

Garden for Wildlife

Local plants for native wildlife



Colac Otway
SHIRE

Acknowledgements: The Colac Otway Shire Council proudly acknowledges the Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples of the Eastern Maar Nation as the traditional custodians of the Colac Otway region.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their unique cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to their traditional lands, which continue to be important to them today and into the future.

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Introduction

Each of our gardens provides us with an opportunity to support the unique plants and animals of our local environments.

Colac Otway Shire has developed this booklet to help our residents to design and plant gardens - or even small patches of gardens - that will benefit local wildlife by providing food and shelter, as well as stepping stones so they can move freely across our landscapes.

Colac Otway Shire is one of Victoria's most environmentally significant areas. It includes the Otway Plain, the Otway

Ranges, large tracts of volcanic plains and part of the Warrnambool coastal plain. Each of these in turn contains distinct vegetation types that are important habitats for indigenous (or locally native) species. Maintaining and expanding these habitats is key to sustaining biodiversity, which is key to ensuring ecosystems remain healthy now and into the future.



Pink Bells *Tetratheca ciliata*

Habitat and biodiversity

Development and population growth, farmland clearance, introduced pests and weeds - together with the effects of bushfires and the impacts of a changing climate - are increasing pressure on native wildlife. As these threats increase, native animal habitat becomes more isolated and fragmented. This makes it difficult for wildlife to breed, forage, find shelter, and move across the landscape, resulting in a decline in species diversity and abundance.

Habitat

The environment where an animal naturally lives or occurs.

Biodiversity

The variety of plant and animal species in an environment, genetic difference within and between species, and differences between the ecological systems in which they live.

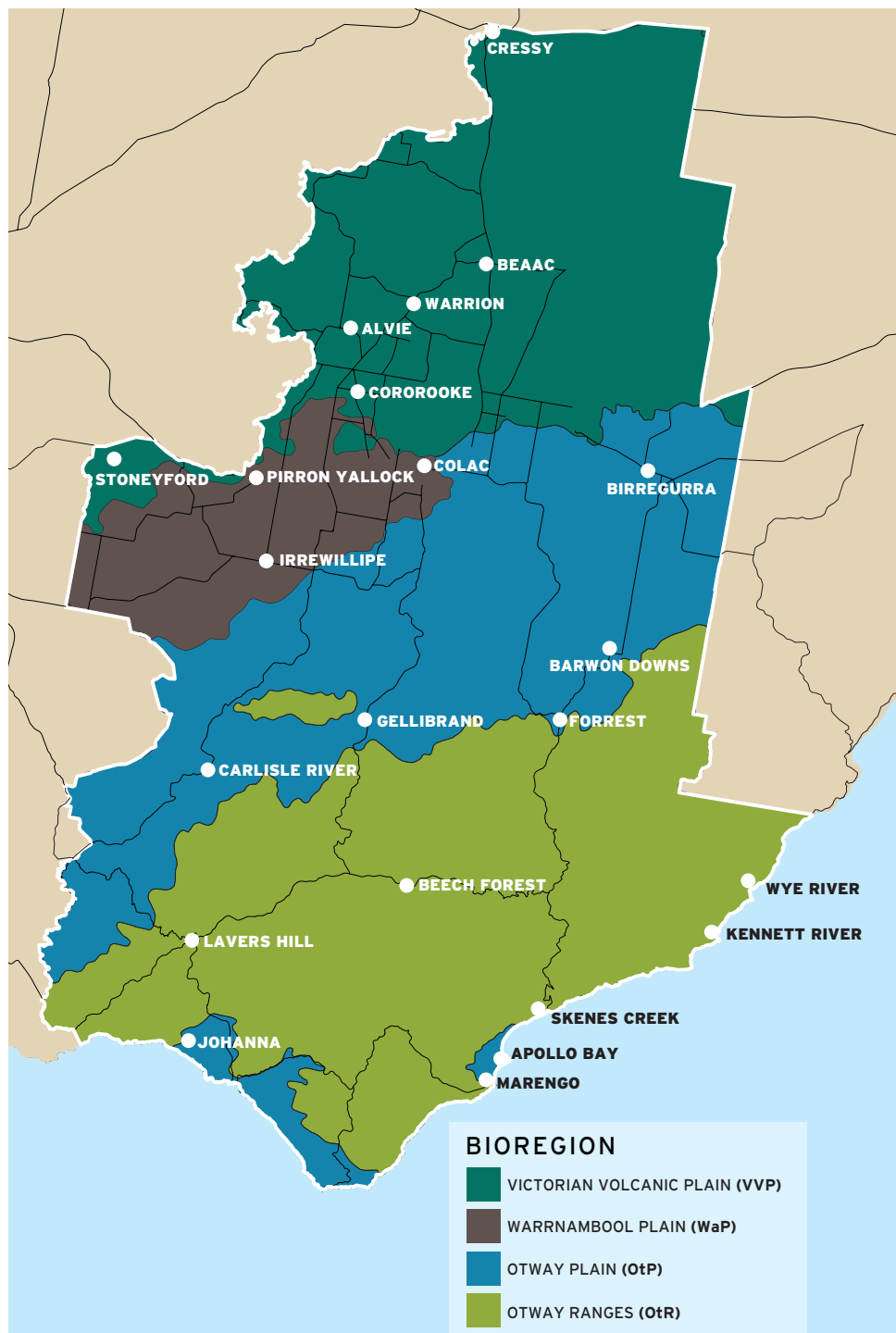
Indigenous plants:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects, and other animals
- require little maintenance to keep them looking healthy
- strengthen local wildlife corridors and so help wildlife cope with climate change
- reflect Colac Otway's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity and place
- contribute to the preservation of Colac Otway's natural biodiversity.

Indigenous or locally native plants are those that occur naturally in a given area, which means not only that they are well suited to local conditions but also that they have evolved alongside native wildlife and will therefore provide the best source of food and shelter for native animals. The greater the variety of indigenous plant species in the landscape, the more likely native wildlife is to thrive.

A sample selection of regionally local plants, the vegetation types in which they are found, and the benefits they provide to wildlife is featured in this guide.

An introduced plant is also commonly known as a weed. These plants can cause problems by outcompeting indigenous plants and providing harbour to introduced pest animal species. The Garden Escapees and Invaders section featured in this guide will help you to replace introduced plants with indigenous plants.



Our local environment

There are 54 different types of native vegetation in Colac Otway Shire. Detailed maps of where these types occur can be found using the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's online Naturekit tool. Using Naturekit, it is possible to identify the vegetation type/s (known as Ecological Vegetation Classes - EVCs) at a site-specific level.

Of these the main types are:

a) In the Otway Plains (OtP):

Lowland Forest and Heathy Woodland in the foothills and coastal plains and dunes, Grassy Woodland and Flood-plain Riparian Woodland in the flood-plains and swamps;

b) In the Otway Ranges (OtR):

Shrubby Wet Forest and Cool Temperate Rainforest on the higher slopes and Shrubby Foothill Forest on the lower slopes;

c) In the Warrnambool Plain (WaP):

Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland on flat or undulating areas, Lowland Forest in a wide variety of geology and soils and Estuarine Wetland in the inlets;

d) In the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP):

Plains Native Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland are now restricted to small areas of roadsides, the margins of lakes and small, scattered remnants on private land.

Some of these vegetation types are comparatively intact and well-protected - in particular, those within the Otway Ranges as over 50% of such vegetation is located in the Great Otway National Park. However, others like the Plains Native Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland, are classified as Endangered, with only 2.3% of the original Plains Grassy Woodland and less than 1.3% of Plains Native Grassland in the Victorian Volcanic Plains remaining. Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland and Estuarine Wetland are Endangered in the Warrnambool Coastal Plain and Lowland Forest is classified as Depleted.

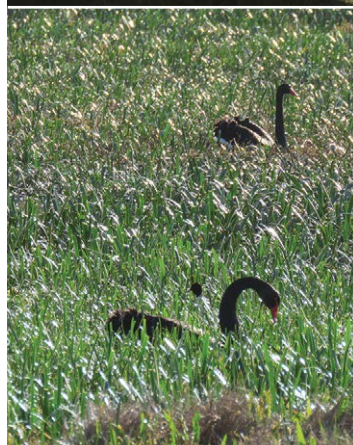
Local Gardens and reserves

One of the best ways to understand local plant communities, what certain native species look like and the conditions they thrive in, is to get out and observe them in their natural settings. The following are some examples of beautiful environmental reserves in Colac Otway Shire, and they represent diverse geographical and climatic areas within our region.



Lake Corangamite Nature Reserve

Lake Corangamite is the largest permanent salt-water lake in Australia, covering an area of over 23,000 hectares. It is Ramsar listed, which means it has been designated as a wetland of international significance, and the area provides habitat for a range of local and international rare and threatened species. The revegetated reserve and lake bed area, which for much of last century were used by the community as a swimming beach, make for a very interesting visit and a chance to spot the elusive, endangered Corangamite Water Skink.



Barongarook Creek & Lake Colac Bird Reserve

Barongarook Creek flows for approximately 13 kilometres into Lake Colac. Barongarook is derived from a Gulidjan word meaning 'running water', and the creek meets the lake at its southern shore, which is also where the Lake Colac Bird Reserve is located. A lot of work has been undertaken over recent years to restore the diverse vegetation that once naturally occurred along the creek line and lake foreshore, and during a visit to the area you are sure to see a vibrant mix of native plants flourishing and many birds feeding and nesting in the wetland.



Barongarook Conservation Reserve

Barongarook Conservation Reserve is a beautiful area for nature observation, and includes a section of the Old Beechy Rail Trail, which runs from Colac to Beech Forest. The reserve contains a number of rare and threatened species, both plants and animals, and because of its environmental values it is covered by a Trust for Nature conservation covenant, which is a legally binding protection over the site. The reserve also contains habitat for the Rufous Bristlebird and the Grey Goshawk.



Lake Elizabeth

Lake Elizabeth, accessible from the town of Forrest, is an interesting example of a 'perched lake', which formed when the valley flooded more than 50 years ago. Dense canopies of tall eucalypts and giant tree ferns surround the lake, and its calm waters are punctuated by the trunks of many dead trees that drowned when the lake was formed. Platypus sightings are a relatively common treat for visitors to Lake Elizabeth.



Paradise Picnic Reserve

Paradise Picnic Reserve is a tranquil site on the edge of the Barham River, 7 kilometres from Apollo Bay. It is a beautiful place to experience a large canopy of the ancient giant tree ferns for which the Otways are so famous. An evening trip to the reserve frequently rewards visitors with a stunning glow worm display.



Marengo Flora Reserve

Marengo Flora Reserve is an important local remnant of several types of vegetation that are now rare in the Apollo Bay area, including coastal damp heath scrub and riverside woodland. The site is very diverse and a walk along the meandering trails will take you from areas where the vegetation is dense and damp to open, sandy spaces where tiny native flowers – including a range of orchids – are abundant. The reserve is known to be home to the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Our unique wildlife

The following species, some of which are struggling to survive the impacts of urbanisation, may be attracted to your garden.



Corangamite Water Skink
Eulamprus tympanum

Conservation Status: Critically endangered.
Habitat: Basalt rocks next to wetlands.
Diet: Mainly invertebrates.
Threats: Removal of rocks. Wetland drainage. Cats and foxes.



