

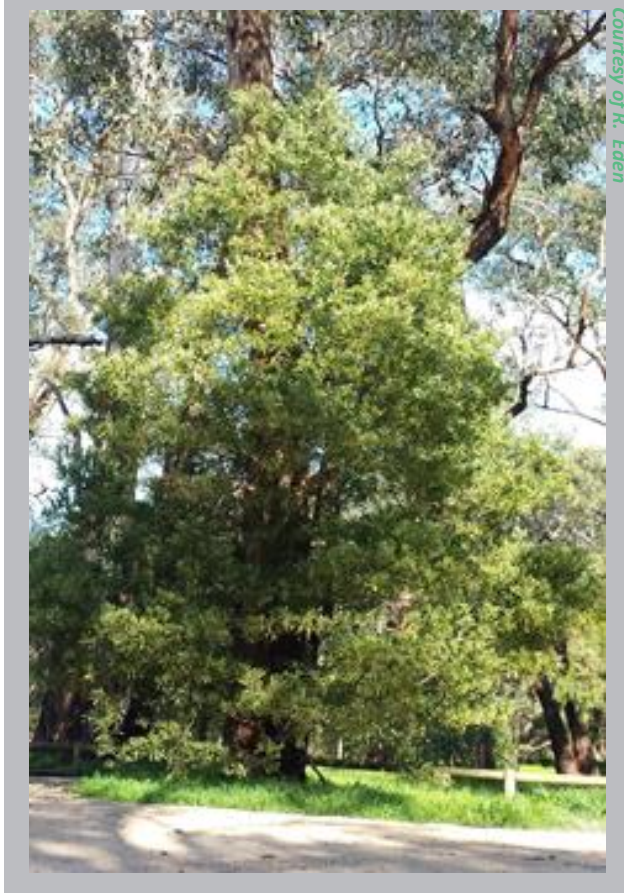
Native Habitat Gardening Guide for low flammability gardens



Correa reflexa ssp. *Scabridula* (Common Correa)

The species presented in this Guide are considered to be low-flammable native plant varieties, however no plant is completely non-flammable. Whether exotic or native, all plants will burn when exposed to sufficient heat.

Low flammability species – Trees/Tall shrubs







Courtesy of R. Eden

Trees and tall shrubs with the best fire retardant properties are those with soft leaves with high moisture content and low volatility oil content, and bark which is smooth and non- stringy, fibrous, peeling or ribbon like. Trees planted around dwellings can trap embers and sparks and reduce wind speed and create a heat shield during bushfire.

Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon

Suited for riparian zones, along watercourses or associated with wet swampy areas. A long lived tree species that does not drop limbs as frequently as some eucalypts and other Acacia species. Prefers part to full sun. Can be suited to windbreaks, which help catch sparks and reduce windspeed and reduce turbulence. Blackwood also have large leaves with low levels of volatile oils with low flammability. Attracts birds, butterflies and other insects, and known to be a caterpillar food plant. Honeyeaters are known to eat the bright coloured arils.

Height:	7-20m
Width:	4-10m
Habitat:	 
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Trees



Courtesy of COP

Native Broom / Golden Spray

Viminaria juncea

Upright shrub or small tree with long, green and slender drooping branches, known to have low flammability. Suited for riparian planting along watercourses or around swamps and bogs. In November the branches become thickly lined with yellow pea flowers. Tolerates part shade to full sun, is drought and moderately frost tolerant. Can die back in dry periods.

Height: 4-6m

Width: 2-4m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Trees



Courtesy of T. Brown

Silver Banksia


Banksia marginata

Relatively fast growing species. This species can be used for effective windbreaks, however ensure regular maintenance to remove dead material which contributes to elevation of fine fuels. Silver Banksia is drought resistant, and tolerates exposed windy locations. Prefers well drained soils in full sun, but can tolerate part shade and some waterlogging. Attracts nectar eating birds and seeds are important food source for the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Also contributes to bandicoot habitat.

Height: 4-6m

Width: 2-4m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Low flammability species – Shrubs



Courtesy of R. Eden

Wreath Wattle

Acacia acinacea

An effective plant for hedging, screening or windbreaks. Tolerates frosts and dry conditions and suitable for all soil types, including dry soils. Full sun to shady positions. Can absorb more heat from an approaching fire without burning than many other native species, whilst trapping embers and sparks from an oncoming fire. Flowers are a known food source for butterflies and birds.

