



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

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Gardening with Indigenous Plants

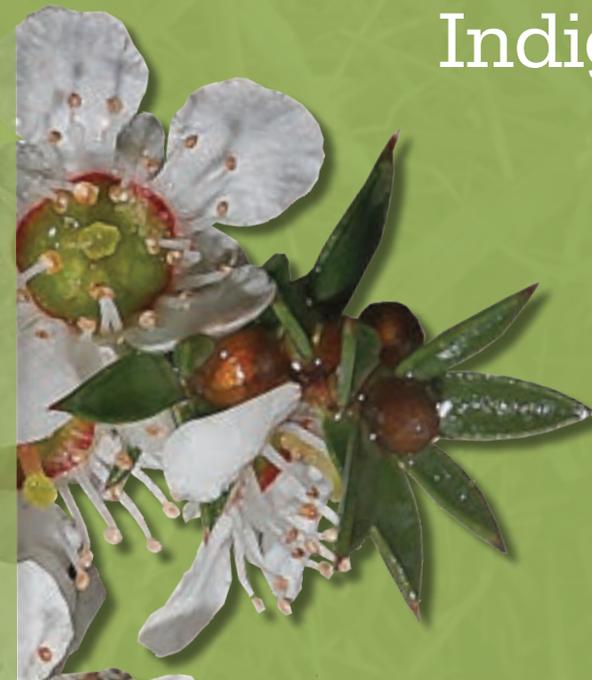
2nd Edition

Planting and design tips

Sustainable gardening advice

96 Indigenous plant profiles

Weeds of Whitehorse





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About the Book

This book has been produced by Whitehorse City Council to encourage homeowners, gardeners, landscape architects and landscapers to use indigenous plants found in Whitehorse.

The collective effort of Whitehorse residents planting indigenous species can make a significant impact on the health of our biodiversity.

We would like to acknowledge the many volunteers and groups who have contributed to this book and to the protection and enhancement of the indigenous flora of Whitehorse including: the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society; Bungalook Nursery; Greenlink Box Hill Nursery; Victoria Apiarists' Association; Manningham City Council and Nillumbik Shire for granting permission to adapt parts of their publications including *Native Splendour* and *Live Local Plant Local: A guide to planting in Nillumbik*.



Indigenous Plants in Whitehorse

Belonging to Country

Indigenous plants are the original flora of a given location. The indigenous plants of Whitehorse developed and adapted over thousands of years of land management by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People. They are adapted to the soils, topography and climate of our area and are relied upon by our local fauna.

Protecting Habitat, Creating Resilience

Whitehorse was once an ecologically diverse mix of woodland, grassy herb fields and wetlands, home to more than 570 indigenous plant

species. The small pockets of remnant bushland which remain are critical for preserving our natural heritage.

Our local indigenous plant nurseries collect seed from remnant areas to propagate these species for home gardeners and bushland restoration. This helps to protect the genetic diversity of individual species and more broadly, ecosystem resilience. Genetic diversity within species and between species supports ecosystems to withstand and adapt to shocks such as climate change and extreme weather.



Cultural Heritage

The area now known as Whitehorse is part of the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Knowledgeable care and management by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people shaped local ecosystems which in turn offered a sustainable supply of food, fibre and medicine, as well as materials for tools, shelter, art and ceremony.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people continue to care for their country today. As indigenous plants are part of the cultural heritage of the world's oldest living culture, protecting them and growing them in your garden is a way of celebrating and acknowledging this connection.

Uncle Dave is an elder of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. We asked him why indigenous plants should be included in our gardens.

You must care for your Country – it is Bunjil's Law. Care for your Country as though she is your mother. Just as our mothers nurture us, feed and clothe us and comfort us, so must we return that care. If our physical mother is sick, we care for her. If our spiritual mother, Country, is sick we must care for her too. To heal Country (our mother) we must walk Country, we must learn to listen to the land.

We are given five senses, ears, eyes, nose, taste and touch so we can hear, see, smell, taste and feel. These are the critical things. These are the things we don't use enough. We only have one voice. We are given two of every other sense to learn. Learn with our senses. By using all of our senses, what do we feel? What can we, as individuals, actually do to cause change? Speak with one voice.

”

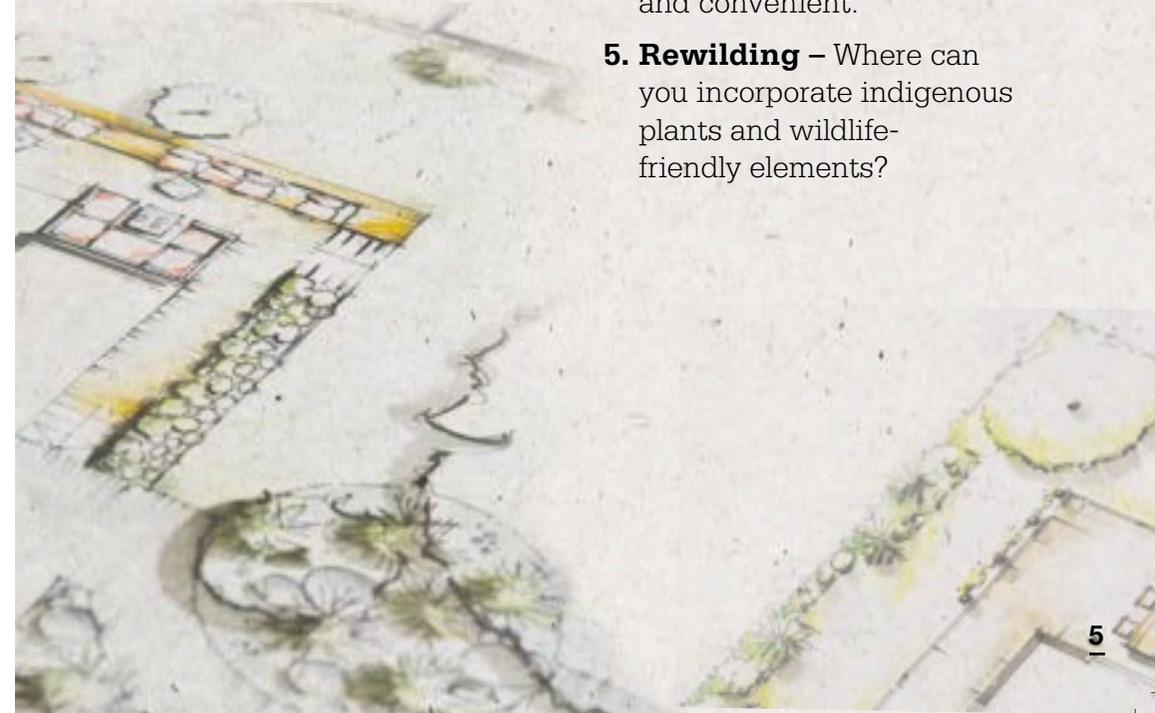
Sustainable Gardening Principles

Thoughtful design can lead to a beautiful, low maintenance and low input garden that enhances your home:

- Design to suit your conditions and choose indigenous plants adapted to those conditions.
- Use sustainable, locally-sourced and/or recycled/recyclable materials and avoid using rocks, timber and pebbles sourced from natural areas.

Create a sketch of your garden that includes:

- 1. Seasonal influences** – sun and shade, wind direction and speed.
- 2. Microclimates** – such as hot spots by brick walls or shady spots behind fences.
- 3. Existing elements** – including vegetation, sheds, paths, compost bin, veggie beds, play spaces, seating. Consider if they are in the right place.
- 4. Traffic patterns and sight lines** – plan pathways that make access easy and convenient.
- 5. Rewilding** – Where can you incorporate indigenous plants and wildlife-friendly elements?



Biodiversity in Your Backyard

By creating an indigenous garden, you can attract a range of wildlife including insects, birds, lizards and frogs. Other wildlife may visit depending upon the quality and connectivity of your garden to nearby habitat corridors. There are a number of ways you can design your garden to attract different kinds of wildlife.

TOP 15 THINGS TO DO TO CREATE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN

1. Grow nectar plants for honeyeaters and bees such as Lightwood, Sweet Bursaria or Common Correa.

2. Include clumps of dense (and preferably spikey) shrubs together where birds can shelter.

3. Leave old branches and logs amongst plants in garden beds for lizards, grubs and insects.

4. Use natural mulch or leaf litter for beetles and worms.

6. Plant daisies for butterflies.

5. Create a warm sheltered corner with some rocks in the sun for lizards.

7. Keep cats in at night to protect nesting birds, reptiles and native mammals. Keep them confined, perhaps by using an indoor-outdoor cat enclosure.

8. Keep the garden chemical and insecticide free.



9. Try to incorporate several tall mature eucalypts or wattles.

10. Create layers of vegetation including trees, climbers, shrubs and groundcovers

12. Place a birdbath in a high, sheltered location.

11. Install a nest box.

13. Build a frog-friendly pond.

14. Grow native grasses and groundcovers such kidney-weed as an alternative to lawns.

15. Cluster plants in groups and drifts (instead of as separated specimens).

Welcome Wildlife to Your Garden

Creating a wildlife friendly garden can provide critical habitat for our local fauna, preserve biodiversity and help connect remnant bushland so wildlife can traverse safely through our suburbs.

Elements of Wildlife Friendly Gardens

- A tall tree, indigenous to the area
- Natural mulch for beetles and other invertebrates
- A clump of dense, prickly shrubs where small birds can shelter
- Nectar plants for honeyeaters and insects
- Sources of water at different heights
- A frog-friendly pond or bog with clean, shallow water
- Logs for lizards to hide under and warm rocks to bask on
- Local daisies providing flowers for butterflies.



Any garden can become more wildlife friendly.



Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife

You too can create a garden that attracts birds, insects, butterflies, lizards, amphibians and much more and Gardens for Wildlife is here to help! Participants in the program receive a visit by experienced volunteer Garden Guides who will chat with you about the existing elements of your garden and help you come up with a plan. Even if you are an experienced gardener, a visit from Gardens for Wildlife Garden Guides is an opportunity to troubleshoot problems, celebrate your habitat garden and its wildlife visitors and hear a fresh perspective on small changes you could make.

Whitehorse acknowledges the support of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria and the Knox Environment Society in the establishment of our program in 2017. We celebrate all the other municipalities who are embarking on this fabulous program.