Fat-tailed Dunnart
Sminthopsis crassicaudata

Conservation status: Near threatened.
Habitat: Open woodland and shrubland. Cracking clay soils of the volcanic plains.
Diet: Invertebrates such as beetles, spiders and worms.
Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes. Mouse traps.



Gang-gang Cockatoo
Callocephalon fimbriatum

Conservation status: Not threatened.
Habitat: Forest and woodlands.
Diet: Mainly seeds, but also fruit, berries and insects.
Threats: Habitat loss. Aggressive pest birds.



Golden Sun Moth
Synemon plana

Conservation Status: Critically endangered.
Habitat: Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands.
Diet: Larvae feed on roots of Wallaby Grass. Adults do not feed.
Threats: Loss of Wallaby Grass habitat.



Growling Grass Frog
Litoria raniformis

Conservation Status: Endangered.
Habitat: Summer – still or slow-moving water with aquatic plants; winter – under rocks and logs away from water.
Diet: Mainly invertebrates.
Threats: Habitat loss including wetland drainage. Pesticides. Cats and foxes.



Little Galaxias
Galaxiella toourtkoourt

Conservation Status: Endangered.
Habitat: Shallow, slow-moving water.
Diet: Zooplankton.
Threats: Habitat destruction. Introduced fish.



Otway Black Snail
Victaphanta compacta

Conservation Status: Endangered.
Habitat: Wet forest and cool temperate rainforest.
Diet: Other snails, slugs and worms.
Threats: Habitat loss. Drought. Bushfire.



Powerful Owl
Ninox strenua

Conservation Status: Vulnerable.

Habitat: Forests and woodlands.

Diet: Mainly tree-dwelling marsupials and roosting birds.

Threats: Habitat loss, especially of large tree hollows.



White-fronted Tern
Sterna striata

Conservation Status: Near threatened.

Habitat: Coastal seas, rocky and sandy beaches.

Diet: Fish.

Threats: Disturbance of nest sites. Cats, dogs and foxes.



Southern Brown Bandicoot
Isodon obesulus obesulus

Conservation Status: Near threatened.

Habitat: Open forest, heathland.

Diet: Invertebrates, plant roots, ferns and fungi.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats and foxes. Vehicle collisions.



Spot-tailed Quoll
Dasyurus maculatus

Conservation Status: Endangered.

Habitat: Wet eucalypt forests.

Diet: Small and medium-sized mammals.

Threats: Habitat loss. Cats, dogs and foxes. Vehicle collisions.

How to live with wildlife

Common Brushtail and Ringtail possums have adapted very well to urban life! As their natural homes have been removed, they have relocated into our roof spaces and nest in our gardens.

How to keep possums out:

- Plant indigenous flowering shrubs and trees to provide food and nesting sites.
- Block any entry points to your roof space.
- If feasible, keep lights on at night around their nest and any entry points.
- Use tree guards or wire covers to protect young plants.
- Use adjustable collars (strips of hard plastic or soft metal) around tree trunks to stop possums climbing up trees next to your house.
- Possums are protected native animals. Fines and penalties apply for harming them.

How to protect gum trees from koalas:

Koalas usually move on from feeding in a tree after 2-3 days. If you believe a gum tree in your garden needs some recovery time from koala feeding consider using an adjustable collar around the trunk of the tree until it has recovered.



Common Ringtail Possum (SM)



Common Brushtail Possum (NL)



Koala

Sick or injured wildlife

Prevention

Wildlife can suffer from heat stress too. On days of extreme heat you can help wildlife by placing bowls of water in your garden and watering sections of your garden to create cool areas.

Planting a wildlife garden will encourage native animals to browse for their natural food in your garden, but wildlife does not benefit from being fed commercial food. In many situations it can make them sick. Artificial nectar feeders can ferment and make birds ill. Birds can become dependent on an artificial food supply and fail to eat a wide range of natural food types. Animals that expect to be fed by humans can also become quite aggressive and demanding. Prevent wildlife from eating your pet's food by feeding your pet inside or within a fully enclosed pen.

Domestic cats and dogs are one of the main threats to our native wildlife. Reduce this threat by

keeping all your pets inside at night. For tips on how to keep your cat safe and happy at home visit: safecat.org.au.

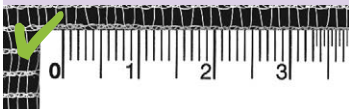
Expert help

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, immediately call for assistance. Do not try to unnecessarily handle the animal. Always treat wildlife with caution, especially when they are distressed or injured. They may react unpredictably, carry disease and can be dangerous. Wherever possible, wait for an experienced/qualified person to arrive. Stress can kill wildlife. If you do move it, keep the animal in a dark and quiet box and do not attempt to give it any food or water.

Be prepared in case you find injured wildlife. Add Wildlife Victoria's emergency phone number to your phone contacts.

(03) 8400 7300.

If you use netting choose a densely woven net with a mesh size less than 5mm².



Rescued baby Sugar Glider

Garden Design

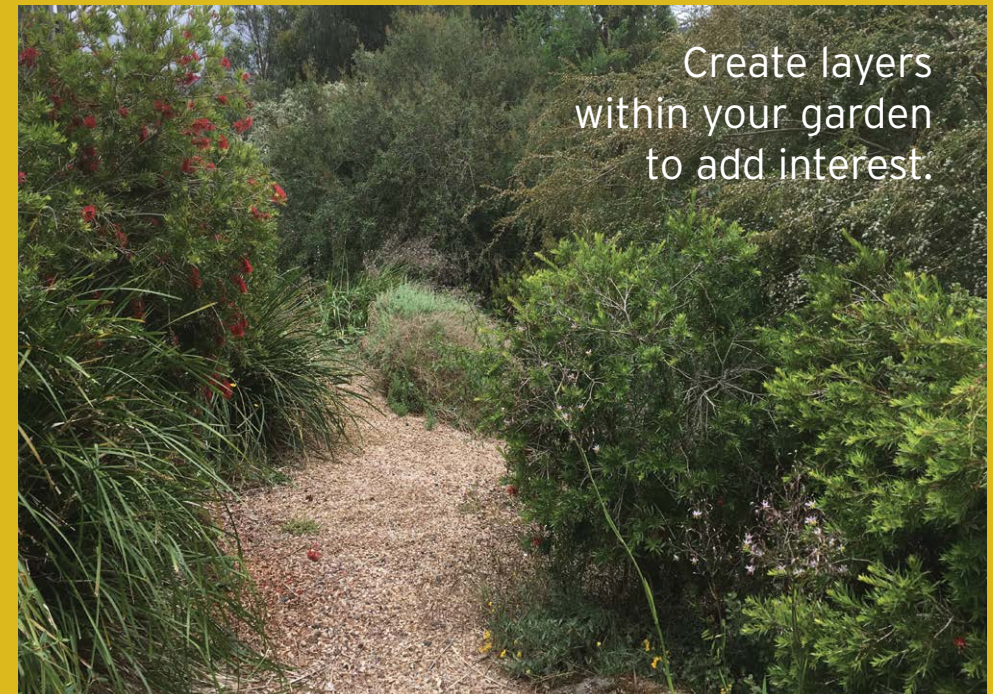
Creating your indigenous garden

Whether you are designing a new garden or wanting to enhance an existing garden bed to be more enticing for wildlife, one of the best things you can do is observe your garden for a year. This will provide an accurate picture of light, shade and moisture variation through all the seasons. Pay attention also to your local environment and what plants thrive under local climate and soil conditions.

The starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis of your garden. Draw a rough mudmap of your site

marking the areas exposed to the hot sun and northerly winds or heavily shaded sites. This will influence what plants are appropriate for different sections of your garden and what wildlife you hope to attract.

It is important to work with your site. If you know a section of your garden is shady and damp, select plants that are suited to those conditions, such as frog attracting species, rather than trying to change the site.



Create layers within your garden to add interest.

Design Elements

There are no hard and fast rules with designing a garden for wildlife, other than trying to mimic some natural conditions. Local wildlife will generally benefit most from indigenous plants, but your garden doesn't need to be exclusively indigenous.

Gardens for wildlife can be designed in different styles - they can be formal, a riot of colour in a cottage style, or an informal natural look.

Consider how you use your garden and incorporate elements such as a shady seat where you can sit and watch birds and butterflies.

Include feature elements such as a striking tree, a swathe of tussock grasses or a frog pond to create interest as well as habitat.

Consider the flowering times of different plant species and aim to have a year supply of colour and food for wildlife.

Include habitat elements such as bird baths near prickly shrubs for protection, large flat rocks for lizards to warm up or a pond with refuge logs for frogs.

Consider the growing requirements of each plant species and group together those with similar requirements for water and light to maximise efficiency of water use.

Ensure you are aware of the mature size of your plants to avoid ending up with a 60m gum tree towering over your house!

If you are considering changing your garden quite a bit, a planned approach is important. Blitzing a garden may result in wildlife abandoning your garden for years, or being exposed and preyed upon if the intact vegetation is removed too quickly. Better to adopt a staged approach with patches of intact vegetation progressively replaced with new plants.

Before you start to plan your new garden remember to look up for powerlines and check for services below ground. It may be a wasted effort to plant extensively in easements where access for maintenance and other works may be required.

Habitat Gardening

Native animals need food, water and shelter for their populations to survive. Each species has particular habitat needs. The following are some important factors to include when creating your garden for wildlife.

Food

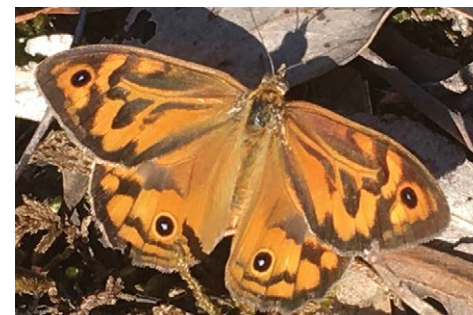
Plants that produce nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds, leaves and roots provide food for many of our native animals. Dead plant material can also be a source of food. Insects that live and feed on the plants, mulch and soil in turn provide food for birds, lizards, frogs, mammals and other invertebrates.



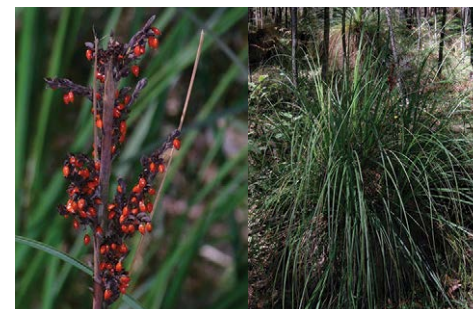
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (NB)

Host plants

Some insects, such as butterflies, only lay their eggs on certain plants known as host plants. Most native caterpillars are small, shy and nocturnal leaving little evidence of their presence in your garden. If you want butterflies to visit your garden, include host plants such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) for Common Brown Butterflies or Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum* species) for Australian Painted Lady Butterflies.



Common Brown Butterfly



Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*)



Short-beaked Echidna



Striated Thornbill



Eastern Yellow Robin on nest (NB)

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will help attract wildlife to your garden. A shallow birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help protect birds from predators while they bathe and drink. Frogs need a permanent or semi-permanent water source to keep their skin moist and provide opportunities to breed. Butterflies love to gather on a wide dish of damp sand or a small puddle in the soil. They take in water and essential salts and minerals from the soil. A shallow dish of water at ground level will provide a much needed drink for echidnas and lizards on a hot day.