Low flammability shrubs can absorb some of the heat and trap embers during an approaching fire without burning. Plants with thick, fleshy leaves (succulents), and glossy leaves, have a higher moisture content and are less flammable. Large and broad leaves are also harder to ignite than narrow smaller leaves.

Other features include leaves with high salt content, low volatile oil content and a high ash content (makes plants harder to ignite).

Ensure regular maintenance by trimming, pruning, removal of dead material and provide plants with adequate water to retain moisture in their leaves.

Height: 1-2m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat:  

Flowers:   

Low flammability species – Shrubs








Courtesy of P. Watton

Sticky Hopbush

Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spathulata

A fast growing shrub, suitable for hedging, screening and as a windbreak. Requires well-drained soils, and is drought and moderately frost tolerant. Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun. Responds well to pruning. Can be effective as a trap for embers and sparks from an oncoming fire. Seeds eaten by native pigeons and parrots. Are known to possess a lower fire risk due to low levels of volatile oils in leaves.

Height:	1.5-4m
Width:	1.5-3m
Habitat:	 
Flowers:	  





Low flammability species – Shrubs



Correa spp.

Correa glabra ssp. turnbullii (Rock Correa) / *Correa reflexa ssp. scabridula* (Common Correa)

Small to medium shrubs that can be planted out as a low informal hedge. It requires well-drained soils and tolerates drought, and moderate frost. Full shade to part sun. Has low flammability because it retains minimal dead material. Attracts nectar eating small birds, such as honeyeaters during winter.

Height:	0.5–1m
Width:	0.5 -1m
Habitat:	 
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Shrubs



Courtesy of R. Eden

Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata

Dense, low-flammable shrubs. Suited to riparian and wet boggy areas. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade. Responds well to pruning. Keep shrubs clear of debris such as dead growth and fallen leaves. Known to be relatively fire retardant due to the large fleshy nature of the leaves. Attracts native butterflies and insects, caterpillar food plant and also good bandicoot habitat.