To register for the program please visit the Gardens for Wildlife page on the council website

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife



Get to Know Your Soils

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown.

Whitehorse Soil Profile

Understanding our local soils will help you understand how plant roots behave in these soils. The bulk of the root is often located in the upper, more nutrient rich, penetrable topsoil. Many of the roots find niches in the subsoil to find nutrients and water, but these are predominantly required to anchor the plant.

Whitehorse's soils are derived from decay of Silurian sedimentary rock, which formed from sandy deposits on the sea floor 375 million years ago. Slopes and hilltops have a very shallow, often stony, clay loam topsoil layer above a subsoil of yellow clay.

Valley floor soils are sandy stream deposits. Topsoil depth varies greatly according to the aspect and the history of the site.

Soil

Ideally, soil is loose and relatively fine-grained. However, Whitehorse soils generally have a shallow topsoil and solid yellow clay below. These heavy clays can be improved by adding compost or other organic matter, or by digging in a little gypsum and watering prior to planting.

Remember that indigenous plants have adapted to local soil conditions, so selecting the right plant for your soil conditions and planting between autumn and early spring will ensure success.

Imported soils can bring new weed seeds and diseases to your neighbourhood, so always use locally obtained soils if possible.

Weeds

Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance. Mulch helps to prevent weed growth. There are techniques and products that can be effective in controlling weeds, including both chemical and non-chemical methods.



Marvellous Mulch

Mulch can be organic or inorganic material that sits on top of the soil.

Benefits of mulch include:

- Water retention
- Improved soil structure
- Weed suppression

Inorganic mulch in the form of rocks or pebbles is recommended around homes in bushfire prone areas. Organic mulch is chipped bark and woody material that will eventually break down. The most sustainable source of mulch is your local arborist as their mulch is a by-product of their pruning work. It is great for your soil as it contains a mix of leafy, barky and woody material and breaks down gradually. When your garden is more established, older plants will drop leaves and sticks providing you with free mulch.

See page 75 for a list of common garden weeds and their management.

Planting Technique

1. Dig a hole slightly larger than the pot. Loosen the soil on the sides and in the bottom to allow the plants roots to penetrate more easily.



2. Fill the hole with water and allow it to absorb into the ground before planting. This will help the plant establish.



3. Give the plant a good drink in its pot to help hold the potting mix together around the roots.



4. Upend the pot and gently tap the plant out of the container. If it does not slide out easily, gently squeeze the sides. If the plant is really stuck cut away the tube so as to avoid loosening the soil from the roots.



5. Place the plant in the hole, ensuring the top of the potting mix is level with or just below the ground level. When planting good quality tubestock it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots. If you discover that your plants are pot-bound then you should reconsider planting this stock or tease out the roots a little.



6. Backfill loose soil around the roots so that all the space is filled. After planting leave a saucer shaped depression around the plant to catch rain and prevent water run-off.



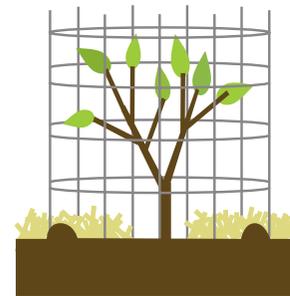
7. Mulch around the plant. Ensure that the mulch is not touching the stem of the plant.



8. Water thoroughly to settle the soil and remove air pockets from around the roots.



9. Where rabbits or other pests might eat your plants, use tree guards.



Staking

A plant will grow with greater strength if it is not tied to a stake. When a plant is blown around by the wind the plant hormones released by this movement make for a stronger plant.

Native plants should not need staking unless they are in obvious danger of toppling over. By using tubestock you can help to avoid weak and unstable growth.

If staking is required, ensure that the tie allows for some movement, by using three stakes and loose ties.

Early Maintenance

With just a little work each year, your indigenous garden will continue to look healthy, neat and beautiful.

One of the great characteristics of indigenous plants is that they require very little maintenance.

Watering

Monitor new plants during their first summer. If there has not been a good soaking rain by mid-summer, they will benefit from a drink.

Deep, occasional watering will help the plant establish deeper roots. Frequent, shallow watering encourages surface root growth, making plants more vulnerable to dry periods.

Pruning

In a garden setting, many indigenous plants will respond well to careful pruning, particularly after flowering and when plants become straggly. Some indigenous species will provide better flowering shows if heavily pruned. When hedging, begin pruning early in the plant's life.

Mulching

Topping-up mulch annually helps to increase water retention and over time, will increase the organic matter in your soils.

Weeding

Controlling and removing weeds in areas of your garden or property that contain indigenous vegetation reduces competition for water, light and nutrients, helping to enhance growth. Careful hand weeding is the method of choice when removing weeds close to indigenous plantings.

Fertilising

Fertilisers aren't usually necessary, and may encourage weed growth. Too much can also cause fast, soft plant growth, leaving them more vulnerable to insect attack or harsh climatic conditions. Too much phosphorus in particular, can kill many indigenous plants. The addition of compost or other organic matter is a much better option for promoting healthy growth.



Less Lawn

To keep a lawn looking good generally requires quite a lot of water, weed control and of course, mowing. Reducing or removing the lawn in your garden can save you time and money plus it leaves you with more room for more useful plants.

First get to know what is in your lawn



Maybe your lawn consists of **indigenous grasses** such as **weeping grass** or **wallaby grass**. If so, all you need to do is add wildflowers and keep an eye out for weeds.

If your lawn is **Couch (1)** or **Kikuyu (2)** you are dealing with warm season running grasses. This means that every node has the potential to grow back so if you are digging it up you need to remove every little part.

You should then wait and see what grows back before planting with your new plants.

Ideally, you'll be waiting over summer while growth is occurring so those remaining segments show themselves more quickly.

If your lawn is a tufting species such as **Panic Veldt Grass (3)** or **Winter Grass (4)** you won't have to deal with the runners but you will have to deal with a substantial seed bank in the soil. Heavy mulches can suppress the germination of grass seeds.

Options for Killing the Grass

- **Digging it up** – take on a small, manageable area each year so that it's not overwhelming
- **Herbicide** – always use in accordance with the label or better yet, seek the help of a qualified professional
- **Chook tractor** – this is a cage without a base so the chickens can remove the grass for you, note that chooks should be returned to more secure housing over night
- **Solarisation** – Place a layer of plastic over the grass over summer and leave for 6-8 weeks. Take on a small section each year and re-use the plastic
- **Hot water or steam** – commercial steamers kill shallow rooted plants without chemical residue
- **Smothering** – cover with a layer of compost, 6-8 sheets of newspaper and 5cm-10cm of bush mulch. Allow it to sit for at least 6 months before planting.





Lawn Alternatives

If you want to replace your monoculture lawn with a biodiverse and wildlife-friendly open space, there are lots of indigenous options to consider.

For moist or shady areas **Kidney Creeper**, *Dichondra repens*, and **Native Violet**, *Violacea hederacea*, are great options. Combine with stepping stones if the area includes a pathway.

Weeping Grass, *Microlaena stipioides*, and **Kneed Wallaby Grass**, *Rytidosperma geniculatum*, are low-growing native grasses you can walk on and mow if and when you want to.

Combine with wildflowers for colour and to support pollinators such as **Bluebells**, *Wahlenbergias*, **Everlasting**, *Chrysocephalum*, and **Chocolate** or **Vanilla Lilies**, *Arthropodium* and **Running Postman**, *Kennedia*. Logs and rocks can be added for habitat and textural interest.

From top to bottom left to right: Chocolate Lily, Wallaby Grass, Blue Bells, Running Postman, Everlasting, Kidney Creeper, Weeping Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Violets and Bluebells.



Gardening for Small Birds

Small birds bring joy to many gardeners but they seem to be less common in our gardens than they used to be. We can all play a part in supporting small birds.

Plant a range of prickly plants close together and prune them to encourage dense growth, **Bushy Needlewood** and **Bursaria** are good choices.

Include some plants with open, nectar rich flowers to support insects that small birds eat like **Cassinias** and **Burgan**. Provide bird baths that are tucked away from the bully birds and neighbourhood cats.

Many small birds rely on insects to eat and this helps support the health of large trees by keeping insect populations in balance. Plant shrubs underneath trees for connectivity and avoid insecticides.



Gardening for Frogs

Frogs visit many of our gardens for foraging without us ever knowing. To get them to stay and croak away, you need to provide them with a frog pond or a frog bog.

Ponds can be made with a fixed shell or a strong plastic pond liner intended to hold water all year. They will need to be topped up in dry weather so access to a tank is important. If using tap water, allow it to sit in a bucket for a few days for the chlorine to evaporate.

Frog bogs can be a depression in the ground that collects natural runoff from the rain. They may be ephemeral meaning that they dry out from time to time.

In either case you will need lots of plants in and around the pond or bog to provide cover for frogs and food for tadpoles.



Gardening for Insects

The diversity of insects we can attract to our gardens is amazing and not only are they a delight to watch themselves, but they are an important food source for many birds, lizards and frogs.

A good layer of mulch supports many insects that feed on organic material. Logs and thick sticks left in the garden to rot down provides cover. Many beetle larvae start life as thick grubs in the soil, if you find those larvae, leave them be, if they turn up in a pot plant, move them back into the ground. After worming your dog, remove droppings from the garden and bag them for the rubbish bin. Avoid general insecticides in your garden and aim for targeted control of pests like Elm Leaf Beetle.

Lastly, plant the greatest variety of plants as you can. The relationships between some plants and insects are still being discovered but the more variety the better.



Edible Indigenous Plants

Many people are keen to establish Bush Tucker gardens using indigenous and native plants. It's important to note that the plants we are accustomed to growing in our veggie gardens are the result of many generations of selective breeding. Our local flora includes many edible plants. Before consuming any plant material, research which parts of the plant are edible and how to prepare it for consumption.

Read more about local edible plants: Bungalook Nursery's website; *Indigenous Plant Use* by Zena Cumpston; *Bush Foods* by Jennifer Issacs; and *Wild Food Plants of Australia* by Tim Low.