Shelter

Native wildlife needs to find shelter from bad weather, predators and competitors. They need a refuge in which to build their homes and raise their young.

Grasses, climbers, dense and prickly shrubs and mature trees can provide protection for a large range of insect, reptile, frog, bird and mammal species. Birds need spiderwebs, grass and small branches for nest-building. Small mammals, reptiles, frogs and insects need logs for shelter and protection. Refer to page 18 for information on tree hollows.

Layers

A key to creating a garden for wildlife is to create structural diversity – lots of plants and lots of different layers. Aim to create a mix of trees, shrubs of varying height, grasses and groundcovers.

Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native wildlife. Likewise a few logs, rocks, sticks, mulch and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

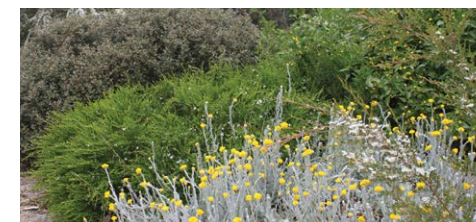
Note that logs and rocks should not be sourced from local bushland where they are already providing habitat. If you live in a bushfire-prone area consider locating logs some distance from your house.

Diversity

A wide variety of different plants helps to provide a range of habitats, shelter and food sources for different wildlife.

A healthy balance of different predator and prey species means that no one type of creature will get out of control and become a pest problem.

Aim to achieve a mixture of different plant heights, foliage densities (including open areas), plant surfaces (i.e. leaves and bark) and a range of species that flower throughout the year to provide a consistent supply of food.



Layered garden

Mess is good!

Garden layers



TREES

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, bats goannas and insects.

SMALL TREES AND LARGE SHRUBS

Habitat for birds, possums, gliders, goannas and insects.

SMALL SHRUBS

Provide food and shelter for birds, possums, gliders, lizards and insects.

GRASSES AND GROUNDCOVERS

Provide food and shelter for birds, lizards, frogs and insects.

LOGS, MULCH AND ROCKS

Provides habitat for lizards, frogs and insects.

Importance of trees

Trees are a vital and abundant habitat for wildlife above and below ground. Whether you already have established large trees or you are planning to plant one or two be sure to care for them by not compressing their root area, which extends out to the drip line from the very edges of their branches, with heavy materials like wood stacks. Design your garden with the size of the mature tree in mind, planting away from infrastructure, pipes, powerlines and boundary fences. Looking after your tree will help maintain a healthy, long-lived plant. Particularly in the first 3-5 years, your tree will benefit from regular pruning of any diseased branches or deadwood.

Tree hollows

Trees with hollows and the animals that depend on them are disappearing. Natural tree hollows are valuable and essential for the survival of many wildlife species. They provide refuge from the weather and predators, and safe sites for roosting and breeding. Destroying living or dead hollow-bearing trees displaces or kills wildlife dependant on those hollows.

Introduced tree species such as willow and pine do not produce hollows. Most eucalyptus species produce natural tree hollows. Only old trees have hollows. As they fall and die or are cleared, they can not be replaced without 100 or more years of growth, maturity and decay.



Avoid removing any established trees that contain hollows. They are essential for shelter and breeding for many birds such as parrots, treecreepers, kingfishers and owls. Mammals such as microbats, gliders, antechinus and phascogale also need hollows to survive.

Barn Owl

Bushfire and waterways

Most of the Colac Otway Shire, except for urban areas, is Bushfire Prone. With careful garden design and plant selection you can provide wildlife habitat and reduce the risk of bushfire or grassfire impacting your assets.

If you live in a bushfire/grassfire prone area, you may wish to consider siting your habitat garden away from buildings - with separation such as a managed lawn, a non-flammable gravel pathway or a paved or stone area.

Features conducive to wildlife habitat, such as continuity and complexity of vegetation, need to be modified near your house and other infrastructure to reduce the risk of fire.

Consider designing this area with;

- reduced leaf litter and fine fuels,
- low connectivity of vegetation - clumps rather than continuous plants,
- fewer 'middle storey' plants,
- less flammable species,
- no vegetation touching or overhanging your house.

This area may still provide some habitat and food for wildlife. Strategically placed trees can provide shelter and food, and rocky features can be habitat for reptiles and small creatures. There are bushfire design requirements for your garden if live in an area with a Bushfire Management Overlay.

Useful Publications

Landscaping for Bushfire (cfa.vic.gov.au), *Landscaping your Coastal Garden for Bushfire* (colacotway.vic.gov.au/Environment-Sustainability/ Trees and Vegetation)

Tips for Gardening up to a Waterway

If you have a garden that includes a waterway such as a river or creek, or even a drain that flows into a waterway, here are some tips to protect the banks, the water quality and the aquatic life:

- Avoid bare areas of banks and wide paths right to the water's edge.
- Before manually removing weeds from the bank, plant replacement plants to reduce exposing the bank to erosion risk.
- When planting on a bank research the 'long-stem' planting technique for areas below the flood line to anchor seedlings into the bank.
- Young seedlings may require staking and guarding to protect them from browsing wildlife, however any type of plastic guards should be avoided to minimise the chance of plastic entering the waterway.
- Plant a deep buffer of plants beside the waterway (10-20m recommended) to provide a natural filter for runoff water before it enters the waterway.
- Do not use chemicals such as herbicides within 10m of the bank to avoid polluting the waterway.

Healthy soils

The health of your soil is critical for the growth of your plants, the diversity of organisms living within the soil and the attraction of wildlife to your garden. It is important to protect your soil from erosion by ensuring there are no bare patches of soil, run-off is controlled and your garden beds are mulched.

Colac Otway soils vary from the clay soil of the Volcanic Plains to the clay loam of the Otway Ranges to the sandier soil of the coast and west of the Shire. To determine the soil type/s across your garden conduct simple soil type tests.

If you have a clay soil that is holding too much water or dries out in summer to be very hard, add a dusting of gypsum and organic matter such as aged animal manure and compost.

A potential problem with sandy soils is that once they have dried out they can become water repellent - water will bead on the surface rather than soaking in. To improve a sandy soil, regularly apply organic matter and mulch.

To improve loam soils, apply leaf litter and mulch. This will replenish nutrients taken up by your plants.



Simple soil test

To work out your garden soil type simply take a handful of slightly moist soil and squeeze it. If it forms a smooth ball, it's a clay soil. If it does not hold form and simply falls apart, it's a sandy soil. If it roughly holds together, but falls apart readily when squeezed, it's a loam soil.



Clay soil

For butterflies

Butterflies will move over large distances to find nectar-producing plants (e.g. daisies, banksias and wattles) to feed on and host plants to lay their eggs (e.g. grasses, wattles and Bursaria).

Recipe:

- Incorporate a range of plant sizes that cater for butterflies that fly at various heights, as different species will fly around grasses, groundcovers, shrubs or mature trees.
- Add a dish of damp sand. Butterflies take in water and essential salts and minerals from the soil.
- Include a flat rock or paver for butterflies to bask in the morning sun.
- Butterflies are not strong fliers. Provide protected areas where they can shelter from wind and rain. Messy patches are great!
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Plant a range of host plants for different butterflies to lay their eggs (for example, Red-fruit Saw-sedge for Sword-grass Brown butterflies, Everlasting Daisies for Dainty Swallowtail butterflies).

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat



Dainty Swallowtail (AA)



Magpie Moth



Meadow Argus Butterfly (IM)



Butterflies

Look for the butterfly icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38-64) for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

For invertebrate pollinators



Chequered Cuckoo-bee



Hover fly on Bulbine Lily



Fiddler Beetle

A wide range of invertebrates, as well as some birds and mammals, are important plant pollinators. Pollinator insects include many species of bees, flies, hover flies, moths, wasps, butterflies, beetles, thrips and some ants.

Recipe:

- Provide water that is accessible for invertebrates that can't swim (they need to stand on the edge, a plant or floating material).
- Leave some messy patches in your garden.
- Use bush mulch on your garden beds (pg 36).
- Practice natural pest control (pg 37).
- Add a 'bee hotel'.
- Plant grasses and rushes for egg-laying pollinators. Examples include Kangaroo Grass, mat-rush and flax-lily.
- Plant a range of different plants that flower across the seasons.

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat



Invertebrate pollinators

Look for the bee icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for invertebrate pollinators.

For honeyeaters



Eastern Spinebill (NB)



New Holland Honeyeater (NB)



White-plumed Honeyeater (NB)

Honeyeaters are very active birds that need a rich supply of nectar and pollen-producing flowers to keep them fuelled. They have a brush-tongue they use to collect nectar and pollen. Honeyeaters can be protective of a good supply of food and quite aggressive towards other nectar feeders. They also need insects in their diet so, despite their name, don't be surprised if you see them snapping at some bugs.

Recipe:

- Include a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated safe position for bathing and drinking.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Plant dense or prickly small and large shrubs for protection and safe nest sites.
- Plant a range of nectar-producing plants that flower across the seasons.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Honeyeaters

Look for the honeyeater icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for honeyeaters.

For small birds

Small birds help control insects, recycle nutrients and disperse seeds. Birds such as pardalotes, robins, wrens, fantails and thornbills feed on insects. Finches and silvereyes feed on berries and seeds.

Recipe:

- Provide a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated position near a prickly or dense shrub.
- Create open areas for foraging.
- Mulch garden beds to attract tasty insect treats.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Plant dense or prickly shrubs for protection and safe nest sites.
- Prune shrubs to create a denser form.
- Plant a range of plants including prickly wattles, tea-trees, correas grasses and climbers.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Small birds

Look for the small bird icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for small birds.



Red-browed Finch



Superb Fairy-wren (RH)



Spotted Pardalote

For parrots

Parrots feed on a wide variety of plants. Nectar-feeders such as the Musk and Rainbow Lorikeet have a brush-tongue to collect nectar and pollen. Seed-eaters such as Red-rumped Parrot, Galahs, Rosellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos feed on wattles, banksias, eucalypts and grasses. Long-billed Corellas dig in the ground for tubers. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos love to find grubs hiding under tree bark and crack open seed pods and wooden fruits to extract seed and insects.

Recipe:

- Include a source of fresh water, especially for the seed-eating parrots that become very thirsty.
- Plant a range of nectar, pollen and seed-producing plants.
- Add a tall tree for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows for birds to nest in.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides
- Lack of nesting hollows



Crimson Rosella (NB)



Musk Lorikeet (IM)



Red-rumped Parrot



Parrots

Look for the parrot icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for parrots.

For large birds



Laughing Kookaburra



Grey Butcherbird (NB)



Tawny Frogmouth (IM)

Birds such as Tawny Frogmouths, magpies, owls, eagles, Laughing Kookaburras and butcherbirds are carnivorous and feed on small mammals, lizards and large insects. A few large birds, such as the Common Bronzewing and Crested Pigeon are seed-eaters that mainly feed on grass seeds.

Recipe:

- Provide a source of fresh water for birds to bathe in and drink.
- Include a few tall trees for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows for larger birds.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Other carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides
- Lack of nesting hollows



Large birds

Look for the large bird icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for large birds.