Height: 1-2.5m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Shrubs







Courtesy of H. Whiting

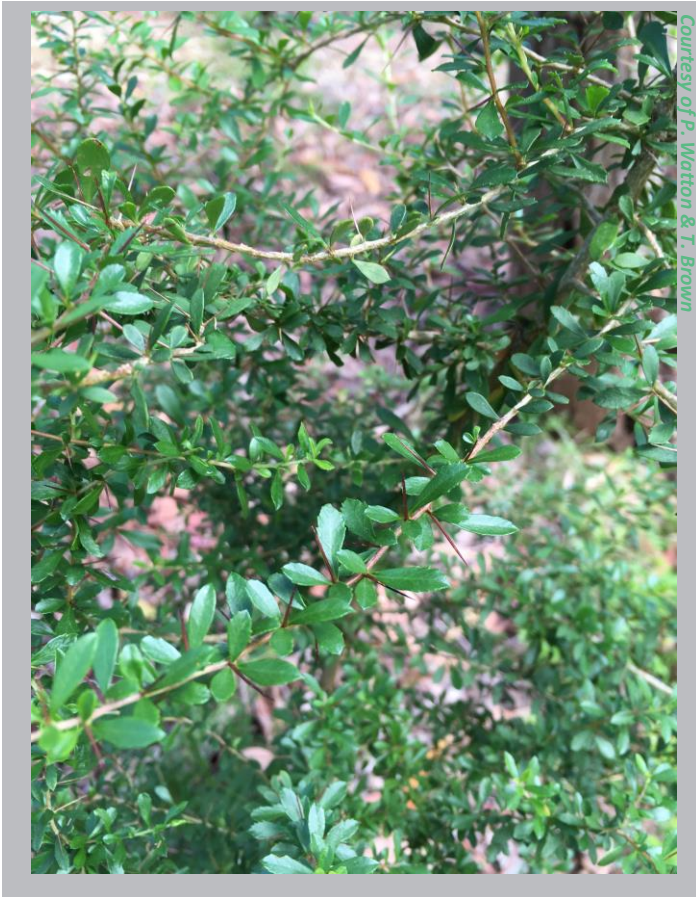
White Goodenia

Goodenia albiflora

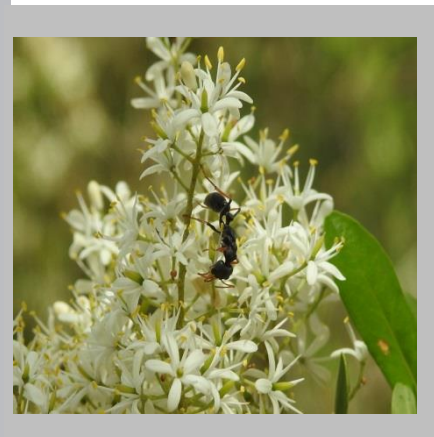
Rhizomatous, so good soil binding properties, ideal for planting on slopes and low informal hedges. Will also grow well in pots. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, full sun to part shade. Responds well to pruning to encourage a bushy form. Keep shrubs clear of debris such as dead growth and fallen leaves. Known to be relatively fire retardant due to the large fleshy nature of the leaves. Attracts native butterflies and insects, caterpillar food plant.

Height:	0.3-1m
Width:	0.3-1m
Habitat:	 
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Shrubs



Courtesy of P. Watton & T. Brown



Sweet Bursaria


Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa

Hardy, spiky tall shrub which can be used for screening of hedges. Responds well to pruning. Prefers dry or well-drained soils. Is known to be drought and fire resistant under certain conditions. Scented white flowers attract butterflies in summer. Prickly branches provide protection for smaller birds against predators.

Height: 1-2.5m

Width: 0.5-1.5m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Low flammability species – Shrubs








Courtesy of P. Watton

Seaberry Saltbush

Rhagodia candolleana ssp. *candolleana*

A tough, screening or hedge shrub that is able to tolerate a wide variety of conditions. Known to be relatively pest-resistant and fire retardant due to the salt content in the leaves. Responds well to pruning to maintain a bushy form. Requires moderately good drainage. Known to tolerate drought, moderate frost and soil salinity. Plants from the chenopod family (*Rhagodia*, *Atriplex*, *Einadia*, *Enchylaena*, *Maireana* etc) typically have high salt content in the leaves, and therefore possess low flammability. Food source and habitat refuge for small birds, lizards and small mammals.

Height:	0.1-1m
Width:	1.5-2m
Habitat:	  
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Shrubs





Courtesy of P. Watton



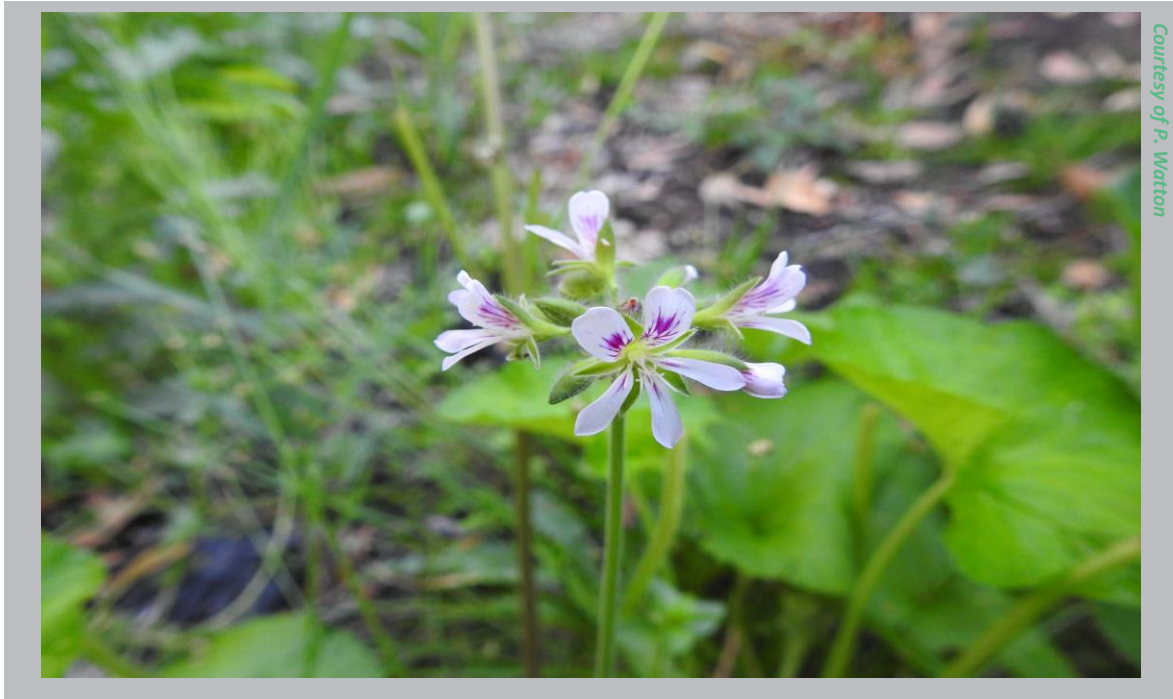
Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