- **Berries** – Plants produce berries as payment for birds and other animals to disperse their seeds. Berries change colour or become sweeter when they are ripe. Prickly Currant Bush berries are small but tasty and fall from the bush when ripe. Flax-lily berries are edible when very ripe.
- **Roots** – Storage of energy and nutrients in underground bulbs and tubers allows perennial plants to go dormant when conditions are too hot, too dry or too cold and re-emerge when conditions improve. This means roots are a good source of carbohydrates. Yam Daisies, Chocolate Lillies and Bulbine Lilies produce edible tubers as do many local orchids. Generally these plants are valued more in the ground than on the plate.
- **Seeds** – Seeds are a good source of energy because they need to provide sustenance to germinating plants until they can establish roots and unfurl their first leaves.

Wattle seeds and Kangaroo Grass seeds can be ground to make flour.

- **Leaves** – River Mint and Victorian Christmas Bush can both be used to make mint tea.

From top to bottom left to right: Flax-lily, Chocolate Lily, Prickly Currant Bush, River Mint and Silver Wattle Seed Pods.





Indigenous Plant Nurseries

Whitehorse is fortunate to have two nurseries growing Indigenous plants: Bungalook and Greenlink. Both are run by volunteers and both grow predominantly tube stock which is a great way to purchase plants. Bungalook and Greenlink are located in bushland parks so you can see some of the plant species as mature specimens to gain inspiration for your choices. As they are run by volunteers they are not open every day so check out their informative websites before you go.



Bungalook Nursery
wcipp.org.au

63-107 Fulton Road,
 Blackburn South

At the eastern end
 of Wurundjeri
 Woi-wurrung Walk

Open for sales
 Wed and Fri 9am -1pm



Greenlink
greenlinkboxhill.org

41 Wimmera Street,
 Box Hill North

Next to Bushy Creek Trail

Open for sales
 Tues and Wed 9am-12pm



96 Species Indigenous to Whitehorse

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KEY

<p>FORM & SIZE</p> <p>6m – 30m</p>  <p>5m – 10m</p> <p>LIGHT REQUIREMENTS</p> <p> FULL SUN</p> <p> PARTIAL SUN</p> <p> FULL SHADE</p> <p>DROUGHT TOLERANT</p> <p> DT</p>	<p>FLOWERING SEASON</p> <p>Flowers JFMAMJJASOND</p> <p>PROVIDES HABITAT FOR:</p> <p> BIRDS  CATERPILLARS</p> <p> REPTILES  BUTTERFLIES</p> <p>PROVIDES NECTAR OR POLLEN FOR BEEKEEPING</p> <p> BEES (nectar)  BEES (pollen)  BEES (nectar & pollen)</p>
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TREES



Acacia dealbata

Silver Wattle

Hardy, fast growing and open tree for parks and larger gardens, useful for windbreak or erosion control.

Flowers and foliage:

Bluish ferny foliage, lemon ball flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, prefers deep moist soil.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

5m – 15m



4m – 7m



Acacia implexa

Lightwood

A long-lived wattle, useful as a screen or shade tree and looks great planted in groups, adding great texture and detail to the garden.

Flowers and foliage:

Light green, 'sickle-shaped' foliage with attractive sprays of cream ball flowers up to 4cm. The latest flowering wattle.

Growing conditions:

Thrives in dry sunny spots with shallow soil. Will also tolerate moist, well-drained positions.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

5m – 15m



4m – 7m



Acacia mearnsii

Black Wattle

Very fast-growing, often short-lived open spreading shade tree that attracts sugar gliders, birds and butterflies. Often subject to borer attack.

Flowers and foliage:

Ferny foliage, scented pale yellow ball flowers.

Growing conditions:

Prefers well drained soils.

Acacia melanoxylon

Blackwood

Long-lived, fast growing good screening and shade tree. Narrow and upright in shady situations, and a broad shade tree in the open when sufficient soil moisture is available.

Flowers and foliage:

Round, cream coloured flowers.

Growing conditions:

Prefers deep moist soils, tolerates dryness once established.

Acacia pycnantha

Golden Wattle

A fast-growing erect or spreading small tree. Good screening and windbreak tree and useful for erosion control.

Flowers and foliage:

Bright green, broad curved leaves with perfumed golden flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerates a variety of sites. Drought tolerant.

Pruning:

Prune while young to encourage denser habit.

Allocasuarina littoralis

Black Sheoak

An excellent fast-growing screening, windbreak or specimen tree that is an ideal alternative to planting Pine trees. Erect small tree.

Flowers and foliage:

Reddish (female), dark brown (male) spikes. Green fine branchlets, small woody cones.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerates a variety of sites. Drought tolerant.

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

8m – 25m
6m – 10m

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

5m – 20m
4m – 15m

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

3m – 10m
2m – 5m

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

4m – 8m
2m – 5m



Callistemon sieberi

River Bottlebrush

A lovely small tree with silver foliage that may be pruned to have a single trunk or multiple trunks. Prefers moist areas but tolerates dryness once established.

Flowers and foliage:

Flowers are cream coloured, leaves are dense and good for screening.

Growing conditions:

Copes with heavy clay soil and shade.

Eucalyptus cephalocarpa

Silver Leafed Stringybark

Medium sized tree with dense canopy, rough fibrous bark. Useful as a shade or shelter tree.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, tolerates periods of inundation and dryness. Can resist moderate to light frosts.

Eucalyptus goniacalyx

Long-leafed Box

This fast-growing medium tree has a crooked trunk and rough fibrous bark. Useful as a shade tree, it is a food source for koalas.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Tolerates dry and poor soils.

Eucalyptus macrorhyncha

Red Stringybark

An attractive, upright specimen and shade tree for lawns and garden areas that is valued as a source of honey. Medium to tall upright tree, with a rounded canopy and red-brown to grey deeply fissured bark.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, prefers loam soil. Tree roots are sensitive to compaction of soil.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

1m – 6m
1m – 4m

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

8m – 20m
5m – 15m

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

8m – 20m
6m – 15m

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

10m – 35m
10m – 20m



Eucalyptus melliodora

Yellow Box

A handsome shade and feature tree for large gardens. Tall, variable open to dense tree, rough brownish bark, upper branches smooth and cream. Food source for koalas.

Flowers and foliage:

The fragrant white to cream flowers provide an excellent source of honey.

Growing conditions:

Well drained loams and alluvial soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

10m – 30m
8m – 20m

Eucalyptus obliqua

Messmate

Tall upright tree, dense canopy, thick fibrous fissured bark to smaller branches. Good shelter and shade tree for large areas.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils, prefers moist sites but tolerates dryness.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

10m – 30m
6m – 20m

Eucalyptus ovata

Swamp Gum

Fast-growing medium to tall upright tree, moderately dense crown, rough bark lower trunk. Useful windbreak and shade tree, ideal for swampy areas and along creek banks.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Prefers moist and poorly drained soils, tolerating periods of inundation and dryness.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

8m – 25m
8m – 20m

Eucalyptus polyanthemos

Red Box

A slow-growing small to medium tree with a compact to spreading crown. Rough, fibrous reddish-brown bark in small flakes, often persistent to small branches.

Flowers and foliage:

Clusters of club-shaped buds, followed by profuse white to cream flowers. Barrel-shaped fruit.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerating difficult sites such as dry, stony and shallow soils. Full or partial sun.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND

7m – 25m
5m – 15m

TREES



Eucalyptus radiata

Narrow-leaved Peppermint

An attractive shade or shelter tree that is ideally suited to suburban gardens and is common around Melbourne. Medium to tall low-branching tree, dense and compact crown, grey-brown fibrous bark.

Flowers and foliage:

White to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerating a range of conditions



Eucalyptus viminalis

Manna Gum

Good ornamental tree and shade tree, suited for large gardens or parklands. This fast-growing tall upright tree is a food source for koalas.

Flowers and foliage:

White flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, prefers moist, well drained soils.

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

10m – 30m
6m – 15m

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

10m – 50m
8m – 15m

LARGE SHRUBS



Acacia leprosa

Cinnamon Wattle

Also known as *A. stictophylla*. Fast-growing erect slender or spreading shrub with weeping foliage, sometimes reaching tree proportions.

Flowers and foliage:

Scented lemon to yellow balls.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

Hedge Wattle

Fast-growing dense and spreading shrub whose dense prickly habit provides an ideal refuge for small birds. Ornamental, suited as a hedge/screen.

Flowers and foliage:

Small, dark green wavy leaves and golden yellow ball flowers.

Growing conditions:

Dry to moist, well-drained soils. Adaptable to any site.

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

2m – 4m
2m – 4m

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

2m – 4m
2m – 5m

LARGE SHRUBS



LARGE SHRUBS

Acacia stricta

Hop Wattle

Fast-growing open upright shrub which can form a low windbreak or light screen, suited for planting under existing trees.

Flowers and foliage:

Pale yellow balls.

Growing conditions:

Reasonably well drained positions in most soils. Drought hardy.

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

2m - 4m
2m - 4m

Bursaria spinosa

Sweet Bursaria

Hardy, easily grown slender to rounded shrub or small tree which is good for hedging. Stunning in flower, this shrub offers long-lived shelter for small birds and food for the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Flowers and foliage:

Prolific, sweetly scented creamy-white flowers followed by attractive coppery seed capsules. Shiny, small, dark green leaves.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils. Drought tolerant.

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

2m - 6m
2m - 3m

Cassinia aculeata

Common Cassinia

A fast-growing erect open shrub which is hardy and may be grown beneath trees.

Flowers and foliage:

Dense head of small white to cream flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils.

Pruning:

Prune to maintain bushy shape. For shady or moist areas consider Long-leaf Cassinia (*Cassinia longifolia*) which is similar but with soft grey foliage.

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

2m - 4m
1m - 2m

Dodonaea viscosa

Wedge-leaf Hop Bush

Wide shrub that is very tolerant of dry conditions and can make a long-lived dense screen.

The bark is dark coloured and an attractive feature.

Flowers and foliage:

Female plants produce colourful seed pods from October which are showier than the flowers. Plant a couple together to improve pollination. Foliage may feel slightly sticky.

Growing conditions:

Very adaptable so can be used in a tough spot.

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

1.4m
1.4m

LARGE SHRUBS



Gynatrix pulchella

Hemp Bush

A fast-growing upright open shrub which is very showy in flower.

Flowers and foliage:
Fragrant greenish-white flowers.

Growing conditions:
Moist, well drained soils.