For bats



Grey-headed Flying-fox (IM)



Gould's Wattled Bat (JB)



Little Forest Bat (CL)



Lesser Long-eared Bat (JB)

Megabats such as the Grey-headed Flying-fox fly out at night in search of pollen and nectar from eucalyptus flowers. Little microbats, such as Lesser Long-eared Bat enjoy a feast of insects. The Little Forest Bat is known to eat around 1,000 mosquitoes in one night! Some microbats fly above the trees catching insects, while others fly close to the ground to feed.

Recipe:

- Provide a safe roost to sleep during the day and winter. Large, old trees with hollows or loose bark are ideal.
- Set up a loose pile of rocks for the Lesser Long-eared Bat that roosts on the ground.
- Practice natural pest control (pg 37).
- Add mulch to your garden to encourage insects.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Bats

Look for the bat icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for bats.

For reptiles

Blue-tongue Lizards, Marbled Geckos and little Garden Skinks generally prefer to snack on insects, but are opportunists that will also eat berries and seed. Avoid using snail baits, even pet-friendly ones can harm wildlife. Many a Blue-tongue Lizard has unfortunately died after eating either the snail bait or the dead snails.

Recipe:

- Provide flat rocks or pavers in a protected, sunny spot to warm up.
- Mulch garden beds to attract insects to eat.
- Practise natural pest control (pg 37).
- Include a fresh, shallow water supply on the ground.
- Plant tussocky grasses for protection.
- Provide cool shelter such as dense shrubs.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Reptiles

Look for the lizard icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for lizards, skinks and geckos.



Marbled Gecko (JB)



Blue-tongue Lizard

Snakes

As the weather warms up snakes may appear in open spaces, parks and even our own gardens, usually in search of water, food or somewhere to hide.

If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and slowly walk away. If you see a snake on your property it's safest to have it taken away by a professional wildlife controller.



Tiger Snake (LL)

For frogs

Frogs need water to lay their eggs and for tadpoles to grow into frogs. Tadpoles feed on algae and decaying vegetable matter. Frogs spend their non-breeding life away from water and eat insects. They are very quiet during this time.

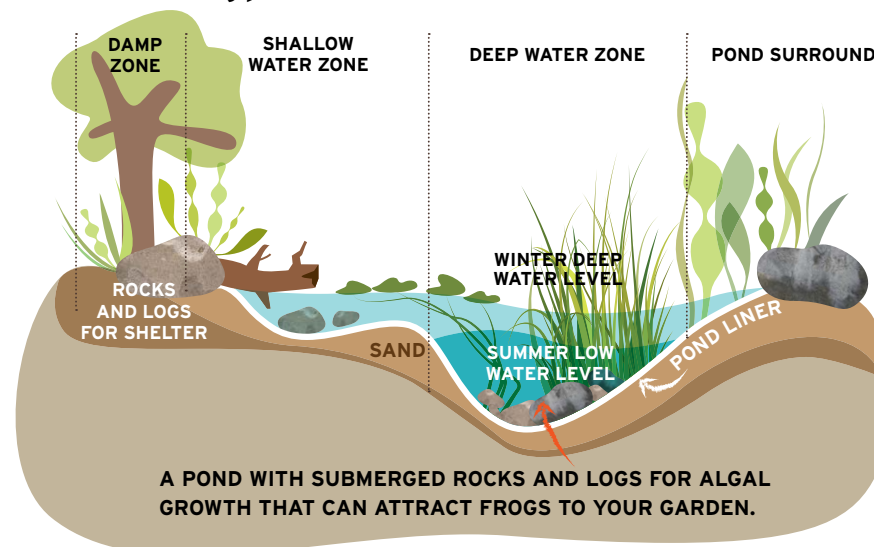
You have two options for attracting frogs to your garden. One is to build a frog pond that will attract breeding frogs to sing their chorus to attract a mate and lay their eggs. The second option if you have a moist, shady area in your garden is to create a Frog Hideaway for non-breeding frogs to burrow under a log or mulch and quietly hop about feeding.

Refer to the aquatic and semi-aquatic plant category in the Local Plant Selection section for appropriate plants (pp 38-64).

Recipe for a frog pond:

- Locate your pond in a low-lying section of your garden that has 70 per cent shade.
- Avoid locating your frog pond under deciduous trees that drop leaves.
- Include shallow entry points and deeper sections for potted aquatic plants.
- Add rocks and logs and cover the bottom with gravel.
- Fill with rainwater or tap water (chlorinated tap water needs to stand for five days).
- Add a variety of native aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, and plant species on the pond edges that thrive in moist soil.
- Keep your pets inside at night and prevent cats from entering your pond.
- Avoid pumps and do not add fish.

Cross-section of frog pond



For frogs (continued)

Recipe for a Frog Hideaway:

- Find a moist, shady area in a quiet part of your garden.
- Provide shelter such as hollow logs with holes, loose bark or rocks.
- Plant lots of groundcovers, grasses and small shrubs.
- Add chunky wood-based mulch.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Pobblebonk (NF)



Striped Marsh Frog (IM)

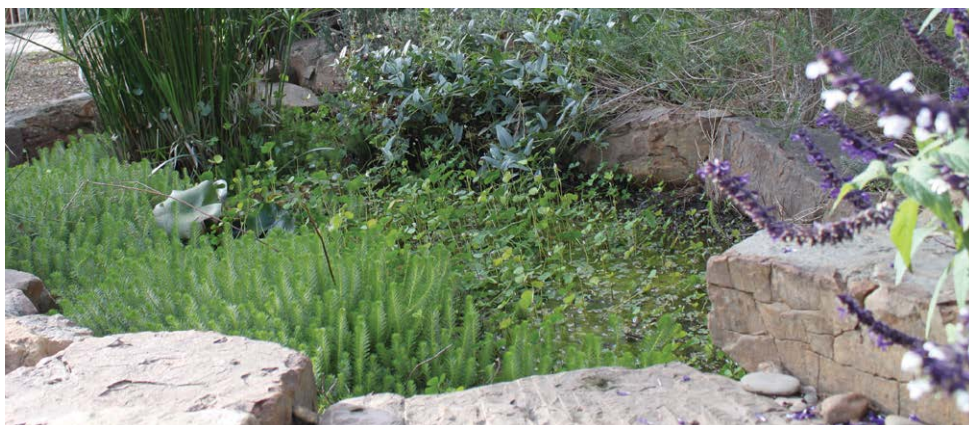


Frogs

Look for the frog icon in the Local Plant Selection section (pp 38 - 64) for plants that provide food and shelter for frogs.



Spotted Marsh Frog (JB)



A garden frog pond.

Planting and maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

PLANT SELECTION | SITE PREPARATION | PLANTING TECHNIQUE | MAINTENANCE

Plant selection

When it comes to selecting indigenous plants for your garden always consider which species are most appropriate for your site.

For example, a Swamp Gum is well suited for planting in a gully but would not do well if planted on a dry hilltop. To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature. If they are not carefully selected and positioned, large trees may shade out sun-loving plants underneath them, impact nearby buildings or plumbing with their vigorous roots, or create

problems with leaves dropping into gutters.

When choosing plants from a nursery, remember that tall plants in larger pots will not necessarily give you better results. Tubestock (plants in 15cm tall plastic tubes) will generally catch up with and outgrow larger, more mature stock. They are not only cheaper, but easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

For information on plants which are local to the Colac Otway region refer to pages 38-64.

Site preparation

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

Weeds

Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance. Hand-weed any pest plants from the site. Avoid spraying the weeds with chemicals as they can build up in the soil and are harmful to soil organisms and all wildlife within the food chain.

Pre-planting mulch

Good quality mulch should be spread over your garden to a minimum depth of 10cm prior to planting. Water your soil before laying mulch.

Covering the soil surface with mulch can improve soil structure, nutrient availability and water retention, and prevent future weed growth. Check if there is any existing indigenous vegetation to ensure you do not mulch over the top of it.

Ensure that the mulch you select is made from a sustainable resource. Chipped waste wood and green waste mulches are generally a good option. Always ensure that any green waste has been well composted before use to kill any weed seeds that may be present.

Mulch improves soil and helps to prevent weed growth.

Stakes and guards

A plant will grow with greater strength if it is not tied to a stake. When a plant is blown around by the wind, plant hormones are released by this movement creating a stronger plant. Most plants only need to be staked if they are in danger of toppling over. If staking is required, ensure that the ties allow for some movement. Ensure the ties do not ringbark the plant as it grows.

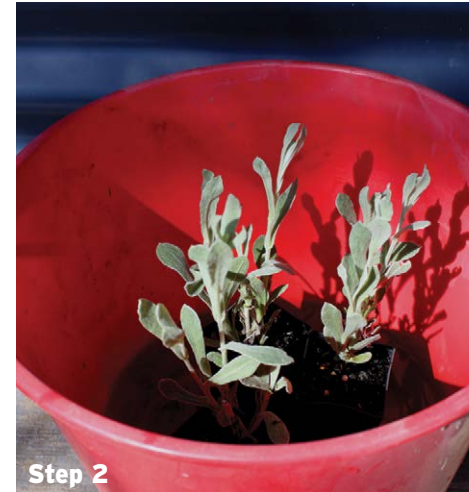
Young plants may need protection from wildlife. Position three stakes in a triangular formation and add a guard.

Plastic guards should be avoided around waterways or exposed, windy sites as they can become a litter problem. Consider instead biodegradable guards. Remove the guard once the plant is producing lots of new growth, generally after two years.

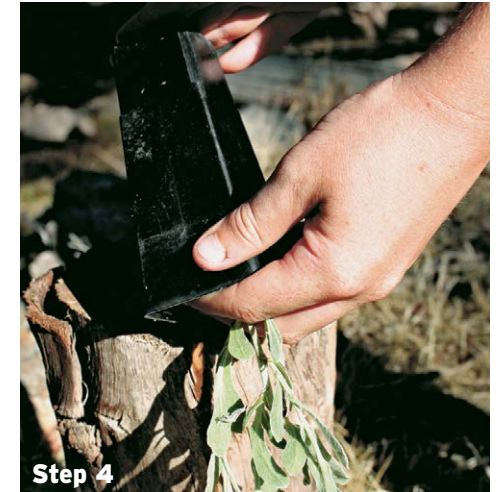


Planting technique

Once your site is well prepared you can begin planting. Generally, planting after the first heavy autumn rain is the best time for dry or exposed sites. For frost-prone or very wet areas, spring may be a more appropriate time for planting. Try to avoid any planting during the summer period.



Step 2



Step 4

Step 1 Prepare the planting

The hole should be approximately twice the width of the plant container and slightly deeper. Remember to dig the hole into the soil below the mulch – if you plant straight into the mulch your plant will dry out and die.