An extremely hardy low shrub or ground cover able to tolerate a wide variety of conditions. Known to be relatively fire retardant due to the fleshy nature of the leaves and makes an effective ember trap. Responds well to pruning to maintain a bushy form. Chenopods such as Ruby Saltbush possess a high salt content in the leaves as well as being fleshy, and therefore are considered low flammability. Berries provide food source and habitat refuge for small birds, lizards and small mammals.

Height:	0.3-1m
Width:	0.5-1.5m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Shrubs



Austral Storks-bill

Pelargonium australe

A perennial herb used for native landscaping and understorey planting. Responds well to pruning to maintain a bushy form. Considered to be moderately frost tolerant and possess a lower fire risk due to a high moisture levels in the leaves.

Is a known butterfly attracting species.

Height: 0.3-0.7m

Width: 0.5-1.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Shrubs








Courtesy of T. Brown

Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Attractive, hardy low-maintenance plant. Foliage is succulent and leafy and will help to suppress weeds while reducing the risk of a fire spreading. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun. Known to attract native butterflies and insects, and provide caterpillar food plant while attractive cut yellow flowers keep well.

Height:	0.3-0.4m
Width:	0.8-1m
Habitat:	  
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Groundcovers



Courtesy of P. Watton

Australian Bugle

Ajuga australis



A fast growing, creeping dense ground cover. Prefers full or semi-shaded areas and well-drained soils. Will tolerate drought and moderate frost. Is a great mat forming plant for those difficult shady sites under trees and shrubs. Can be useful by trapping burning embers and sparks from an oncoming fire. Keep shrubs clear of debris such as dead growth and fallen leaves. Attracts butterflies, bees and other insects and provides great habitat and shelter to lizards and small skinks.

Fire retardant groundcovers can help slow the speed of a fire through the litter layer and reduce spot fires and by keeping mulch moist and thereby reducing its flammability. Groundcovers are great for pots, rock gardens, garden beds and slopes – they suppress weeds and stabilise soils. Good choices are succulents such as Pig Face (Carpobrotus sp.), Kidney Weed (Dichondra repens) and strappy foliage grass-like lilies such as Dianella and Iron Grasses (Lomandra spp).

Height: 0.1-0.6m

Width: 0.1-0.5m

Habitat:   

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Groundcovers





Courtesy of P. Watton

Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium

A fast growing and extremely hardy native creeper, known as a drought tolerant species. Its weed-suppressing qualities make it great for low maintenance gardens and embankments. Also good for erosion affected areas. Prefers full sun and will tolerate drought, moderate frost and soil salinity. Green foliage all year round. Considered to possess a lower fire risk due to a high moisture levels in the leaves. It has a mass of star-like white flowers that attract bees and birds in the spring.

Height:	0.2-0.3m
Width:	2-3m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Groundcovers



Courtesy of P. Marton

Native Pig Face

Carpobrotus rossii

Hardy attractive prostrate and spreading groundcover. Prefers dry, well-drained soils. Has thick fleshy grey green leaves and bright pink purple flowers. Adapts to most soils. Prefers part-full sun and may layer and self-seed. Can tolerate drought, fire, moderate frost, and soil salinity. Low flammability due to excessive ‘fleshiness’ of the leaves.

Attracts bees, butterflies, other insects.