Pruning:
Prune for bushy habit.

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



Hakea decurrens

Bushy Needlewood

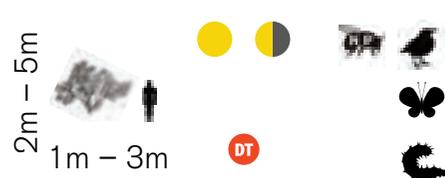
Fast growing shrub with interesting flowers and woody fruit. It provides a good low screen. It's prickly leaves provide protective habitat for small garden birds.

Flowers and foliage:
White flowers occassionally pink.

Growing conditions:
Adaptable, tolerating most soils and aspects.

Pruning:
Responds well to hard pruning.

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



Kunzea leptospermoides

Yarra Burgan

Attractive and fast-growing dense to open shrub, particularly the weeping form. Excellent screening plant.

Flowers and foliage:
White flowers and small aromatic leaves.

Growing conditions:
Adaptable, tolerating wet and dry periods.

Pruning:
Prune for bushiness.

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



LARGE SHRUBS

Leptospermum continentale

Prickly Tea-tree

Attractive and hardy plant suitable for poorly drained sites. Useful as a screen, it benefits from pruning. A good habitat plant, it is frost tolerant.

Flowers and foliage:
White petalled flowers and stiff prickly leaves.

Growing conditions:
Adaptable, tolerating both well drained and moist to wet soils.

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



LARGE SHRUBS



Melaleuca ericifolia

Swamp Paperbark

This erect, open to dense bushy shrub or small tree with papery bark is useful as a dense thicket or screen.

Flowers and foliage:

Cream brush-like flowers.

Growing conditions:

Prefers moist to wet soils.

Frost tolerant.

Pruning:

Prune after flowering to keep plants from straggling.

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



Melicytus dentatus

Tree Violet

Medium to tall, rigid and often spiny, this hardy spreading shrub is useful for lightly shaded sites and moist areas.

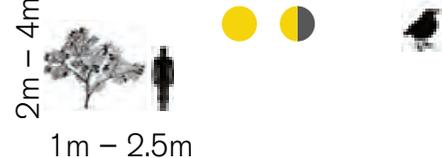
Flowers and foliage:

Tiny cream bell flowers and green to purple berries.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, preferring moist sites.

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



LARGE SHRUBS



Olearia lirata

Snowy Daisy bush

An attractive, soft, open shrub to brighten up shady or sheltered sites. A spectacular screening or specimen shrub with attractive daisy flowers.

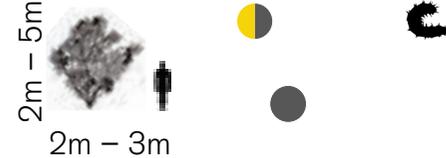
Flowers and foliage:

Profuse, superb clusters of white, daisy-like flowers in spring, with soft grey-green foliage with downy white undersides.

Growing conditions:

A shade lover that thrives in sheltered spots with moist, well-drained soil. Can look shabby in drier conditions.

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



Ozothamnus ferrugineus

Tree Everlasting

An open rounded aromatic shrub which grows best as understory planting. A great screening plant.

Flowers and foliage:

Small white flowerheads in large clusters.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, prefers moist, well drained soils.

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



LARGE SHRUBS



Pomaderris racemosa

Cluster Pomaderris

This is a slender shrub or rarely a small lightly branched tree which is ideal for areas where space is limited due to its erect habit. Useful as a taller screening plant for beneath trees.

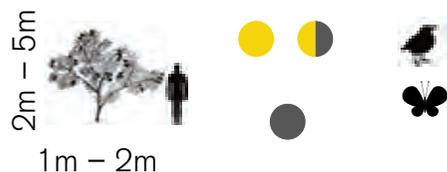
Flowers and foliage:

Cream-yellow flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist soils, will tolerate dryness.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Prostanthera lasianthos

Victorian Christmas Bush

The largest native mint bush, this is a useful screen plant. A compact tall shrub or upright small tree which is spectacular in flower.

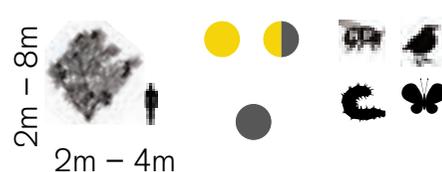
Flowers and foliage:

Minty aromatic leaves and white flowers spotted with orange and purple.

Growing conditions:

Well drained, prefers moist loamy soils. Needs protection from strong winds.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Solanum aviculare

Kangaroo Apple

A decorative hardy fast-growing shrub, Kangaroo Apple is useful as a screening plant. Short-lived in cultivation.

Flowers and foliage:

Violet flowers with yellow anthers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerant of most conditions.

Pruning:

Prune for dense habit.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



LARGE SHRUBS



Viminaria juncea

Native Broom

A hardy, fast-growing shrub which is useful beside pools and is most attractive when in flower, drawing attention to its weeping habit. Can be short lived.

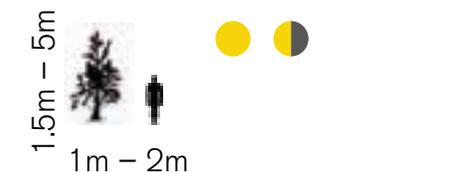
Flowers and foliage:

Erect, arching, needle-like leaves, and prays of yellow-orange pea flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable to poorly drained soils, salt and lime.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



MEDIUM SHRUBS



Acacia acinacea

Gold Dust Wattle

A hardy wattle excellent for the rockeries or shrub borders. Looks great planted en masse. A good low screening plant.

Flowers and foliage:

Produces masses of showy, golden yellow flower balls.

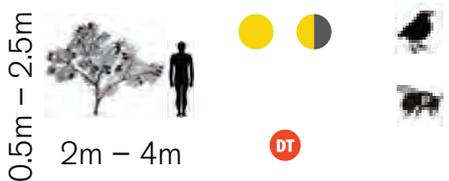
Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils. Grows well in shallow soils.

Pruning:

Pruning is beneficial.

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



Acacia genistifolia

Spreading Wattle

This hardy fast-growing open spreading shrub with prickly foliage provides good refuge for birds. It will often self-seed.

Flowers and foliage:

Lemon to cream balls.

Growing conditions:

Tolerates wet or dry soil.

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



Acacia myrtifolia

Myrtle Wattle

An easily grown ornamental shrub which is best grown in clusters, it only lives for approximately 4 - 5 years. Useful as a quick grower while other slower plants grow.

Flowers and foliage:

Cream to yellow balls

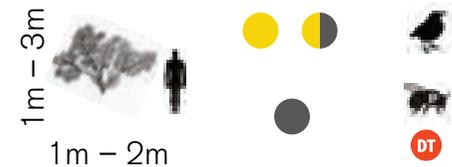
Growing conditions:

Adaptable, most soils with good drainage.

Pruning:

Heavy pruning can be beneficial.

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



MEDIUM SHRUBS

Acacia verticillata

Prickly Moses

With foliage that provides wonderful textural interest in the garden, this open prickly shrub is also a safe nesting refuge for small birds such as wrens.

Flowers and foliage:

Light yellow bottlebrush shaped spikes

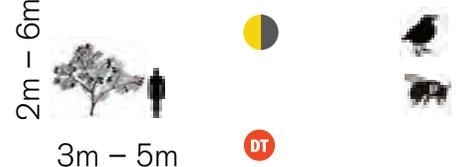
Growing conditions:

Deep soil with reliable moisture. Will tolerate a variety of conditions.

Pruning:

Prune to encourage a bushy habit.

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



MEDIUM SHRUBS



Banksia spinulosa *var cunninghamii*

Hairpin Banksia

A pretty shrub that benefits from light pruning and is certain to bring the birds. This shrub will establish under gum trees.

Flowers and foliage:

Flower spike is yellow-orange and matures into an interesting seed cone. Leaves have toothed edges and grey undersides.

Growing conditions:

A very adaptable plant but forms a more compact shape in a sunny spot.



Coprosma quadrifida

Prickly Currant Bush

This prickly open upright dense shrub is great for damp shady areas and provides bright red berries for birds and bush tucker foragers.

Flowers and foliage:

Inconspicuous light greenish flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, prefers moist sites.

Pruning:

Pruning encourages bushier growth.



Correa glabra

Rock Correa

An attractive, hardy shrub, ideal low screening plant, may be established beneath trees. Very drought and frost hardy, it has dense foliage and requires practically no maintenance. Consider using it in pots for colour through the cooler months.

Flowers and foliage:

Pale green bells.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.



Correa reflexa

Common Correa

Attractive, hardy shrub, ideal for shaded areas or beneath existing trees. Very drought and frost hardy, it has dense foliage and requires practically no maintenance. Consider using it in pots for colour through the cooler months.

Flowers and foliage:

Pendulous green or red tubular flowers. (Greenlink sells a red flowered form).

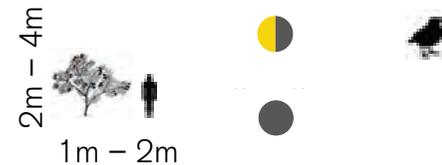
Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.

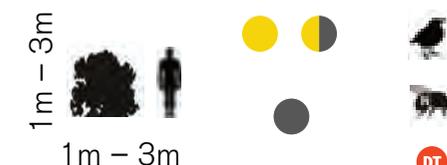
Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



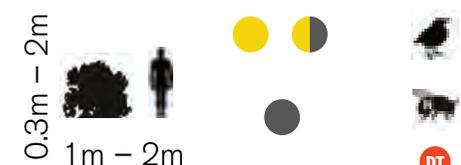
Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



MEDIUM SHRUBS



Goodia lotifolia

Golden Tip

Add a bright note to the garden with this pretty, fast growing shrub. Useful as a quick screen, prune for bushy habit or to a tall, loose hedge.

Flowers and foliage:

Showy and fragrant yellow pea flowers with red markings. Attractive blue-green clover-like leaves.

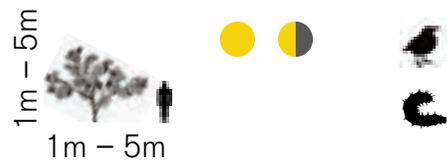
Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, avoid alkaline soil.