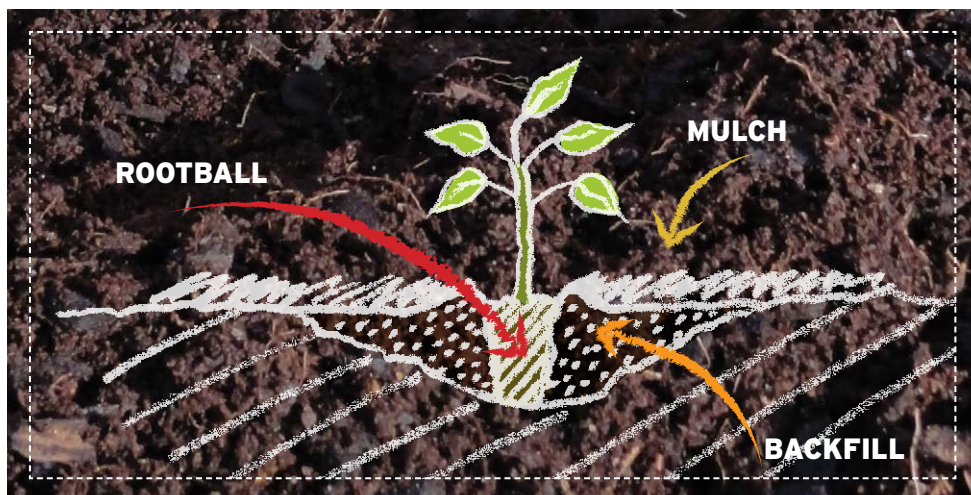
Step 2 Pre-soaking

Give your plants a thorough pre-soaking in a bucket of water prior to planting. In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.



Step 3 Prepare the plant

Any particularly long or coiled roots protruding through the bottom of the pot can be pruned with sharp secateurs before removing the plant from the pot. Plants tolerate some root disturbance, but be careful not to damage living roots.



Step 4 Remove the plant from pot

This is best achieved by turning the pot upside down and striking the rim gently against a solid object. When planting good quality tubestock, it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots.

Step 5 Place the plant

Place the plant a little lower than the original soil level. Firmly replace the soil around the plant, breaking up any lumps as you go. Fashion a circle of raised soil to create a watering basin.

Step 6 Water the plant in well

Water the plant in well. Initially all plants need to be watered individually to settle soil around the root system. Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing, particularly during dry periods.

Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing.

Sustainable products

Buying furniture, pots, timber and pebbles for the garden can have an impact on the natural environment. For example, River Red Gum trees grow in woodlands which are part of an intricate ecosystem that supports a wealth of native wildlife. They are a slow-growing tree that lives for more than 500 years. Avoiding Red Gum products, such as sleepers, tomato stakes and posts will help preserve our valuable River Red Gum ecosystems.

There are a number of ways you can reduce your environmental footprint:

1. Use natural products.

- Collect seeds and cuttings from your garden to propagate new plants.
- Use fallen branches and trees on your property as garden borders or seats.

2. Reuse materials.

- Reuse pavers, bricks, pots, garden stakes and guards.
- Repurpose materials to create bird baths and garden art.

3. Source recycled materials.

- Consider garden furniture, decking, posts, sleepers and stakes made from recycled plastic and waste timber.

4. Buy sustainably sourced new products.

- If you cannot source recycled timber buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timbers. Visit: positivefootprints.com.au/assets/files/good-wood-guide
- Use small amounts of quarried rocks that have been tumbled rather than river stones.

- Buy locally produced gas-fired ceramic pots that have a lower environmental impact compared to overseas pots that have been wood or coal fired.
- Consider solar pumps for garden water features.

5. Never take material from the bush, beach or natural environment.

- Removing natural material from the environment alters the habitat for numerous animals.

Birdbath made from recycled metal (LS)



Maintenance

Gardens planted with indigenous plants generally require less maintenance than gardens planted with introduced plants.

Watering

- Sections of Colac Otway Shire can get very wet. Ensure you select the appropriate plants for boggy patches.
- Indigenous plants generally need less water than introduced plants.
- Water in the evening or early morning to prevent water evaporating before it reaches your plant roots.
- Give your plants a slow, deep water at a rate that the soil can absorb the water.

Mulch

Top up your mulch as it breaks down. This will vary with climate, but is generally once a year in early summer.

Don't mulch right up to the stem of your plants as this can cause diseases such as collar rot.

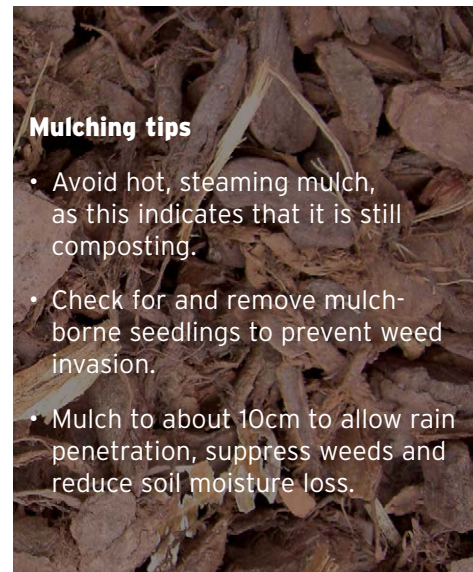
Avoid bark mulch that is too fresh (e.g. recently chipped branches) as it depletes the soil of nitrogen as it breaks down causing nitrogen drawdown and your plants look a bit yellow.

Mulch conserves water, reduces weeds, helps keep the soil temperature even, adds nutrients and creates habitat!

Bush mulch is ideal for a native garden. When spread on your garden it will create a natural leaf litter look and provide habitat for insects and lizards to shelter and feed. It is low in nutrients and preferable for indigenous plants.

Also avoid using very fine mulch or grass clippings as a mulch as they tend to mat together forming an impenetrable layer. Better to compost your clippings.

Generally for an indigenous garden, bush mulch, which is a mix of coarse and fine particles, or a chunky-sized mulch is best.



Mulching tips

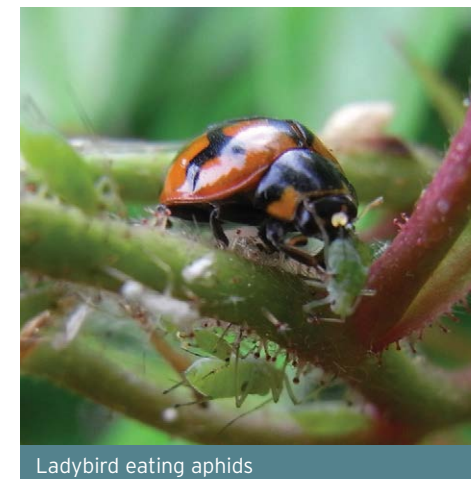
- Avoid hot, steaming mulch, as this indicates that it is still composting.
- Check for and remove mulch-borne seedlings to prevent weed invasion.
- Mulch to about 10cm to allow rain penetration, suppress weeds and reduce soil moisture loss.

Non-chemical pest control

Herbicides and pesticides may harm our garden, and can enter our stormwater systems, where they pollute local waterways and harm plants and wildlife. By using non-chemical pest control we create healthier habitats.

Consider:

- checking your garden regularly for pests.
- attracting predatory animals to your garden. Not only do birds, bats, frogs and lizards eat pest insects, but so do ladybirds, praying mantis, hover flies and dragonflies. Refer to page 22 for details.
- removing pests by hand or spraying with a jet of water.
- trying home remedies such as linseed oil in a shallow dish to catch earwigs.
- Spraying pest infestations (such as white fly, scale, mites and aphids) with a botanical oil or natural soap.



Ladybird eating aphids

Fertiliser

Indigenous plants generally do not require fertilising as they have adapted to suit local soils. A good mulch will slowly break down and add nutrients to the soil. If you do fertilise your indigenous plants, there are commercial products available for native plants that are slow-release and low in phosphate.

INVOLVE THE KIDS



Gardening is a great activity for children to have fun, learn new skills and spend quality time with family. Garden spaces big and small are a perfect outdoor play space.

Local Plant Selection

The following section contains an explanation of the different plant categories and descriptions of 75 plant species indigenous to the Colac Otway region and the local wildlife they support.

THE FOLLOWING FAUNA KEY INDICATES WILDLIFE THAT MAY BE ATTRACTED TO DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES IN YOUR GARDEN.



Butterflies such as Australian Painted Lady and Sword-grass Brown Butterflies.



Large birds such as owls, kookaburras, butcherbirds and magpies.



Invertebrate pollinators such as native bees, wasps, hover flies and ants.



Reptiles such as skinks, geckos and goannas.



Small birds such as wrens, robins and fantails.



Frogs such as Pobblebonk and Spotted Marsh Frog.



Parrots such as rosellas, lorikeets, grass-parrots and cockatoos.



Bats such as microbats and Grey-headed Flying-fox.



Honeyeaters such as spinebills, wattletails and honeyeaters.

Please note: All plant sizes listed in this publication are approximate. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of a plant.

Plant categories

The following descriptions reflect the plant categories used by vegetation type descriptions and nurseries. A diverse range of plants from each category will create layers, diversity and attract a wide range of different wildlife to your garden. This combined with mulch, logs, rocks and a water source will create a resilient and complex garden structure to attract and support wildlife.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS

Creepers spread horizontally across the soil while climbers will cling to other plants or a trellis to climb upwards. They provide a valuable source of food for plant-eating insects, seed-eaters and insect-eating animals. Climbers provide excellent shelter for small birds and insects and creepers provide protection for insects, small birds, lizards and frogs.



GROUNDCOVERS

These plants are herbaceous (i.e. not forming woody stems) and low-growing under 1m. They provide a variety of food for plant-eaters, seed-eaters and insect-eaters. Groundcovers provide a safe haven for small birds, insects, lizards and frogs.



GRASSES AND TUSSOCKS

These plants all have long, narrow leaves, and if they grow in a clump or tuft they are known as a tussock. They provide food for the larvae of butterflies and moths, small birds and seed-eating parrots. Their leaves provide protection for lizards, frogs, insects and small birds. Birds use dry grass for nest building.



AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC

Aquatic plants are adapted to living submerged or floating on water while semi-aquatic plants cope with periods of water inundation. These plants provide food and shelter for a multitude of insects and small birds and shelter for frogs. They also provide access for non-swimming insects to drink.



FERNS

Ferns are non-flowering plants that reproduce by spores. They have feathery fronds and come in a variety of forms. Ferns provide a protective foraging space for small birds, insects and lizards and an ideal hiding place for frogs. The fibrous trunk of tree-ferns provide nesting material for small birds and provide shelter for invertebrates and small lizards.



SMALL SHRUBS

Small shrubs generally grow to a height of 2m depending on conditions. Their leaves, flowers, fruit and seed are important food sources for insects, reptiles, small birds and honeyeaters. Dense and prickly small shrubs in particular provide important shelter and protection for nesting small birds.



LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

These plants grow from 2m - 6m and provide a range of food sources for insects, birds and small mammals. In addition large shrubs and small trees provide valuable nesting sites and protection for these animals. Large birds perch, roost and nest in small trees.



LARGE TREES

Large trees grow to a height of 10m+. Their leaves, flowers, fruit and seed provide food for insects, small birds, honeyeaters, parrots and mammals. Large birds use their height to perch and search for prey, roost and nest. The bark of large trees can be used as nesting material or shelter for insects, skinks and microbats. Hollows in larger trees are critical for parrot, owl and mammal protection and breeding.



CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Bower Spinach
Tetragonia implexicoma



Excellent for stabilising sandy soil. Often scrambles over small shrubs providing shelter for small birds, invertebrates and small lizards.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Scrambling plant with a 2-4m spread.