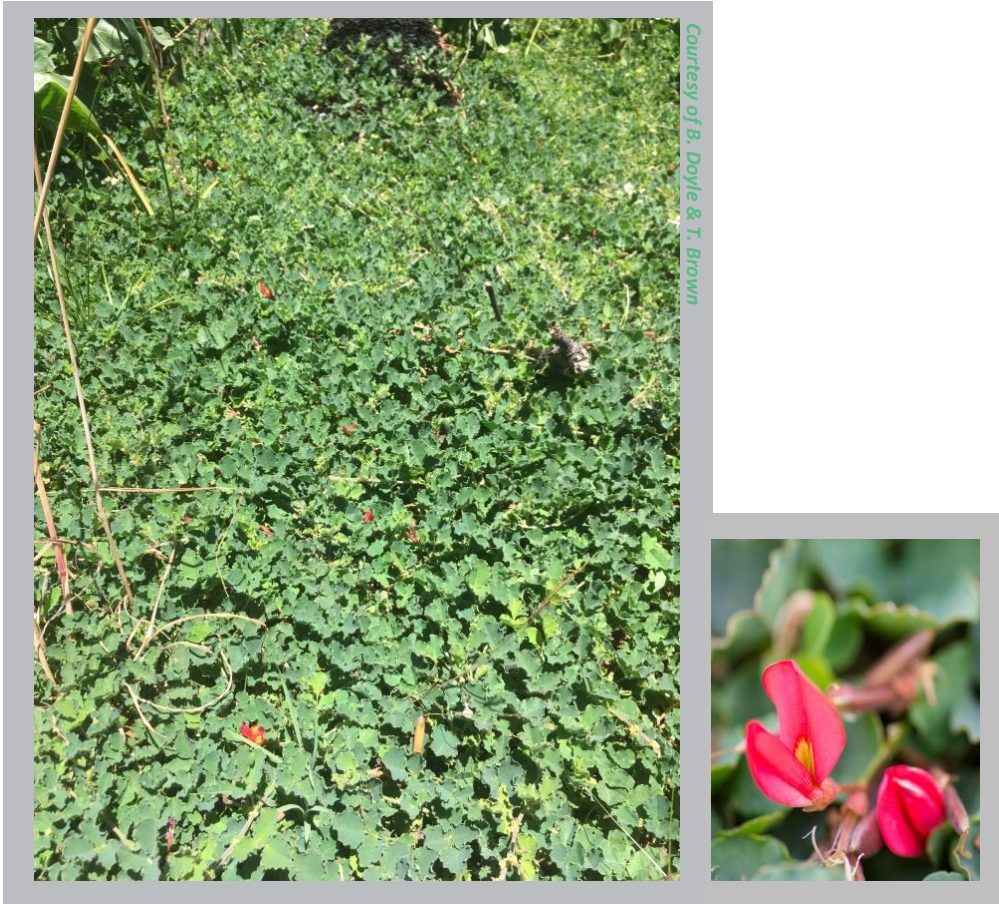
Height: 0.2-0.4m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Groundcovers