Pruning:

Prune for bushiness.

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



Goodenia ovata

Hop Goodenia

A hardy shrub which may be planted beneath trees. Easily propagated, it is a versatile plant that is great for brightening shady garden settings.

Flowers and foliage:

Small, vibrant yellow blooms.

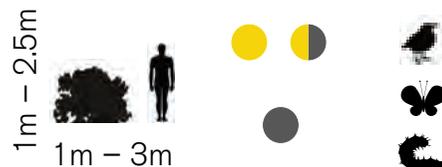
Growing conditions:

Will tolerate harsh, dry conditions once established but will also tolerate waterlogging.

Pruning:

Prune to avoid straggling habit.

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



MEDIUM SHRUBS



Indigofera australis

Austral Indigo

A member of the Pea family, this hardy, attractive plant ideal for planting beneath trees or shady sites.

Flowers and foliage:

Mauve pea flowers, occasionally pink or white and blue-green, feathery (compound) leaves.

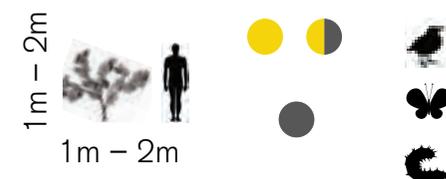
Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils. Water regularly during dry periods.

Pruning:

Tip prune to promote bushy growth.

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



Spyridium parvifolium

Australian Dusty Miller

An attractive screening or specimen plant for sheltered positions with white flowers and whitish new growth that brightens a garden in winter. Small to medium dense upright shrub.

Flowers and foliage:

Clusters of dainty, creamy flowers, accentuated by white dusty bracts.

Growing conditions:

Moist well drained soils, tolerating dryness once established.

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



SMALL SHRUBS



Chrysocephalum semipapposum

Clustered Everlasting

Variable, dense aromatic perennial herb. Attractive, can be planted beneath trees, heavy pruning encourages new growth.

Flowers and foliage:

Aromatic, sticky leaves, bright yellow papery flowers.

Growing conditions:

Tolerates a range of conditions, variable soils, moist to dry, frost tolerant.

Pruning:

Requires hard pruning of old growth.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Coronidium scorpioides

Curling Everlasting

An attractive matting plant ideal for cottage gardens, rockeries and borders. Foliage dies back after flowering each year.

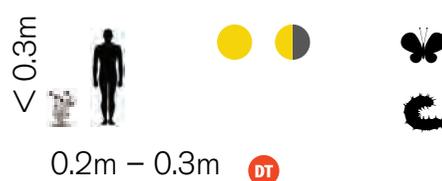
Flowers and foliage:

Yellow button flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, prefers dry sites.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Enchylaena tomentosa

Ruby Saltbush

Attractive hardy plant useful for undershrub plantings. Fruit colour variation provides an interesting feature. A low spreading or sprawling shrub.

Flowers and foliage:

Insignificant greenish flowers and red berries.

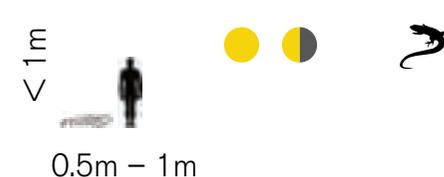
Growing conditions:

Adaptable to poor soils, tolerant to dryness and salinity.

Pruning:

Pruning is beneficial.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Epacris impressa

Common Heath

Victoria's floral emblem and a very pretty, small shrub.

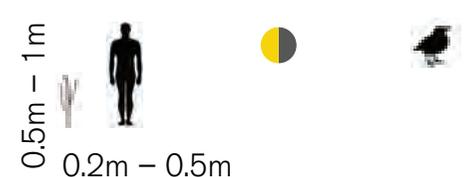
Flowers & foliage:

Narrow, sharply pointed leaves. An abundance of dainty, bell-shaped white or pink blooms crowded along branches from autumn to early spring.

Growing conditions:

Ideally suited for cool, moist areas in well drained, acidic soils. Will tolerate harsh, dry conditions once established.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



SMALL SHRUBS



Pelargonium australe

Austral Stork's Bill

A small, soft and hairy perennial herb forming a clump, this attractive rockery or container plant is a useful soil binder. May die back during hot periods.

Flowers and foliage:

Pink or white flowers with crimson to purple streaks.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils, tolerates dryness.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Xerochrysum spp

Everlasting

Very pretty, bright yellow paper daisies are held above soft green foliage most of the year. It attracts pollinating insects and is easily propagated by seed or cutting.

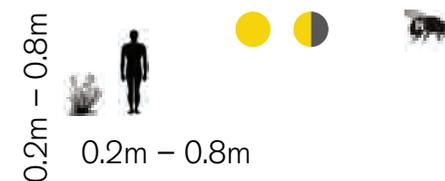
Flowers and foliage:

Foliage varies between species but flowers are bright yellow and prolific.

Growing conditions:

Full sun for best flowers, looks great planted in a group.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GROUND COVERS AND FILLERS



Acaena novae-zelandiae

Bidgee Widgee

A sprawling, adaptable mat-like plant which is useful as a soil-binding and ground cover plant for erosion control. Seeds can stick to clothing.

Flowers and foliage:

Greenish-white flowers and spiny seed heads.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, tolerating wet and dry.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Adiantum aethiopicum

Common Maidenhair

Ground covering fern suckering by vigorous underground stems. Reliable, becoming dormant in dry spells but reshooting when soil moisture increases.

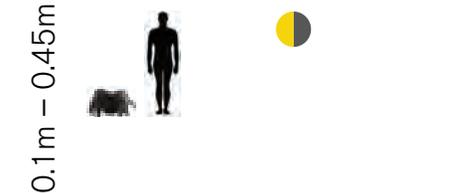
Flowers and foliage:

Light green, delicate fronds.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GROUND COVERS AND FILLERS



Brachyscome multifida

Cut Leaf Daisy

Fast-growing, low spreading perennial herb. Spreads by underground roots, useful soil binder. Flowers profusely most of the year.

Flowers and foliage:

Blue, mauve, pink or white daisy flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, from heavy clay to light sandy loams.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Dichondra repens

Kidney Weed

Hardy attractive groundcover that forms a dense mat in moist shady areas and can be grown to suppress weeds or as a great lawn alternative where foot traffic is light. Very easily divided and transplanted.

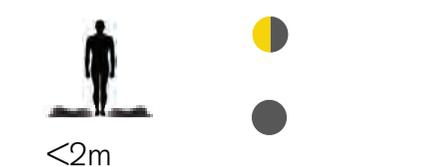
Flowers and foliage:

Bright green kidney shaped leaves and tiny inconspicuous yellowish-green flowers.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, prefers well drained soils, keep moist in dry weather.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GROUND COVERS AND FILLERS



Einadia nutans

Nodding Saltbush

Hardy vigorous sprawling shrub, this is a useful groundcover for dry banks, may be planted beneath trees. Drought resistant, bird attracting.

Flowers and foliage:

Insignificant clusters of greenish flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained drier soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Geranium solanderi

Austral Crane's-bill

Bright container or rockery plant providing a dense groundcover. A hardy, creeping perennial herb.

Flowers and foliage:

Pink flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, preferring moisture.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GROUND COVERS AND FILLERS



Kennedia prostrata

Running Postman

Spectacular in hanging baskets where the flowers can cascade down the sides and also softening garden edges and steps. Open trailing or densely matting perennial groundcover.

Flowers and foliage:

Reddish pea flowers with yellow centres.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, tolerates dryness once established. May die back in extended dry conditions and re-sprout when conditions improve.

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



Microseris walteri

Yam Daisy

Small tufted perennial herb with bright yellow daisy flowers on long stems. Differs from introduced dandelion by its narrow leaves and drooping flower buds. Regenerates annually from tuberous rootstock.

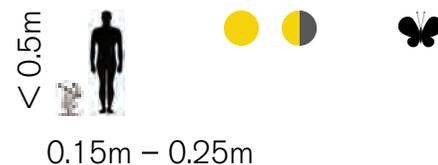
Flowers and foliage:

Bright yellow daisy flowerhead.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.

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



GROUND COVERS AND FILLERS



Viola hederacea

Native Violet

Attractive hardy and fast-growing groundcover, useful for soil binding on banks or near ponds, and also an attractive plant for hanging baskets, rockeries and courtyards.

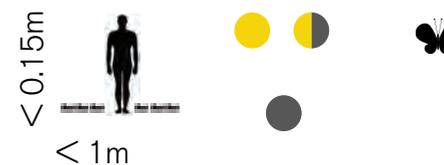
Flowers and foliage:

Masses of white violets with purple centres mainly in spring. Attractive, green, kidney-shaped foliage.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, prefers moist sites.

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



Wahlenbergia spp

Bluebells

Ideal for mass display or drifts, this erect clumping much-branched perennial herb is a great rockery or border plant and also good for hanging baskets and pots.

Flowers and foliage:

Light blue or occasionally white open-bell shaped flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils. Tolerates some dryness, will die back to rootstock during long periods of dryness.

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



LILLIES AND IRISES



Arthropodium milleflorum
Pale Vanilla Lily

An attractive plant, effective in mass plantings, dormant in summer. Grass-like tufted perennial herb.

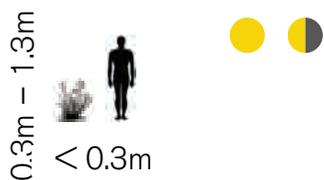
Flowers and foliage:

Pale pink, mauve or white vanilla scented flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist clay soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Arthropodium strictum
Chocolate Lily

An outstanding wildflower, at its best planted in drifts, it is dormant in summer. Try growing in decorative pots or containers; also may be grown beneath trees.

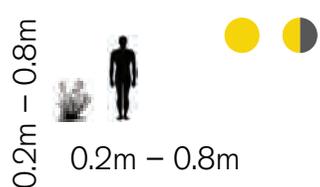
Flowers and foliage:

Delightful violet-purple, chocolate-vanilla scented flowers and soft flat narrow leaves.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, adaptable to surroundings.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine Lily

An attractive, long-flowering wildflower for rockeries and cottage gardens that spreads by seed to form showy clumps. It is lovely planted in drifts, pots or containers. Dies down to rootstock in dry periods, may resprout throughout the year.