Flowers and foliage

- Thick, bright-green, succulent leaves.
- Small, scented yellow flowers from August to February.
- Succulent red berries containing 1-3 small seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sandy soil.
- Tolerates extreme dry conditions.
- Full sun.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Mountain Clematis
Clematis aristata



An attractive climber that can be trained along a fence or trellis. Grows well under established trees and shrubs.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Vigorous woody climber to 15m.
- Fast-growing.

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green, ovate leaves to 8cm long.
- Perfumed white flowers from October to November.
- Followed by feathery seedheads.

Preferred growing conditions

- Easily grown in well-drained to moist soils.
- Part-shade to full shade.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Purple Apple-berry
Billardiera macrantha



A light climber that displays well on a trellis. Grows well under established eucalypts provided it has an extra water in summer.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing 3-4m climber.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, dark-green leaves.
- Yellow-green tubular flowers tinged with purple from August to January.
- Glossy-purple fruit to 3.5cm long.
- Small brown seeds within fruit.

Preferred growing conditions

- Part-shade to shade.
- Moist clay and loam soil.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Purple Coral-pea
Hardenbergia violacea



A very showy scrambling climber or creeper with many forms and cultivars. Will grow on a fence or trellis to form a light screen.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Very hardy plant.
- Fast-growing creeper.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green leaves to 10cm.
- Purple pea flowers from July to November.
- 4-5mm long seeds contained in pods.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in most well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

CREEPERS AND CLIMBERS



Running Postman
Kennedia prostrata



Trailing, hardy and adaptable plant. Grows well in rockeries or hanging baskets where the plant can cascade down the sides.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Open trailing or densely matting plant.
- Spreads to 2.5m.

Flowers and foliage

- Crinkly grey-green leaves.
- Red pea flower with yellow throat.
- Flowers from August to December.
- 3-4mm black seeds in pod.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in heavy clay soils to sandy soils.
- Full sun or part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Black-anther Flax-lily
Dianella revoluta



An attractive, easily maintained clumping plant, ideal for growing under trees. Plants sucker and can cover a large area over time.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows to 1m high and 2m wide.
- Strappy green leaves.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue to purple flowers with bright yellow centres.
- Flowers from September to January.
- Purple berries to 10mm long.
- Small, flat seeds within fruit.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in a wide range of soils from heavy clay to sand.
- Full sun to shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Clustered Everlasting
Chrysocephalum semipapposum



A long-flowering plant with attractive contrasting foliage and flowers. A variable species with several forms.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows to 30cm high and 1-3m wide.
- Responds well to a hard prune after flowering.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow grey-green leaves to 50mm long.
- Dense clusters of yellow flowers from October to February.
- Releases many small seeds with a feathery top.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist to dry soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

GROUNDCOVERS



Common Everlasting
Chrysocephalum apiculatum



An excellent rockery plant with contrasting foliage and a long flowering period. Several different forms.

Bioregion

- OtP, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

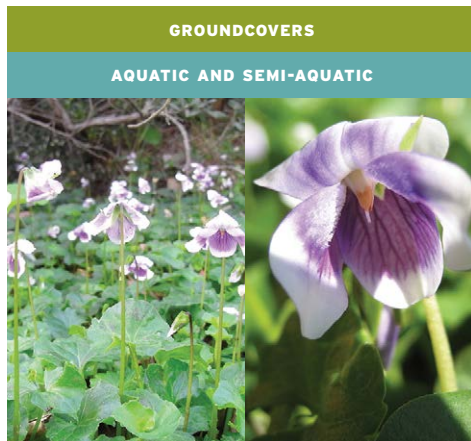
- Grows to 30cm high and 1-2m wide.
- Responds well to a hard prune after flowering.

Flowers and foliage

- Silver-grey leaves to 60mm long.
- Clusters of yellow flowers from September to February.
- Small seeds topped with feathery bristles.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained sand and loam soils.
- Full sun.



Ivy-leaf Violet
Viola hederacea sensu Willis (1972)



A prolific grower once established. Grows well in moist soil of pond surrounds coping with partial inundation.

Bioregion
• OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit
• A fast-growing groundcover with creeping stems.
• 10-15cm high and 1-2m wide.

Flowers and foliage
• Dark-green kidney-shaped leaves.
• White flowers with a violet centre most of the year, especially June to March.
• Capsules release many small 1-2mm seeds.

Preferred growing conditions
• Moist to wet soil.
• Part-shade to shade.



Kidney-weed
Dichondra repens



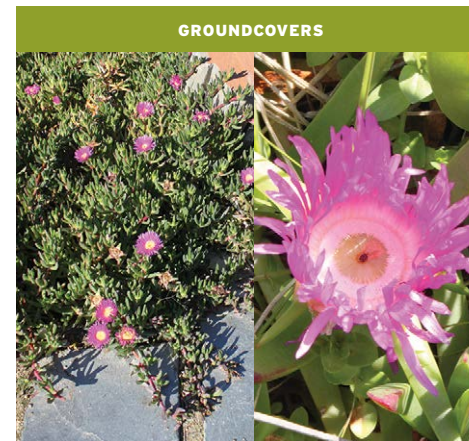
An excellent plant to grow in shady areas of the garden. Can be used as a lawn alternative where traffic is light.

Bioregion
• OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit
• A matting plant that spreads to 1-2m.
• Easily divided and transplanted.

Flowers and foliage
• Light to dark-green kidney-shaped leaves to 2cm.
• Inconspicuous creamy-green flowers.
• Flowers from September to December.
• Small, brown seeds released from capsule.

Preferred growing conditions
• Grows in heavy clays to sandy soil.
• Grows best in part-shade to shade.



Karkalla
Carpobrotus rossii



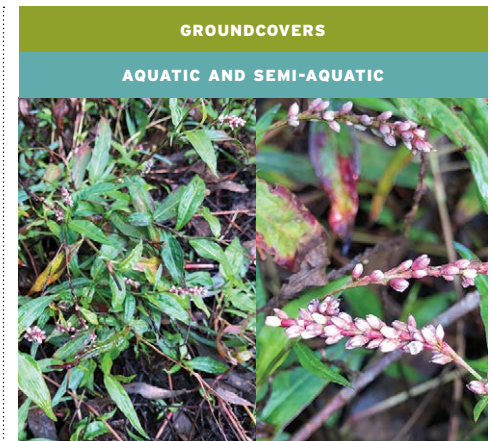
Very hardy and long flowering. Suitable for rocky escarpments, retaining walls or for planting under eucalypts. An excellent soil binder on sandy, exposed locations.

Bioregion
• OtP, OtR, WaP

Size and habit
• A trailing groundcover to 1-2m wide.

Flowers and foliage
• Succulent, triangular blue-green leaves to 10cm.
• Pink-purple flowers to 5cm wide most of the year.
• Fleshy purple-red fruit contains numerous small seeds.

Preferred growing conditions
• Sandy soil.
• Full sun to part-shade.



Slender Knotweed
Persicaria decipiens



Suitable for planting in large ponds or pond surrounds.

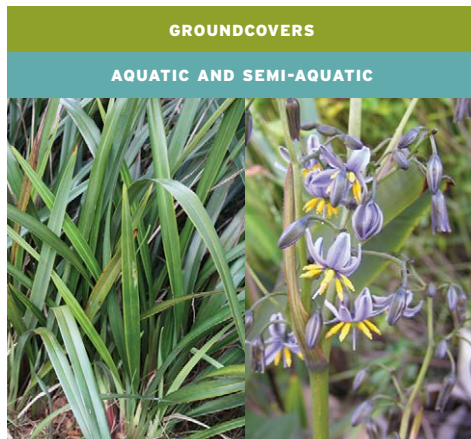
Bioregion
• OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit
• Vigorous, spreading growth.
• Grows 0.6m high and 0.3-1m wide.

Flowers and foliage
• Small pink flowers from December to April.
• Narrow green leaves with dark blotches.

Preferred growing conditions
Permanent or seasonally wet sites. Full sun to part-shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Tasman Flax-lily
Dianella tasmanica



A hardy plant that will grow in a wide range of conditions including partial inundation. Excellent habitat for frog pond surrounds.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

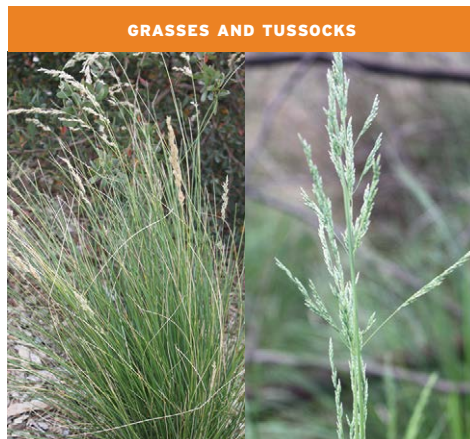
- Grows 0.6-1m high and 0.5-2m wide.
- Strappy, green leaves.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue-purple flowers with pale-yellow centres from October to February.
- Attractive purple berries.
- Each berry contains 3-4mm long seeds

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Part-shade to shade.



Common Tussock-grass
Poa labillardierei



An attractive tussock that copes with a wide range of conditions. Plant individually in the garden, *en masse* or beside a pond.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

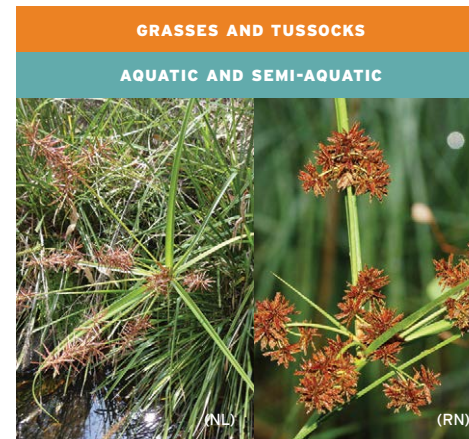
- Grows to 0.5 to 1.2m high and 0.5 to 1.5m wide.
- Large, fast-growing tussock.

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green to grey-green leaves that dry to a straw colour.
- Open plume-like green to purplish flowerheads.
- Flowers from October to February.
- Numerous small seeds released.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in heavy clay soils to sandy soils.
- Copes with waterlogging.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Leafy Flat-sedge
Cyperus lucidus



An attractive, hardy sedge that grows well in pond surrounds and in areas of inundation.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows 0.3-1.5m high to 1m wide.
- Tussocky form.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, dark-green, flat leaves.
- Red-brown flowered spikelets.
- Flowers from October to February.
- Small yellow seeds contained in small dark nut.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows in wet to boggy soils.
- Part-shade to shade.



Red-fruit Saw-sedge
Gahnia sieberiana



An important host plant for the Sword-grass Brown butterfly.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

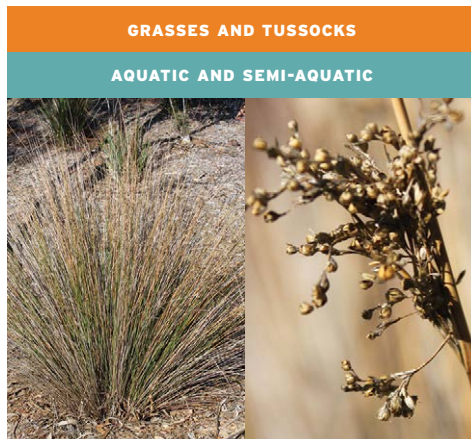
- Grows 1.5-3m high and 2-3m wide.
- A tall, clumping tussock plant.