Running Postman / Scarlet Runner

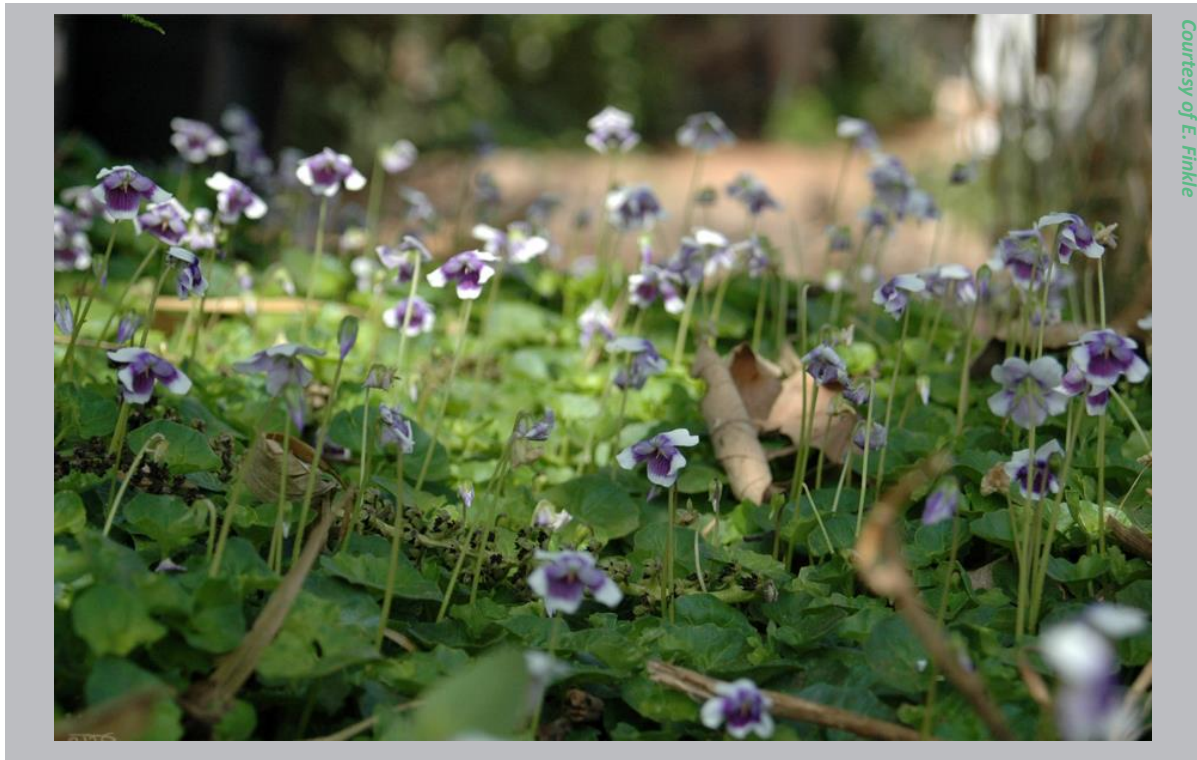
Kennedia prostrata

Ornamental creeper is suitable for moderate slopes and embankments. Requires well-drained soils. Can die back to woody rootstock and reshoot when times are favourable. Prefers sunny and positions of light shade. Good for containers. Requires minimal watering. Can tolerate drought, fire and moderate frosts. Is a known fire retardant species.

Butterfly attracting and food for native caterpillars and shelter for ground dwelling insects.

Height:	0.1m
Width:	1.5-4m
Habitat:	  
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Ground covers





Courtesy of E. Finkle

Native Violet

Viola hederacea

A small leaved species with small flowers of deep purple-blue and white. *Viola hederacea* grows best in a partly shaded position in moist soil. Forms dense, low maintenance groundcover, almost like a carpet. Can also be planted in a pot. Low flammability due to high moisture content of the leaves.

Height:	0.1-0.2m
Width:	0.3-1m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Ground covers







Courtesy of R. Eden

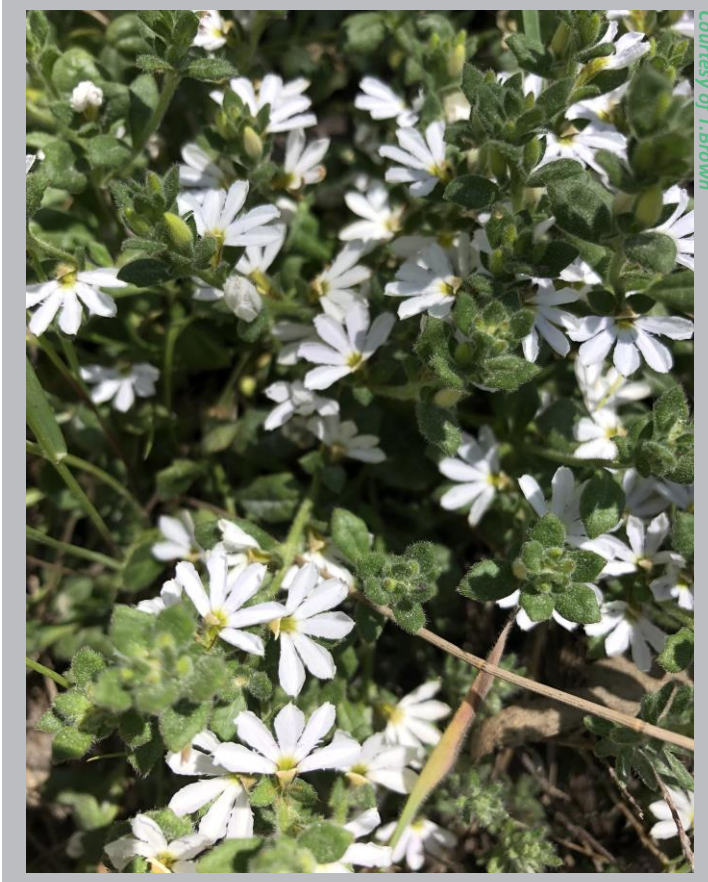
Kidney Weed

Dichondra repens

A dense spreading and low maintenance groundcover. Often grows where grasses won't and works well in shaded areas and on steep embankments. Grows well in hanging Moderate soil moisture, part sun to full shade. It has kidney shaped leaves. Small white flowers appear from spring to summer. An excellent substitute for lawn in low traffic areas. Low flammability due to high moisture content of the leaves. Attracts frogs and lizards.

