

# COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

## GLOSSARY FOR INDIGENOUS PLANT LISTS

By selecting indigenous plants there are many associated benefits:

- They are well adapted to local soils and climates.
- They create habitat for local birds, insects and animals.
- They retain the integrity of local plant species.
- Possibly reduces the use of chemical, as birds will eat insects.

### SOILS

#### Soil Size

The size of soil particles ranges from coarse sand, fine sand, silt and clay and this determines soil texture.

**Clay soil (heavy soils)** – Very small particles with little pore space. Very fine tightly packed particles – can hold too much water, difficult to work and can be waterlogged.

**Sandy soil (light soils)** – Large particles and large pore spaces. Drains quickly, easy to work.

**Loam soil** - - Mixture of coarse and fine sand, silt and clay. Even drainage.

#### Soil Colour

Soil colour can aid in determining the properties of your soil.

Well-drained soils tend to be  
Red on basalt, Mid yellow on dunes.

Poorly drained soils tend to be  
Pale yellow/grey can have orange mottles.

High humus (organic) soils tend to be  
Dark in colour.

Waterlogged soils tend to be  
Bluish/greenish grey

**Fire Retardant – Listed** below are properties that some plants possess to resist fire. (Note: plants will eventually burn).

high salt content  
thick insulating bark.  
dense crowns.

fleshy or watery leaves  
lowest branches clear of the ground.

**Erosion control** – Some plants have attributes to help reduce erosion, through their root structure, absorption rate or plant size.

Root structure - Dense shallow fibrous roots through to the deeper-rooted trees will aid in binding/supporting soil structure.

Some plants absorb more water meaning there is less water to erode soils.

Groundcover plants protect the surface soils from wind and water.

**B, H/E, B/F, S/G** – These plants attract native birds, insects and animals, for nesting, nectar producing flowers and edible fruits.

**EVC – Ecological Vegetation Class** – This provides an overview of the plants that make up a specific landscape. Eg. Sand dunes, fern lined gullies, tall eucalypt forests, flood plain zones or grasslands.

For further detailed information contact the Environment Dept. at Colac Otway Shire 52 329 400.