Flowers and foliage

- Long green to brown leaves with sharp edges.
- Flowers from October to January.
- Yellow-brown flower spikes arch to 3m and turn black.
- Bright red, shiny seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist sandy soil ideal, but tolerates drier soil.
- Full sun to full shade.



Rushes
Juncus species



A large group of tussocky plants that are ideal for wet and temporarily inundated areas.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Dense tussocks from 0.5-1.5m high.

Flowers and foliage

- Linear dull-green to bluish-green leaves.
- Pale-green to brown flowerheads.
- Flower in the summer months.
- Numerous small, round seeds produced.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to most soil types provided they are moist.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Lomandra longifolia



A graceful tussock for difficult spots, embankments and gardens in general.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

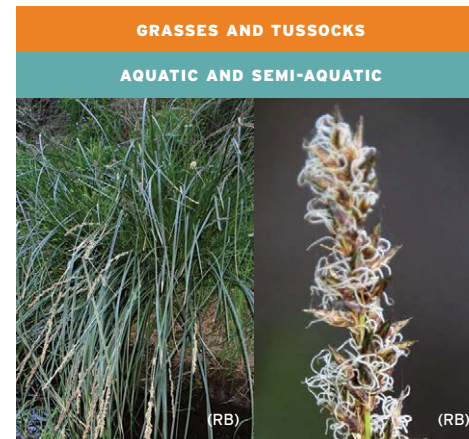
- A fast-growing tussock.
- Grows 0.5-1m high and 0.5-1.2m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Bright-green strappy leaves.
- Clusters of scented cream flower spikes.
- Flowers from September to December.
- Brownish-orange seed capsules contain many yellow seeds 2-3mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Tall Sedge
Carex appressa



Excellent as an accent or habitat plant in frog ponds, waterways or moist sites. Ideal plant for stabilising eroding stream banks.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

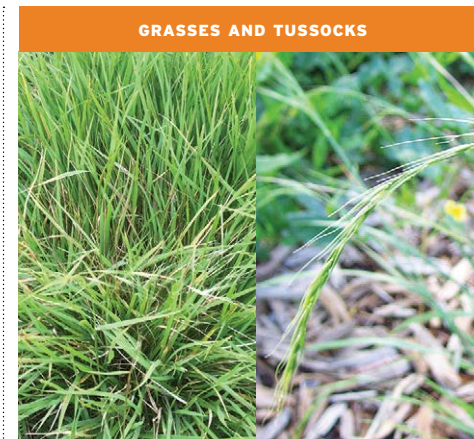
- Grows from 0.5-1.2m high and 0.5-1m wide.
- Forms a rounded, dome-shaped tussock.

Flowers and foliage

- Slender, green leaves to 1.2m.
- Sharply serrated leaf edges.
- Yellow-brown spikes of flowers from August to January.
- Brown nut contains numerous small seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Tolerates periods of inundation.
- Moist soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Weeping Grass
Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides



An excellent native lawn for light traffic areas. Can be mown or left to produce attractive weeping flowerheads.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

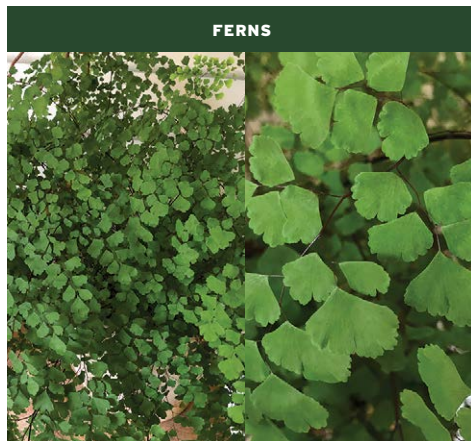
- Grows 20cm high and 30cm wide.
- Fine, green arching leaves.

Flowers and foliage

- Soft, emerald-green leaf blades.
- Weeping flowerheads on slender stems.
- Flowers from October to March.
- Numerous small, narrow tufted seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soil.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Common Maidenhair
Adiantum aethiopicum



An excellent garden plant for moist protected areas.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR

Size and habit

- Spreading fern that grows to 10-45cm high.

Foliage

- Delicate, lacy green fronds with slender reddish-brown to black stems.
- Fan-shaped leaflets.
- Spore cases on underside of leaflets covered by kidney-shaped flap.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Part-shade.
- Protect from drying winds.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Fishbone Water-fern
Blechnum nudum



Excellent garden plant for moist protected area. Not to be confused with the Fishbone Fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*) that is often sold in standard nurseries - Fishbone Fern is a very hardy NSW fern that can become quite invasive in the garden.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR

Size and habit

- Erect, spreading fern.
- Grows to 40-60cm high and 0.5-1m wide.

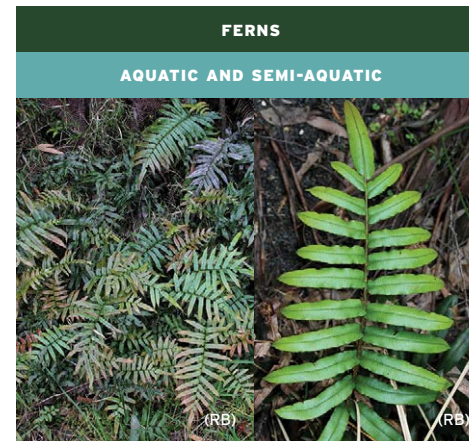
Foliage

- Green fronds in a fishbone shape.
- Spore cases either side of midvein.

Preferred growing conditions

- Protect from the hot sun and drying winds.
- Moist to wet soil.
- Part-shade to shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Hard Water-fern
Blechnum wattsii



Quite a hardy fern if grown in a moist protected position in the garden.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR

Size and habit

- Grows to 0.3-1.25m high.

Foliage

- Leathery fronds grow along spreading, branched underground stems.
- Dark-green older fronds. Young fronds pink to bronze.
- Spore cases either side of midvein.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist soil.
- Intolerant to drying out.
- Part-shade to shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Victorian Azolla
Azolla rubra



Can be very fast-spreading, but dies back in cold weather. Good cover for aquatic wildlife.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Prostrate to 1-2cm wide.
- Free-floating branched fern with long, hanging roots.
- Can form dense mats.
- Dies back in cold weather.

Foliage

- Triangular green to deep-red fronds with a crinkly appearance.
- Minute spore cases.

Preferred growing conditions

- Slow-moving fresh water.
- Full sun to part-shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Rough Tree-fern
Cyathea australis



The hardier of the two tree-ferns. Possums like to nest in the centre of the crown of fronds.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR

Size and habit

- Grows 5-12m high.
- Fibrous brown trunk 15-40cm wide base.
- Dark-green umbrella of fronds arch from the top.

Foliage

- Fronds 2-4m long and 1m wide.
- Prickly, rough leaf bases.
- Spore cases between veins.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soil, tolerates short dry periods.
- Part-shade to shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Soft Tree-fern
Dicksonia antarctica



Other ferns often grow on the soft bark of the Soft Tree-fern.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR

Size and habit

- Grows 2-15m high.
- Thick trunk covered in fibrous roots, often buttressed at base.
- Dark-green umbrella of fronds arch from the top.

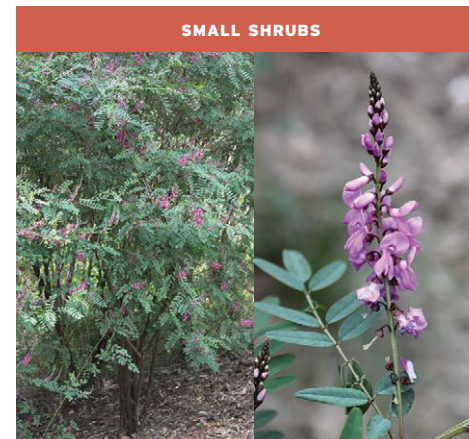
Foliage.

- Fronds grow to 4m, paler underneath.
- Smooth leaf bases.
- Small round spore cases at end of veins in cup-like structure.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist soil.
- Needs more water than Rough Tree-fern.
- Part-shade to shade.

**Please note: Currently not readily found in indigenous nurseries, but available from standard nurseries.*



Austral Indigo
Indigofera australis



Graceful shrub useful for planting under trees or striking when planted in groups.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing open shrub.
- Grows 1-2m high and wide.
- Prune after flowering to keep compact form.

Flowers and foliage

- Blue-green oval leaves.
- Sprays of lightly perfumed pink-mauve pea flowers.
- Flowers from September to November.
- Narrow seed pod to 4cm containing 2mm black seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to any well-drained soils.
- Full sun to shade.
- Prefers a sheltered position.



Bootlace Bush
Pimelea axiflora



A graceful shrub for underplanting, generally not noticed until it flowers. Suits planting with ferns. The tough, stringy bark was used by early settlers to make bootlaces.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP

Size and habit

- Open shrub with arching branches.
- Grows 1-3m high to 1-2m wide.
- Pruning is beneficial.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow dark-green leaves to 80mm.
- Clusters of tiny white flowers from June to December.
- Small yellow seeds form at the base.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist, well-drained soils.
- Part-shade to shade.
- Sheltered position preferable.

SMALL SHRUBS



Cushion Bush
Leucophyta brownii



The grey foliage is able to reflect light at night making this a useful plant for defining pathways.

Bioregion

- OtP, WaP

Size and habit

- Grows 0.2-1m high and 0.5-2m wide.
- Regular pruning promotes a more compact form.

Flowers and foliage

- Unique, grey scale-like leaves.
- Cream to pale-yellow globular flowers.
- Flowers from September to December.
- Tiny seeds topped with bristles.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay soils to sandy soil.
- Full sun.

SMALL SHRUBS



Dusty Miller
Spyridium parvifolium



An interesting shrub for a dry, shady area, where its most attractive feature, the floral leaves, are shown to advantage.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, WaP

Size and habit

- A dense, upright shrub.
- Grows 1-2m high and wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green oval leaves to 30 mm.
- Terminal sprays of small white flowers surrounded by dusty-white floral leaves from August to November.
- Followed by formation of small brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soil.
- Part-shade to shade.

SMALL SHRUBS



Pink Bells
Tetradlea ciliata



An attractive, delicate plant that establishes well under mature trees.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slender, spreading shrub.
- Grows 0.3-1m high and 0.3-1m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Whorls of small, hairy leaves to 20mm.
- Clusters of fragrant mauve-pink bell-shaped flowers.
- Flowers from August to December.
- Winged seed capsules 4-8mm long contains small brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained clay or sandy soil.
- Part-shade to shade.

SMALL SHRUBS



Prickly Current-bush
Coprosma quadrifida



Quite a striking shrub when in fruit as the red berries contrast with the green leaves. A fantastic habitat plant.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Open upright, spiny shrub.
- Grows 2-4m high and 1-2m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Thin, dark-green leaves to 15mm.
- Inconspicuous greenish flowers September to January.
- Sweet red fruit to 8mm January to March.
- Fruit contains small white seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Part-shade to shade.

SMALL SHRUBS



Ruby Saltbush
Enchylaena tomentosa



An attractive and useful spreading plant, especially in dry conditions. The sweet berries are edible.