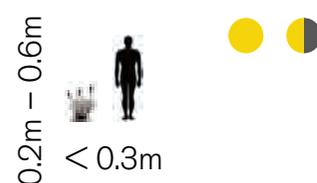
Flowers and foliage:

Yellow star-like fragrant flowers and tufted, succulent leaves.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Dianella revoluta
Black-anther Flax-lily

A dense tufted perennial with vigorous branched underground stems. Hardy and tolerant, may grow beneath trees, effective in mass plantings. For difficult dry spots, the Black Anther Flax-lily is superb and forms slow spreading tussocks.

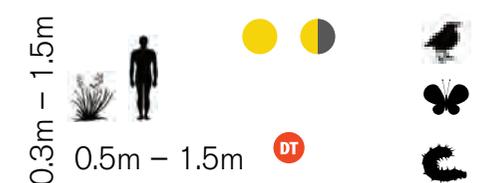
Flowers and foliage:

Blue to violet flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, adaptable. Drought and frost resistant.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND





Dianella longifolia

Pale Flax-lily

This compact, upright tuft is an attractive clumping plant. Useful as an accent plant, hardy, and can be grown very successfully around the base of trees.

Flowers and foliage:

Pale blue star-shaped flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

Dianella tasmanica

Tasman Flax-lily

This hardy vigorous tuft can be grown very successfully around the base of trees. Has long, vigorous runners and its coarse, strappy leaves can form dense patches to several metres across and 1½m deep.

Flowers and foliage:

Blue to violet flowers.

Growing conditions:

Prefers moist soils.

Leaves burn in full sun.

Lomandra filiformis

Wattle Mat-rush

Attractive hardy plant useful for rockeries, mass plantings and borders, suitable for containers. Lightly tufted herb spreading by underground stems.

Flowers and foliage:

Yellow flowerheads and narrow, stiff leaves.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, preferring moist sites, tolerating dryness once established. Drought and frost tolerant.

Lomandra longifolia

Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Large dense tussock plant which is an important butterfly food plant and a lovely tussock for difficult spots, rockeries and embankments. Ideal landscaping plant for clusters/ large drifts, grows well beneath trees.

Flowers and foliage:

Yellowish flowers in clusters with spiky bracts.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, adaptable to a range of sites. Hardy and drought tolerant.

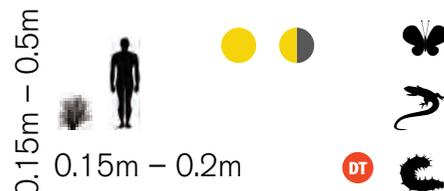
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Flowers J F M A M J J A S O N D



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



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





Patersonia occidentalis

Long Purple Flag

An attractive plant for cottage gardens, rockeries, water features and mass plantings, this compact perennial herb has dense tufts.

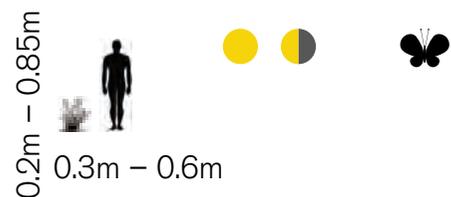
Flowers and foliage:

Blue to purple, occasionally white, flowers and long strappy leaves.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, tolerates a range of conditions, from dry to boggy.

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



Stylidium armeria

Grass-leaved Triggerplant

Great when planted in drifts, this variable, tufted perennial herb is useful for rockeries, containers and cottage gardens. Known as “trigger plants” because of the unique, irritable flower column which springs upwards and deposits pollen on the head or back of insect visitors.

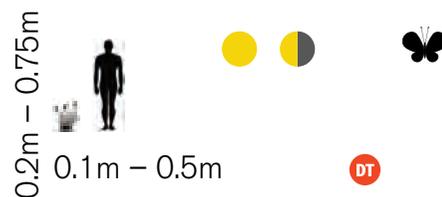
Flowers and foliage:

Pale to bright pink or lilac flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

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



Austrostipa spp

Spear Grasses

A spectacular sight when planted en masse with a breeze rustling the tall flowering stems, this spreading tufted perennial grass is useful as an accent grass.

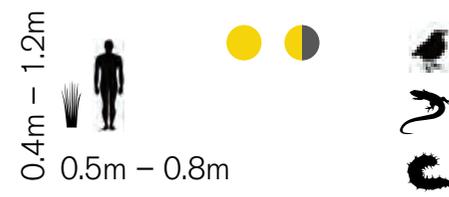
Flowers and foliage:

Green with purple tinged flowerheads which bear many long, weeping, russet coloured, spear-like seeds.

Growing conditions:

Prefers moist soils and an open position.

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



Dichelachne crinata

Plume Grass

A tussock forming grass that has feathery flowers held on long stems in late spring, early summer.

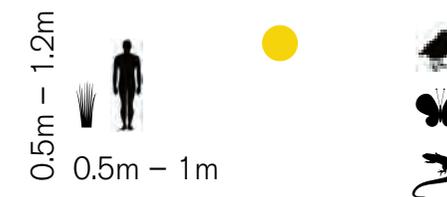
Flowers and foliage:

Seed heads can be used for cut flower arrangements, foliage should be cut back hard in summer.

Growing conditions:

Tolerant of many growing conditions and best interspersed with local daisies for colour.

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



GRASSES AND SEDGES



Microlaena stipoides

Weeping Grass

A splendid year-round native lawn in moist, shady positions that can be mown regularly or left to produce delightful weeping flower heads. Seeds may catch on clothing.

Flowers and foliage:

Green to purple tinged flowerheads on arching stems, and soft, emerald green leaves.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, preferring moist shadier sites. Will tolerate drier conditions and full sun.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Poa ensiformis

Sword Tussock Grass

Ornamental, vigorous grass ideal for moist shady areas, mass plantings, erosion control, embankments. Large, dense tussock forming grass with spreading underground stems.

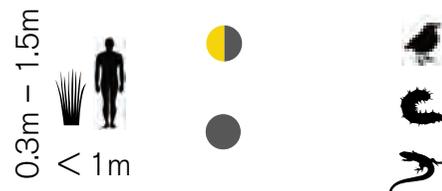
Flowers and foliage:

Green, purple to straw-colour flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, preferring moist shaded sites, but tolerates periods of dryness.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GRASSES AND SEDGES

Poa labillardierei

Common Tussock Grass

A vigorous ornamental tussock-forming grass for garden beds and rockeries that is a dramatic sight planted in massed grasses of varying height and texture. An adaptable grass that thrives with reliable moisture.

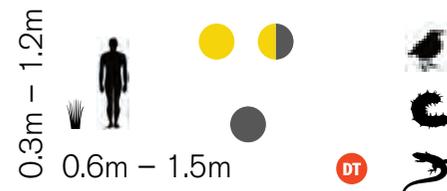
Flowers and foliage:

Green, purple to straw-colour flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, prefers moist to slightly dry soils, frost tolerant.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Poa morrisii

Velvet Tussock Grass

A small soft bluish tussock grass, this attractive ornamental grass is useful for borders, rockeries, cottage gardens. May be grown beneath established trees.

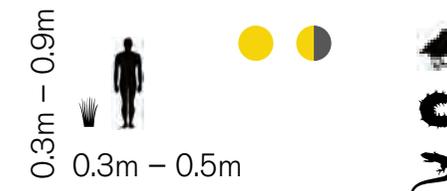
Flowers and foliage:

Green, purple to straw-colour flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Moist, well drained soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



GRASSES AND SEDGES



Rytidosperma spp

Wallaby Grasses

Erect tufted perennials with fine leaves which are useful for planting under trees or mixed with other grasses. They provide a delightful addition to the garden that will stay green over summer without high water demands and many species will tolerate regular mowing and trampling.

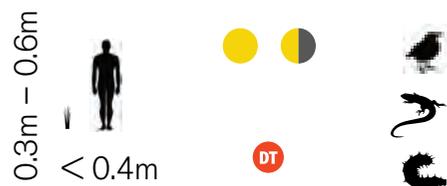
Flowers and foliage:

Pale green to purple flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, range from sandy to heavy soils.

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



Themeda triandra

Kangaroo Grass

A great feature tussock, this attractive grass with unique colour and flowers arranged among leafy bracts provides interesting colour and texture to the garden.

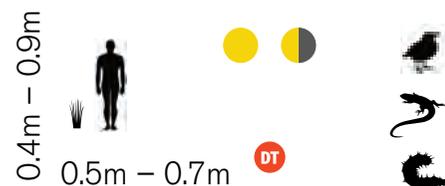
Flowers and foliage:

Coppery or rust-coloured flower heads and soft blade foliage varying in colour from blue-green to reddish brown.

Growing conditions:

Performs best in well-drained soils with reliable moisture. Adaptable to a range of growing conditions.

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



SCRAMBLERS AND CLIMBERS



Billardiera mutabilis

Common Apple-Berry

non-invasive scrambler which can be encouraged to grow on a trellis or wire fence. It grows well under established trees.

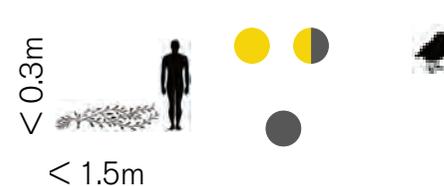
Flowers and foliage:

Greenish-yellow pendulous bell-shaped flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils, adaptable to most sites.

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



Clematis aristata

Mountain Clematis

A vigorous woody climber which may be easily trained to cover artificial supports, and may be grown beneath trees. Suckering to form new plants.

Flowers and foliage:

Creamy white starry flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.

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



SCRAMBLERS AND CLIMBERS



Clematis microphylla

Small-leaved Clematis

A useful plant for growing on screening trellises or along fences. Be warned this medium sized climber could potentially smother other plants in the garden.

Flowers and foliage:

Cream starry flowers.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.
Frost tolerant.

Hardenbergia violacea

Purple Coral Pea

The brilliant flowers of the Purple Coral-pea provide a beautiful display of colour climbing up a shrub or scrambling over a retaining wall. This dense, showy climber is generally hardy.

Flowers and foliage:

Violet to purple pea flowers, sometimes pink or white.
Rich, deep green, leathery leaves.