Height:	0.01-0.15m
Width:	0.1-1.5m
Habitat:	 
Flowers:	 

Low flammability species – Ground covers




Pale Fanflower

Scaevola albida

Low-growing, drought-tolerant herbaceous perennial species. When planted densely, provides an effective groundcover to help with erosion and weed control. Requires well-drained soils and responds to pruning. Flowers predominantly Oct-Jan, but can be found flowering most times throughout the year. Requires moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady. Can be useful in trapping burning embers and sparks from an oncoming fire. Attracts insects, and provides food for the native Meadow Argus butterfly.

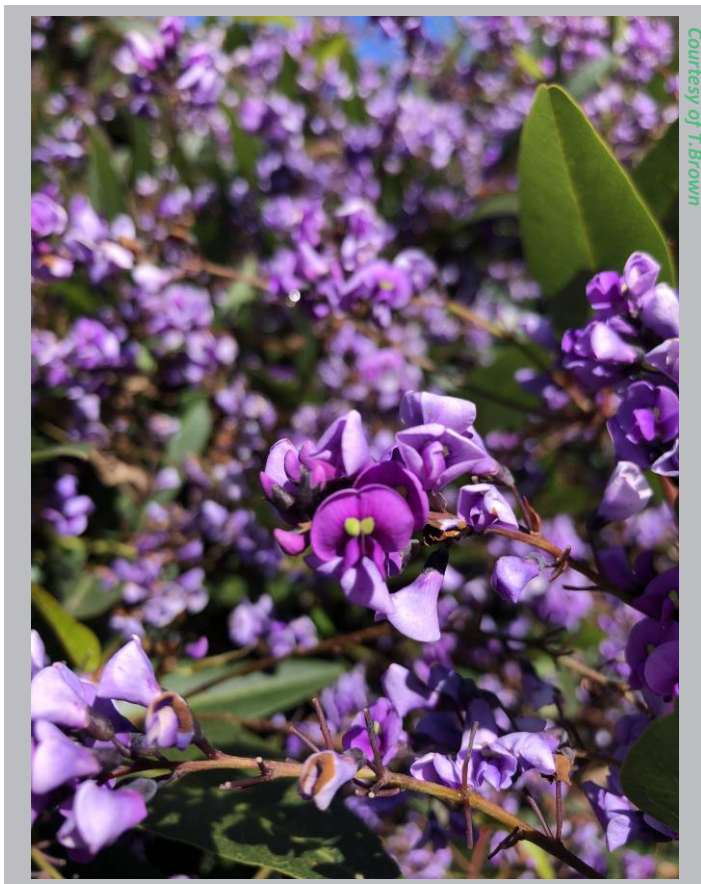
Height: 0-0.1m

Width: 0.3-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers:    

Low flammability species – Climbers



Courtesy of T. Brown

Climbers can be trained up fences or trellis work to create a wall of colour, or be used to in hanging baskets or to spill down over retaining walls in gardens with levels. If planted straight into level ground, they can form a bush or an attractive groundcover, which provides shelter for lizards. Can act as a windbreak, absorbing and deflecting heat, and trapping burning embers and sparks during bushfire.

Native Lilac

Hardenbergia violacea

A fast growing small shrub or climber, with spikes of purple flowers in spring. Mass plantings form an effective ground or fence cover. Can tolerate semi shade. Responds well to hard pruning to improve shape and form and reduce dead material. Can be trained to climb. Large leaf shape improves fire retardant properties. Attracts native butterflies, caterpillar food source.

Height: 1-2m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Low flammability species – Climbers



Courtesy of P. Watton





Climbing Saltbush

Einadia nutans ssp. nutans

A hardy native climber and/or groundcover with long fleshy leaves. Makes a good ground cover when planted densely, and suitable for sloping banks and small areas between shrubs and under the canopies of established trees. Considered to be relatively tolerant to drought, moderate frost and soil salinity. Chenopods such as *Einadia* possess a high salt content in the leaves as well as being fleshy, and therefore are considered low flammability.

Bright red juicy berries provide food source and habitat refuge for small birds, lizards and small mammals.

Height:	0.1-1m
Width:	0.8-1m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Strappy foliage



Courtesy of P. Watton



Strappy plants can create great border effects along paths or around water features. They also look great in rockeries and remain green over summer. Can act as a windbreak, absorbing and deflecting heat, and trapping burning embers and sparks during bushfire.



Pale Flax-lily

Dianella longifolia var. grandis

Extremely hardy and variable plant suitable for borders, verges or planted singly in gardens. Requires well-drained soils with moderate moisture levels, full sun to shady. Attracts native birds and insects, including the native Blue Banded Bee. Also known to provide shelter for bandicoots and small mammals. Will stay green in shady gardens and may only need cutting back every three to four years.