Bioregion

- OtP, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Low spreading to upright woody shrub.
- Prostrate-1m high to 0.5-1m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Bluish-green succulent cylindrical leaves to 20mm.
- Insignificant greenish flowers from September to April.
- Succulent green fruits which change to yellow or red when ripe.
- Fruit contains numerous small seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all soil types.
- Full sun to part-shade.

SMALL SHRUBS



Snowy Daisy-bush
Olearia lirata



A beautiful shrub to brighten up a sheltered position in the garden in spring.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Soft open shrub.
- Grows 2-5m high and 2-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green shiny leaves to 16 cm, whitish below.
- Masses of white daisy-like flowers from September to December.
- Followed by 2mm bristled seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Part-shade to shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Austral Grass-tree
Xanthorrhoea australis



A unique and iconic plant that adds interest as a feature plant in the garden.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slow-growing plant with a thick woody stem and a grassy tuft of leaves.
- Grows to 3m high and 1-2m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, bluish-green leaves to 1m long.
- Dense clusters of creamy-white, fragrant flowers in a long terminal spike from July to December.
- The seed capsules on the spike dry and split to release 2mm brown seed.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Golden Wattle
Acacia pycnantha



A beautiful small tree for the garden as a feature tree or as a screening or windbreak tree. Also a useful tree for erosion control.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Spreading tall shrub or small tree with drooping branches.
- Grows 3-10m high to 2-5m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Long, narrow, bluish-green leaves to 22cm.
- Lemon-yellow, perfumed, ball-shaped flowers peaking from November to January.
- Narrow seed pods to 16cm.
- Shiny, black 6mm seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Adaptable to all soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Musk Daisy-bush
Olearia argophylla



A very attractive tree for a shady area. Profuse flowers for several months.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing plant.
- Grows 3-10m high to 3-5m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, dark-green leaves to 12cm, silver below.
- Leaves have a musky aroma.
- Clusters of white daisy-like flowers.
- Flowers from September to March.
- Tufted white seeds 4mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist, well-drained soils.
- Part-shade to shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Scrub Sheoak
Allocasuarina paludosa



A very ornamental plant that is excellent as a screening or windbreak plant.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slow-growing plant.
- Grows 0.5-2m high and 1-2m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Needle-like foliage to 20cm.
- Small brown male and/or red female flowers.
- Flowers from March to October.
- Followed by cylindrical cones to 18mm.
- Winged seeds 5mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay and sandy soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Silver Banksia
Banksia marginata



A striking feature tree or excellent screening plant.

Bioregion

- OtP, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Can be quite open or dense depending on the form and pruning.
- Grows 1-6m high and 1-4m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dark-green leaves, silver below, with notched tip.
- Yellow flowers in brushes borne on upright cones to 13cm.
- Flowers from February to June.
- Woody cones open once ripe to release 6-8mm winged seed.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay to sandy soil.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Sweet Bursaria
Bursaria spinosa



A beautiful tree in flower and fruit. Very important habitat plant.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Slender to rounded shrub or small tree.
- Grows 2-6m high and 2-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, narrow dark-green leaves.
- Spines along branches at leaf base.
- Fragrant, white flowers from December to March.
- Followed by attractive bronze seed capsules.
- Flat brown seeds to 4mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clays to sandy soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Tree Everlasting
Ozothamnus ferrugineus



An excellent garden background plant.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Open, rounded shrub.
- Fast-growing.
- Grows 2-4m high and 2-4m wide.
- Prune after flowering to encourage a more compact form.

Flowers and foliage

- Narrow, dark-green leaves above and cottony-grey below.
- Clusters of tiny white flowers.
- Flowers from November to February.
- Followed by release of small seeds 2mm long.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Full sun to semi-sun.

LARGE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES



Woolly Tea-tree
Leptospermum lanigerum



An excellent screening plant or a beautiful feature tree in the garden.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Dense shrub to open small tree.
- Pruning encourages a denser form.
- Grows 2-6m high and 1-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Oblong greyish leaves ending in a point.
- Young growth is silver and hairy.
- Open white flowers to 15mm wide.
- Flowers from September to January.
- Broad, cup-shaped woody fruit.
- Long, narrow seeds to 3mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE TREES



Blackwood
Acacia melanoxylon



An attractive tree that is hardy and adaptable.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing upright tree.
- Grows 5-30m high and 4-15m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Dull-green leaves to 15cm with raised main veins.
- Cream ball-shaped flowers.
- Flowers from July to October.
- Twisted and coiled seed pods to 15cm.
- Black oval seeds to 5mm.

Preferred growing conditions

- Prefers deep moist soil, but adaptable.
- Full sun to part-shade.

LARGE TREES



Messmate Stringybark
Eucalyptus obliqua



An excellent shelter and shade tree for the garden. Leaves eaten by Koalas.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

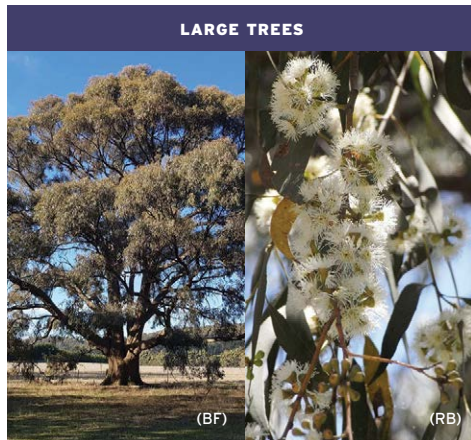
- Tall upright tree with a dense canopy and rough stringy bark.
- Grows 10-90m high and 6-35m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, green leaves to 13cm.
- Cream flowers from December to March.
- Wine-glass shaped fruit.
- Small dark-brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Narrow-leafed Peppermint
Eucalyptus radiata ssp. *radiata*



A graceful, upright tree that provides shade and shelter in the garden. Leaves eaten by Koalas.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Low-branching tree with rough fibrous bark.
- Grows 10-30m high and 6-20m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Aromatic, narrow grey-green leaves to 12cm.
- White flowers from October to January.
- Small cup-shaped fruit.
- Small glossy brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.



Swamp Gum
Eucalyptus ovata



An excellent shelter and shade tree for the garden. Leaves a favourite of Koalas.

Bioregion

- OtP, OtR, VVP, WaP

Size and habit

- Fast-growing upright tree with an open canopy.
- Often low branching.
- Smooth bark, though rough from the base for some way up the trunk.
- Grows 8-25m high and 8-20m wide.

Flowers and foliage

- Shiny, broad leaves to 17cm with wavy edges.
- Cream flowers, usually March to September.
- Funnel-shaped, flat-topped fruit.
- Small brown seeds.

Preferred growing conditions

- Moist soils.
- Full sun to part-shade.

Garden Escapees and Invaders

A garden escapee is a garden plant that escapes from your garden into parks, bushland and other wildlife habitat areas.

Plants can spread from wind-blown and water-borne seed, dumped garden waste in reserves and waterways, seeds attached to clothing and fur and through the digestive systems of animals. Garden escapees are a problem because they out-compete native plants and change local ecosystems so that habitat no longer supports native birds and animals. The closer your garden is to a wildlife area the more careful your garden plant species selection needs to be to protect these sensitive and valuable areas.

For further information visit:

colacotway.vic.gov.au/Environment-Sustainability/Weed-management

Disposal of garden escapees

Once you have removed a garden escapee from your garden the question then becomes, how do you safely dispose of the plant material so that it does not spread into natural areas? There are a number of options from using your kerbside green waste bin to recycling your garden escapee material at home. Some methods include;

Compost - You can add plants to your compost bin or heap, but remember some garden escapees are hardier than others. You need to generate enough heat for the micro-organisms to break down the plant material, especially the seeds.

Chicken Feed - Chooks will happily feed on a wide variety of herbaceous garden escapees.



Weed: characteristics, dispersal and removal

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox
subsp. *praecox*



- Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out large plants including root mass.

Arum Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica



- Seed and root fragments can be spread by water, wind and animals.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out large plants including root mass.

Banana Passionfruit

Passiflora mollissima



- Seeds spread by animals, garden centres and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Solarise large infestations or slash/brush-cut before they seed.

Bluebell Creeper

Billardiera heterophylla



- Seeds spread by birds and foxes. Root fragments reshoot.
- Hand-weed small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.

Brooms

Genista spp.



- Seeds spread by animals, water and dumped garden waste.
- Hand-weed small plants.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.

Replacement Plant

Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta



Tall Sedge

Carex appressa



Mountain Clematis

Clematis aristata



Purple Apple-berry

Billardiera macrantha



Snowy Daisy-bush

Olearia lirata



Weed: characteristics, dispersal and removal

Hemlock

Conium maculatum



- Seed spread by animals, water and machinery.
- Dig out small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut large plants before they seed.

Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloana



- Seed and root fragments spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.
- Cut off flower heads before they set seed.
- Dig out plants including root mass.

Spanish Heath

Erica lusitanica



- Seeds spread by wind, water, animals and dumped garden waste. Root fragments will reshoot.
- Dig out small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut large plants before they seed.

St. John's Wort

Hypericum perforatum



- Sticky seed capsules spread on animal fur, machinery and dumped garden waste. Roots reshoot.
- Dig out small plants including roots.
- Slash/brush-cut larger plants before they seed.

Wandering Trad

Tradescantia fluminensis



- Mainly spread from dumped garden waste.
- Gloves required.
- Hand-weed small plants including root fragments.
- Solarise large infestations.

Replacement Plant

Dusty Miller

Spyridium parvifolium



Red-fruit Saw-sedge

Gahnia sieberiana



Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa



Dusty Miller

Spyridium parvifolium



Purple Coral-pea

Hardenbergia violacea



Local Native Nurseries and Groups

Otway Greening
80 Pennyroyal Rd, Deans Marsh 3235
0448 605 919
otwaygreening.com.au

OzTrees Nursery and
Plantation Services
569 Warrowie Rd, Irrewarra 3249
(03) 5233 6280
oztrees.business.site

Special Effects Nursery
215A Barongarook Rd, Barongarook
0428 595 085
specialeffectsnursery.com.au

Otways Indigenous Nursery
6 Gilbert St, Airey's Inlet 3231
0417 154 413
otwaysindigenounursery.org.au

Landcare Victoria
landcarevic.org.au

Coastcare
marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au

Birdlife Australia
birdlife.org.au

Wildlife Victoria
wildlifevictoria.org.au

Australian Plant Society, Victoria
apsvic.org.au

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
fncv.org.au



Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*

Key Messages Checklist

Key components	✓	Notes
I have observed my local environment and my garden before finalising my garden design.		
I have included elements from the recipes for wildlife section within my garden design		
I have included many different plants across and from within each plant category.		
I have incorporated ground level diversity by mulching and leaving branches and leaf litter on the soil.		
I have ensured adequate water supply and safe shelter for wildlife.		
Where appropriate I have included guarding young indigenous plants and reducing browsing pressure.		
I have considered the bushfire risk, as well as taken into account any waterways and potential run-off from paths.		
I have planned to plant at an appropriate time of the year for my garden's location - not too dry and not too wet and cold.		
I try to avoid the use of chemicals, including pesticides and herbicides.		
I have discussed and placed my plant orders with my indigenous nursery by October of the year prior to when I will be planting.		
I have selected the right plants for my area and the right part of my garden for them to thrive.		
I have removed weedy garden escapees and invaders and disposed of them appropriately.		

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2-6 Rae street
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