Growing conditions:

Adaptable, well drained soils.

Glycine clandestina

Twining Glycine

A delicate little climber that looks great in hanging baskets in sheltered locations. Seeds can be propagated after scarification.

Flowers and foliage:

Mauve coloured Pea flowers appear in spring. Leaves are tri-foliolate and greyish-green.

Growing conditions:

Sheltered spots where it has something to twine along. Moist, well drained soils, tolerating dry periods once established.

Rubus parvifolius

Native Raspberry

A hardy trailer which can be trained as a climber, this small rambling shrub is covered in hooked thorns. Winter pruning will encourage bushier growth, more flowers and fruit.

Flowers and foliage:

Deep pink flowers turning to edible fruits.

Growing conditions:

Well drained soils.

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



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



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



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



WETLAND PLANTS



WETLAND PLANTS

Alisma plantago-aquatica

Water Plantain

Useful for ponds and bog gardens, this erect tufted perennial semi-aquatic herb tolerates poorly drained sites.

Flowers and foliage:

Pale pink petalled flowers and tufted, erect fan shaped leaves.

Growing conditions:

Wet soils. It may become dormant in very dry periods.

Eleocharis acuta

Common Spike Rush

Aquatic perennial herb with tufts at intervals along slender underground stems. It provides interest around dams and ponds, may spread rapidly in shallow water, provides habitat for birds, fish and frogs.

Flowers and foliage:

Dark brown flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Heavy damp soils to shallow water edges.

Carex fascicularis

Tassel Sedge

Common sedge found along watercourses and near swamps, useful for erosion control. Coarse tufted bright green plant, spreading from underground stems.

Flowers and foliage:

Whitish to pale brown flowerheads.

Growing conditions:

Moist to wet soils, tolerating inundation.

Juncus spp

Rushes

Although marsh plants, these sturdy rushes will withstand periods of drought and are excellent for wetland waste water systems.

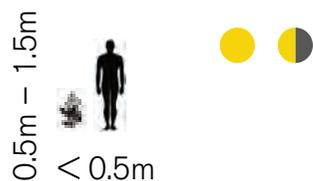
Flowers and foliage:

Straw coloured flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist soils or shallow water.

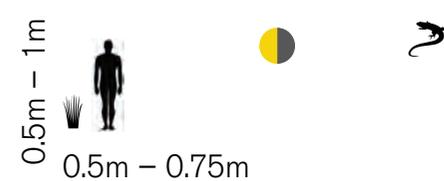
Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Flowers JFMAMJJASOND





Lythrum salicaria

Purple Loosestrife

Slender, erect perennial herb with tuberous roots. Very showy plant for borders, bog gardens and around water edges.

Flowers and foliage:

Crowded spikes of purple to magenta petalled flowers. Leaves offer autumn colour as plant dies back for the winter.

Growing conditions:

Moist soils or shallow water.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Mazus pumilio

Swamp Mazus

A flat ground cover for wet areas or around the edge of a pond this groundcover has little mauve flowers and spreads through stolons.

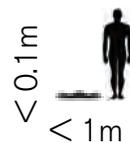
Flowers and foliage:

Flowers are delicate and held above a carpet of ground hugging leaves.

Growing conditions:

In poorly drained areas you could plant this between pavers or keep it in a pot with partially blocked drainage holes.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Marsilea drummondii

Common Nardoo

An aquatic perennial fern with attractive foliage. While it displays vigorous growth, it does not compete with other water plants such as water lilies or milfoil, making it an ideal water plant for a garden pond. Attracts frogs to the garden, providing good breeding habitat.

Foliage:

Fronds are erect when growing in mud, floating when growing in water.

Growing conditions:

In a garden pond.



Mentha australis

River Mint

Soft sprawling, sometimes erect, perennial herb with a minty aroma. Useful for containers, rockeries and for moist and shady areas, may become invasive in ideal conditions.

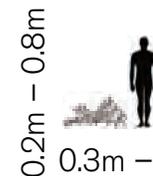
Flowers and foliage:

Small white to pale mauve tubular flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



WETLAND PLANTS



Persicaria decipiens

Slender Knotweed

Dense groundcover, useful for moist and boggy sites and around water edges, dies back in winter and during long periods of dryness.

An aquatic to semi aquatic erect to spreading perennial herb with slender sprawling stems.

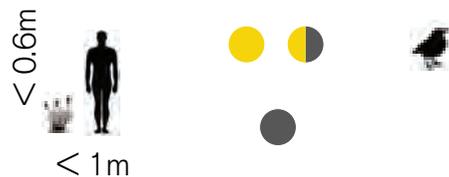
Flowers and foliage:

Small pink flowers on slender spikes.

Growing conditions:

Moist soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Triglochin spp

Water Ribbons

These slender, tufted semi-aquatic perennial herbs are rush-like spreading plants for water-logged, wet and swampy soils.

Flowers and foliage:

Tiny greenish-yellow flowers.

Growing conditions:

Moist, poorly drained soils.

Flowers JFMAMJJASOND



Weeds in Whitehorse

The following plants are considered to be environmental weeds of Whitehorse. They are species that invade and thrive in our native bushland where they do not naturally occur. They commonly occur in gardens, often spreading into our native bushland areas.

These weeds tend to dominate, threatening the natural balance of the remnant indigenous flora and fauna of Whitehorse. By removing the following species from your garden you can help protect what remains of our native bushland.

Before removing any trees, please check what permits you require by calling the Planning Department on 9262 6303.

Trees and Shrubs



Boneseed

Chrysanthemoides monilifera

It is an evergreen yellow flowering shrub with leathery leaves with toothed edges. Grows to 3m high.

Flowers: Winter.
Seed Set: Pods ripen early Summer.



Cape Broom, Montpellior Broom

Genista monspessulana

It has round, ribbed, hairy twigs with ridged, woody, grey-brown stems. Grows to 2.5m.

Flowers: Spring to early Summer.
Seed set: Pods ripen late Spring into Summer.



Cootamundra Wattle

Acacia baileyana

It has fine silvery-grey feathery foliage and soft balls of golden yellow flowers. Grows to 8m high.

Flowers: Mid-Winter.

Seed set: Pods ripen spring and Summer.



Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster spp.

This plant produces clusters of white flowers during spring and summer followed by red berries which hang on the branches for months after flowering. Grows to 5m high.

Flowers: Spring and Summer.

Seed set: Red berries in Autumn.



Desert Ash

Fraxinus angustifolia

Desert ash is a spreading deciduous tree. Leaves consist of seven leaflets and turn various shades of yellow and gold in autumn. Grows to 2 5m high.

Flowers: Late Winter.

Seed set: Summer.



Flax-leaved Broom

Genista linifolia

This is a shrub with hairy green stems and branches which can exceed two meters in height. Its leaves are made up of tough, green, lance-shaped leaflets with woolly undersides. Grows to 3m high.

Flowers: Spring.

Seed set: Pods ripen late spring into Summer.



Gorse, Furze

Ulex europaeus

Sharp spiny shrub with woody spreading stems. pods turning black when mature ready to explode to release seeds. Grows to 2m high.

Flowers: Winter to Summer.

Seed set: Seed can be on a mature plant at almost anytime.



Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

A large prickly deciduous shrub or small tree to 10 m that was previously grown for hedges or cheap barrier fences. Grows up to 10m high.

Flowers: Spring.

Seed set: Red berries in Autumn.



Mirror Bush

Coprosma angustifolia

This evergreen shrub to small tree can grow to 6 m high. It has round, glossy leaves. Grows to 6m high.

Flowers: Spring to early Summer.

Seed set: Orange berries in Summer and Autumn.



Privet

Ligustrum spp.

A number of species from shrubs to small trees are evergreen often found in moist, nutrient rich sites such as gullies, on roadsides and in home gardens. Grows up to 10m high.

Flowers: Early Spring.

Seed set: Orange berries in Autumn and Winter.



Radiata or Monterey Pine
Pinus radiata

This evergreen tree has upward pointing branches and a rounded top. The needles are bright green with a blunt tip. Grows up to 4m.

Flowers: Winter and Spring.
Seed Set: Cones can release seeds anytime.



Sallow Wattle
Acacia longifolia

In Victoria it is thought to be native to the East Gippsland area. It is an extremely fast growing evergreen shrub. Grows up to 8m high.

Flowers: Winter.
Seed set: Pods ripen early Summer.



Sweet Pittosporum
Pittosporum undulatum

It has coarse grey bark and glossy green leaves. The small, white, highly fragrant flowers are followed by orange-tan berries which can persist for several months. Grows up to 14m high.

Flowers: Early Spring.
Seed set: Orange berries in Autumn and Winter.



Willow
Salix spp

A number of different problem species exist, all of them trees. Grows up to 25m.

Flowers: Late Winter.
Seed set: Seed is rarely fertile but plants grow very easily from small branchlets taking root after being washed downstream from mature trees.

Herbs, Grasses and Bulbs



Agapanthus
Agapanthus praecox
subsp. Orientalis

This perennial herb form dense clumps with long, thick, white rhizomes. It has leathery, arching leaves with watery sap that grow from the base in clumps of up to 20. Grows up to 1m high.

Flowers: Spring and Summer.
Seed set: Summer. Spreads mostly by division of the bulb.



Angled Onion
Allium triquetrum

This perennial herb has stems which are concavely triangular in cross-section. When crushed, leaves smell like onion. Grows up to 30cm high.

Flowers: Late Winter and Spring.
Seed set: Spring and Summer.
Spreads by bulb division.



Black Nightshade
Solanum nigrum

This bushy annual herb has green to purple stems. It has clusters of small white star-shaped flowers often tinged with purple. Grows up to 60cm.

Flowers: Spring to Summer.
Seed set: Ripening in late Spring and Summer.



Cats-ear, Flatweed
Hypochoeris radicata

The leaves form a low-lying rosette around a central taproot. Grows up to 60cm high.

Flowers: Almost anytime.
Seed set: Almost anytime.



Capeweed

Arctotheca clanedula

This annual plant grows in rosettes and sends out stolons enabling it to spread across the ground quickly. petals. Grows up to 50cm high.

Flowers: Winter and Spring.
Seed set: Late Spring.



Cocksfoot

Dactylis glomerata

It has a distinctive tufted triangular flower head which may be either green or red to purple tinged turning pale grey-brown at seed maturity. Grows up to 1.5m high.

