tips. Yellow and red "egg and bacon" pea flowers less than 1cm across, often profuse. Flowers October-November.

Cultivation note

Adapts to most well-drained soils. Grows in poor rocky soils. Open sunny position. Can cover up to 3 square metres but plant at 1metre centres for quick cover.

Special note

Looks great cascading over rockeries and retaining walls. Interesting base plant in a tub with other plants.

Common Nardoo

Marsilea drummondii
Marsileaceae

Photos: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Aquatic perennial fern with clover-like fronds, growing to about 30cm. Fronds float on water surface or are held erect when growing in mud. Spreads by rhizomes.

Cultivation note

Grows in seasonally flooded areas or in shallow fresh water. Adapts to a range of soil types. Drought tolerant, dying down and regenerating following rain.

Special note

Excellent around the margins of small dams and ponds, may also be grown in a water bowl.

Water Milfoil

Myriophyllum crispatum
Haloragaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Erect aquatic perennial herb, 25cm–60cm high. Feathery appearance. Narrow leaves arranged in circles around the stem. Stems hairy. Spreads by rhizome. Insignificant cream to reddish brown flowers, October-April.

Cultivation note

Grows in water to a depth of 1m or in mud.
Very vigorous. Roots easily at leaf nodes.

Special note

A very ornamental plant that can be easily grown in ponds, dams and water bowls. Provides habitat for invertebrates, fish and frogs.

Water Ribbons

Triglochin procera
Juncaginaceae

Photo: Goldfields Revegetation

Description

Aquatic perennial herb. Spreads by rhizome and develops elongated tubers. Narrow dark glossy green leaves, to 2m long. Leaves float on water surface, sometimes held erect. Flower head is a dense cream to green spike 20cm to 50cm. Flowers spring-summer.

Cultivation note

Grows in a range of soil types in water to a depth of up to 2m. Hardy and easy to grow.

Special note

This is a very attractive plant suitable for ponds or dams, and which provides an important habitat and food source for wildlife. Can be grown in a pot and submerged in a water bowl.

Appendices

1. Some Environmental Weeds of the Bendigo Region

What is an environmental weed?

Environmental weeds are plant species that invade and choke out native plant communities. They compete with native vegetation for resources like moisture, nutrients and light, and reduce or destroy the habitat of native animals. They often take over when native vegetation is disturbed or inappropriately managed. You can help by not growing these weeds in your garden and by preventing their spread to other areas.

Some environmental weeds have been introduced from overseas. Others are Australian species from outside Victoria, whilst some are Victorian species growing outside their natural distribution prior to European settlement.

Many environmental weeds originate as garden escapes and from garden waste. Seed, fruit, vegetative material and roots all have the potential to establish and become environmental weeds.

What can you do to help reduce the impact of environmental weeds?

- Learn to recognize environmental weeds and don't plant them in your garden. Remove any potential weeds from your garden.
- Dispose of garden waste properly – compost garden waste wherever possible or dispose of it at an approved Council Landfill.
- Protect areas of native vegetation and grow local native plants.
- Report infestations to Council, Department of Environment and Primary Industries or North Central Catchment Management Authority.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Acacia baileyana ^	Cootamundra Wattle
Acacia cardiophylla ^	Wyalong Wattle
Acacia decurrens ^	Early Black Wattle
Acacia longifolia ~	Sallow or Coast Wattle
Acacia saligna ^	Golden Wreath Wattle
Allium triquetrum *	Angled Onion
Alternantheria philoxeroides *	Alligator Weed
Araujia sericifera *	Moth Plant
Asparagus asparagoides *	Bridal Creeper or Smilax
Briza maxima *	Quaking Grass
Chrysanthemoides monilifera *	Bitou Bush / Boneseed
Convolvulus arvensis *	Bind Weed
Cortaderia selloana *	Pampas Grass
Cotoneaster glaucophyllus *	Large-leaf Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster pannosus *	Silver-leaf Cotoneaster
Crataegus monogyna *	English Hawthorn
Cytisus scoparius *	English Broom
Datura stramonium *	Common Thornapple
Disa bracteata *	South African Weed-orchid
Echium plantagineum *	Paterson's Curse
Eragrostis curvula *	African Love Grass
Erica lusitanica *	Spanish Heath
Foeniculum vulgare *	Fennel
Fraxinus angustifolia ssp. *angustifolia* *	Desert Ash

* Introduced to Australia ^ Australian native from outside Victoria ~ Victorian native

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Freesia alba x *Freesia leichtlinii* *	Freesia
Gazania linearis *	Gazania
Genista monspessulana *	Cape Broom
Hedera helix *	English Ivy
Hypericum perforatum *	St John's Wort
Juncus acutus *	Spiny Rush
Ligustrum lucidum *	Broad-leaf Privet
Lonicera japonica *	Japanese Honeysuckle
Lycium ferocissimum *	African Boxthorn
Moraea flaccida *	One-leaf Cape Tulip
Moraea miniata *	Two-leaf Cape Tulip
Nassella neesiana *	Chilean Needle-grass
Nassella trichotoma *	Serrated Tussock
Opuntia spp. *	Prickly Pears
Oxalis pes-caprae *	Oxalis or Sour Sob
Phalaris aquatica *	Phalaris
Pinus radiata *	Monterey Pine
Pyracantha spp. *	Firethorns
Ricinus communis *	Castor Oil Plant
Rosa rubiginosa *	Briar Rose
Rubus spp. *	Blackberries
Salix spp. *	Willows
Schinus molle *	Peppercorn Tree
Tradescantia fluminensis *	Creeping Tradescantia
Ulex europaeus *	Gorse or Furze
Verbascum thapsus ssp. *thapsus* *	Great Mullein
Vinca major *	Blue Periwinkle
Watsonia meriana var. *bulbillifera* *	Bulbil Watsonia
Zantedeschia aethiopica *	Arum Lily

* Introduced to Australia ^ Australian native from outside Victoria ~ Victorian native

Useful references:

Muyt, Adam. (2001). *Bush Invaders of South-East Australia*. R.G and F.J. Richardson, Victoria.