Flowers: Spring/Summer.
Seed set: Summer/Autumn.



Drain Flat Sedge, Umbrella Sedge

Cyperus eragrostis

This perennial sedge often forms dense clumps. It has long, solid triangular stems with slender leaves that grow from the base of the stem. Grows up to 90cm.

Flowers: Spring and Summer.
Seed set: Spring and Summer.



Fennel

Foeaiculum vulgare

It produces numerous short-lived upright stems from a long-lived crown. Leaves give off a strong aniseed-like smell when handled or crushed. Grows up to 2m high.

Flowers: Summer to Autumn.
Seed set: Late Summer/Autumn.
Plant spreads by division.



Couch Grass

Cynodon dactylon

The grass creeps along the ground and roots wherever a node touches the ground, forming a dense mat. It reproduces through seeds, runners, and rhizomes.

Flowers: Summer.
Seed set: Summer and Autumn.
Plant mainly spreads by vigorous runners that take root easily.



Creeping Buttercup

Ranunculus repens

This creeping perennial grows in damp degraded places. Leaves are in clusters on long stems and are almost round.

Flowers: Spring/Summer.
Seed set: Spring, Summer and Autumn. Spreads by creeping stems.



Kikuyu

Pennisetum clandestinum

Perennial creeping grass that can form a mat. Grows up to 2m when supported by other plants.

Flowers: Rarely flowers locally
Seed set: Not significant.
Spreads by fragments taking root and by vigorous creeping stems.



Larger Quaking Grass

Briza maxima

This is a short-lived slender grass. It has few leaf blades and stands upright. The leaves have a noticeable twist. Grows up to 60cm tall.

Flowers: Late Winter to early Spring.
Seed set: Spring and Summer.



**Lesser Quaking Grass,
Shivery Grass**

Briza minor

This is a slender, erect and hairless grass. It has few leaf blades and stands straight up. Grows up to 60cm high.

Flowers: Spring.
Seed set: Late Spring and Summer.



Montbretia

Cosmosia x crocosmiiflora

A perennial herb, its light brown corms have a fibrous cover and form clusters of three or more at the stem base. Grows up to 1m high.

Flowers: Spring and Summer.
Seed set: Summer and early Autumn, also spreads by corms in soil.



Paterson's Curse

Echium plantagineum

Erect annual herb with purple flowers. Grows up to 1.5m tall.

Flowers: Winter to Summer.
Seed set: Autumn and Winter.



Spear Thistle

Cirsium vulgare

This herb is a spiny, large headed, purple flowered annual to biennial thistle. Grows up to 1.5m high.

Flowers: Mainly in Summer and Autumn.
Seed set: Mainly in Summer and Autumn



Oxalis, Soursob

Oxalis pes-caprae

This herbaceous plant grows up each year from underground bulbs. Grows up to 40cm.

Flowers: Late Winter - Summer
Seed set: Seed is rarely fertile but plants multiply rapidly from underground bulbils.



Panic Veldt Grass

Ehrharta erecta

This is a tufted grass. It will grow almost anywhere even in shady positions. It especially likes moist conditions. Grows up to 90cm high.

Flowers: Spring and Summer.
Seed set: Spring, Summer and Autumn.



Sweet Vernal Grass

Anthoxanthum odoratum

This perennial grass forms tufts and has elongated leaves. It has narrow and spike-like seed heads at the tips of upright stems. Grows up to 60cm tall.

Flowers: Spring.
Seed set: Spring and Summer.



Watsonia

Watsonia meriana var bulbillifera

This perennial forms dense clumps from stout, fibrous coated corms that multiply at ground level. Grows up to 2m high.

Flowers: Spring.
Seed set: Late Spring and Summer. Spreads by buds or corms on stems and main bulb.



Wild Oat
Avena fatua

This grass forms dense tufts. It has a typical oat appearance with hollow, erect stems. It is sparsely hairy. Grows up to 1.5m high. Flowers: Late Winter and Spring. Seed set: Spring to early Summer.



Yorkshire Fog Grass
Holcus lanatus

This grass forms dense tufts. Its leaves are soft and hairy which extend from a round stem. Grows up to 1m high. Flowers: Spring and Summer. Seed set: Summer and Autumn.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many weeds produce a huge number of seeds that germinate in response to soil disturbance. If you can avoid soil disturbance using mulch or beneficial plants that hold the soil together you can reduce the germination rate of weedy seeds.

Try to tackle weed removal before the seeds are produced.

If you hand pull grassy weeds in particular when the seeds are mature, you are setting up the perfect conditions for the next generation of weeds.

Remove flower heads before seeds mature, for example, cut off old Agapanthus flowers or mow over dandelions while flowering. Use heavy mulch to suppress the germination of seed.

Climbers and Scramblers



Asparagus Ferns
Asparagus scandens/
Asparagus densiflorus

This multi-branched scrambling or climbing herb forms a dense underground mat of rhizomatous roots. Grows up to 60cm high. Flowers: Late Summer. Seed set: Autumn.



Blackberry
Rubus fruticosus spp.agg.

This scrambler is very thorny with large root crowns and long suckers. Grows up to 2m high. Flowers: Spring to early summer. Seed set: Green, ripening to blackberries in late Summer/Autumn.



Blue Periwinkle
Vinca major

This spreading perennial ground cover has dense green foliage and small blue flowers. Grows up to 50cm high. Flowers: Most of the year. Seed set: Plants spreads rapidly by stems taking root wherever they touch the soil.



Bridal Veil Creeper
Asparagus asparagoides

This scrambling or twining perennial has dense clusters of white, fleshy, tuberous roots. It has twisted, thin, wiry green stems with pointed leaves. Grows up to 3m. Flowers: Spring (inconspicuous). Seed set: Red berries in summer. Also spreads vegetatively from corns in the soil.



Cleavers

Galium aparine

This annual has creeping straggling stems which branch and grow along the ground and over other plants.

Flowers: Spring to Summer.
Seed set: Summer.



English Ivy

Hedera helix

It is easily distinguished by its dark green lobed leaves. Unpruned, it smothers everything, debilitates trees and sets large quantities of seed.

Flowers: Autumn/Winter.
Seed set: Winter. Plant also spreads by stems setting roots where they touch soil.



Common Vetch

Vicia sativa

It has hollow, four-sided stems. The flowers are bright pink-purple in color. Grows up to 2m high.

Flowers: Spring.
Seed set: Pods ripen late Spring/Summer.



Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Vigorous semi-deciduous climber with long, tough, wiry stems that twine clockwise, are purplish and hairy when young, and turn woody as they mature. Grows up to 8m high.

Flowers: Late Winter to Summer.
Seed set: Soon after flowering.



Morning Glory

Ipomoea indica

This is a high climbing vine with tough, hairy, twining, running stems.

Flowers: Spring/Summer.
Seed set: Summer/Autumn.
Plant also spreads very rapidly from cuttings or broken pieces of stem that come into contact with the soil.



Wandering Creeper

Tradescantia fluminensis

A trailing perennial groundcover with succulent, soft, creeping stems. It takes root at all nodes touching the ground.

Flowers: Sporadic throughout the year, although mainly in Spring or Summer.
Seed set: Seeds not fertile, but plant spreads easily and rapidly from rootlets forming where leaves touch soil.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many climbing plants have sap, prickles or hairs that can cause skin irritation. Always wear gloves while tackling these plants and if you are particularly sensitive, long sleeves and safety glasses are a good idea.

Managing climbing weeds is so much easier when they are small and can be hand weed. Never attempt to spray climbers with herbicides because you're very likely to have off target impacts.

Further Resources and Contacts

Whitehorse City Council Resources

ONLINE

Whitehorse Tree Education Program

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Tree-Education-Program

Weeds of Whitehorse

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Weeds-of-Whitehorse

Whitehorse Indigenous Landscape Tool

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Landscape-Design-Tool

Whitehorse Landscape Guidelines

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Landscape-Plans

Indigenous plants of Whitehorse:

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/indigenous-plants

Whitehorse Maps where you can find a plant list

for your address map.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/index.html

PUBLICATIONS

Whitehorse Urban Biodiversity Strategy

Contact Council on 9262 6333 to receive a copy.

WHITEHORSE PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Parkland Advisory Committees provide valuable support for the care and improvement of many of our parks. If you'd like to get involved find your local Parkland Advisory Committee at: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Parkland-Advisory-Committees

References and Advice

PUBLICATIONS

Flora of Melbourne (4th Ed)

Marilyn Bull (author) and George Stolfo (illustrator)
Hyland House, 2014

Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia,

Leon Costermans, Redd New Holland, 2009

Habitat: A practical guide to creating and wildlife-friendly Australian garden,

Murdoch Books, 2018

Creating an Australian Garden:

Angus Stewart, Allen and Unwin, 2012

Birdscaping Australian Gardens,

George Adams, Viking, 2015

Australian Grasses: A gardener's guide to native grasses, sedges, rushes and

grasstrees, Nick Romanowski, Hyland House, 2011

ONLINE

Bungalook Nursery wcipp.org.au

Greenlink Nursery greenlinkboxhill.org

VicFlora vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au

Australian Plants Society apsvic.org.au

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria fncv.org.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia sgaonline.org.au

Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society

bdtps.wordpress.com



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Glossary

Biodiversity

The diversity of all living things – from genetics to plants and animals, to communities and ecosystems.

Environmental Weeds

Plants that invade and thrive in native bushland areas where they do not naturally occur. These plants tend to dominate, threatening the natural ecology.

Flora

Plants.

Indigenous Flora

Plants originating from and found naturally in a particular region of Australia (may be multiple regions).

Local Provenance

Plants that are the local variety or perhaps a sub species of one found throughout a region. Plants of the local provenance have a unique genetic makeup which has evolved to suit the specific conditions in the region.

Native Flora

Plants originating anywhere within Australia.

Provenance

The geographic range in which a species, subspecies or variety of plant or animal may be found.

Remnant Bushland/ Vegetation

Patches of vegetation that have remained relatively undisturbed by European influence. Such patches are fairly rare in Whitehorse and they nearly always exhibit higher diversity than other sites.

Weeds

A plant that is undesirable on a particular site, usually because it dominates and out competes desirable plants.