North Central Catchment Authority. (2012). *Weeds Identification Guide – North Central Victoria*. North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Parsons, W.T. and Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001). *Noxious Weeds of Australia*. CSIRO Publishing.

Richardson, F.J., Richardson, R.G. and Shepherd, R.C.H. (2011). *Weeds of the South-East – An Identification guide for Australia*, second edition. R.G. and F.J. Richardson, Victoria.

Websites:

Department of Environment and Primary Industries:
www.depi.vic.gov.au

Australian Weed Management:
www.weeds.org.au

Australian Government:
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/

2. Indigenous Plant Suppliers

Goldfields Revegetation

230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang,
Victoria, 3551
Open: 7 days, 9am - 5pm
Phone: (03) 5439 5384
Email: info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au
Website: www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au

Habitat Native Plant Co

Maiden Gully Road
P.O. Box 878, Maiden Gully, Victoria, 3551
Open: 7 days, 9am - 4.30pm
Phone: 0417 544 159
Email: habitatnp@bigpond.com

Neangar Nursery

8 McClelland Drive, Eaglehawk, Victoria, 3556
Open: 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday
Phone: (03) 5446 9260
Email: neangarnursery@bigpond.com
Website: www.neangarnursery.com.au

A & B Trees

P.O. Box 245, Heathcote, Victoria, 3523
Open: By appointment only
Phone: 5433 2236
Email: a-btrees@netcon.net.au
Website: www.a-btrees.com.au

Newstead Natives

Frances Cincotta
Newstead, Vic, 3462
Open: By appointment only
Phone: (03) 5476 2691
Email: natives@newstead.vicmail.net

Rochester Native Nursery

6708 Northern Highway
(3 km North of Rochester)
Rochester, Victoria, 3561
Open: 8am - 4.30pm, Monday - Friday
Saturday 9am - 2pm (March-Nov)
Phone: (03) 5484 3777
Email: info@rochesternursery.com.au
Website: www.rochesternursery.com.au

Local Provenance

Variability within a plant species is common. For example, Golden Wattle is a wide spread species occurring naturally in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. However, across this area the species varies in height and width, size and shape of leaves and flower colour.

Purchasing plants grown from local seed or cuttings ensures your plants are truly indigenous to the local area.

This is called local provenance and is important for maintaining local biodiversity.

When purchasing indigenous plants ask for local provenance.

References and further reading

Plant Identification

Calder, Malcolm; Calder, Jane. (2002). *Victoria's Box-Ironbark Country* : *A Field Guide*. Victorian National Parks Association, Melbourne.

Costermans, Leon. (2009). *Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia*. New Holland Publishers.

Franklin, Donald; Lindner, John and Robinson, John. (1983). *Eucalypts of the Bendigo District: A Guide to Identification and Distribution*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. Bendigo, Vic.*

Orr, Rodney. (1995). *The Orchids of Bendigo*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. Bendigo, Vic.*

VicVeg Online: www.vicveg.net.au

Garden Design

Burke, Don. (2004). *Indigenous*: *The Making of My Native Garden*. Allen & Unwin.

Snape, Diana. (2002). *The Australian Garden*: *Designing with Australian Plants*. Bloomings.

Thompson, Paul. (2002). *Australian Planting Design*. Lothian.

Urquhart, Paul. (2002). *The New Native Garden*: *Designing with Australian Plants*. Reed New Holland.

Nest Boxes for Wildlife

See page 18.

Weeds

See page 72.

Wildlife

Aplin, Ken; Paino, Anthea and Sleep, Lyndal. (2002). *Building Frog Friendly Gardens*. Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Birdlife Australia: www.birdlife.org.au

Braby, Michael F. (2005). *The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia*. CSIRO.

Bridley, Anne (compiler). (1991). *Birds of the Bendigo District*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, Bendigo, Vic.*

Green, Darren and Gibbons, Dale (2010). *Frogs and Reptiles of the Bendigo District*: *A Guide to Identification*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, Bendigo, Vic.*

Pizzey, Graham and Knight, Frank. (2012). *The Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. 9th ed. HarperCollins.**

Horne, Paul and Crawford, Denis. (2005). *Backyard Insects*. 2nd ed. Melbourne University.

Robinson, M.A. (2002). *A Field Guide to Frogs of Australia*: *From Port Augusta to Fraser Island including Tasmania*. Reed New Holland.

Shield, J.M. (2001). *Spiders of Bendigo and Victoria's Box Ironbark Country*. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, Bendigo, Vic.*

Tzaros, Chris. (2005). *Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country*. CSIRO.

General

Buchanan, Robin A. (1989). *Bush Regeneration*: *Recovering Australian Landscapes*. Open Training and Education Network, Tafe NSW.

Environment Conservation Council. (1997). *Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation Resources and Issues Report*. Environment Conservation Council, Melbourne.

Tonkin, Rachel. (2006). *Leaf Litter*. HarperCollins.

*Available for purchase from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club.

Email: info@bendigofnc.com.au. Website: www.bendigofnc.com.au

**There are several excellent field guides to birds of Australia

Index of botanical and common plant names

Index of botanical and common plant names Cont.

Produced by

Bendigo Native Plant Group

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO

ecoStar
100% recycled Silk & Gloss