Height:	1.2-1.3m
Width:	0.4-1m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	



Low flammability species – Strappy foliage



Black Anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta ssp. revoluta

The extremely hardy and variable species can be planted singly or in rows for borders, or in ornamental rows in rocky verges. Requires well-drained soils and moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady positions. Readily maintains a green and lush habit over summer. Can absorb some of the heat, trap embers and sparks, and reduce wind speed, slowing the fire down. Provides good shelter for bandicoots and small mammals and food for birds and lizards and the native Blue Banded Bee.

Height:	0.3-1m
Width:	0.5-2m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Strappy foliage





Courtesy of B. Doyle

Common Vanilla-lily

Arthropodium strictum

A perennial lily species which dies down to root in summer. Is tolerant to drought and moderate frost. Prefers well-drained soils and full to part sun. Known to self sow. Attractive, chocolate-scented flowers from October to December. Is considered a fire retardant plant, given features such as the succulent and leafless stem and the species dormancy following seed set in December. Underground tuber re-shoots in winter/spring season.

Attracts lizards and butterflies and other invertebrates.

Height:	0.2-1m
Width:	0.2-0.8m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Strappy foliage



Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

A perennial clumping lily species which dies down to root in summer. Is tolerant to light frost. Found on a wide range of soil types, but prefers rich and well drained soils. Can also tolerate water-retentive soils or soils which are seasonally inundated (e.g. swamps). Requires full to part sun. Attractive and fragrant, star-shaped yellow flowers arranged on long vertical stalks from October to December. Is considered a fire retardant plant, given features such as the succulent and leafless stem and the species dormancy following seed set in December. Underground tuber re-shoots in autumn.

Food source for native bees, butterflies and hoverflies (see photo).

Height: 0.2-0.6m

Width: 0.1-0.3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Low flammability species – Strappy foliage





Courtesy of H. Whiting

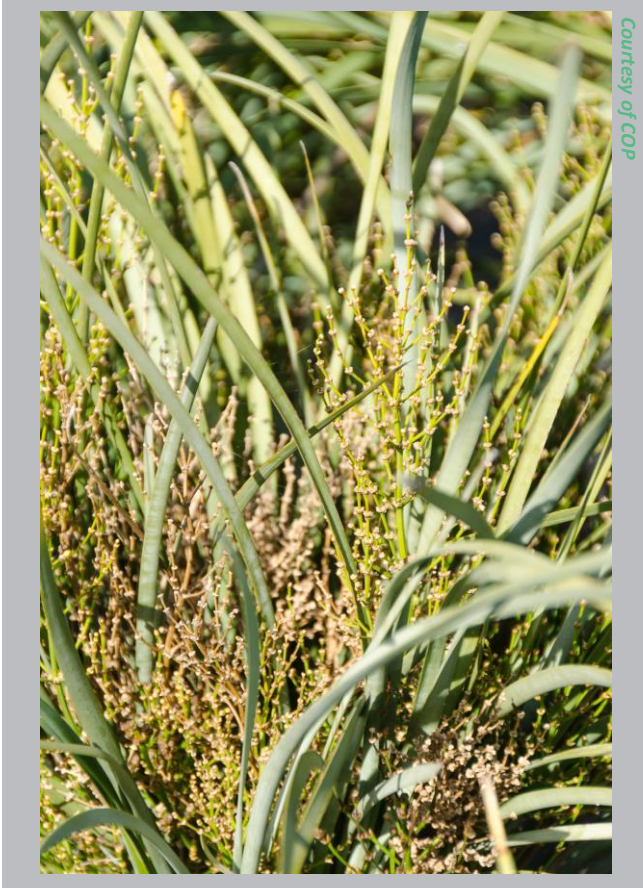
Soft Mat-rush

Lomandra densiflora

Perennial tussock suitable singly or in ornamental rows in rocky verges. Can assist in soil stabilisation. Requires free-draining soils. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady positions. Iron grasses, such as this species and the Soft Mat-rush, readily maintain a green and lush habit over summer. Can absorb some of the heat, trap embers and sparks, and reduce wind speed, slowing the fire down. Seeds eaten by lizards. Important food source for several native butterflies and provides habitat refuge/shelter for small mammals and reptiles.

Height:	1-2m
Width:	1-2m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	



Low flammability species – Strappy foliage



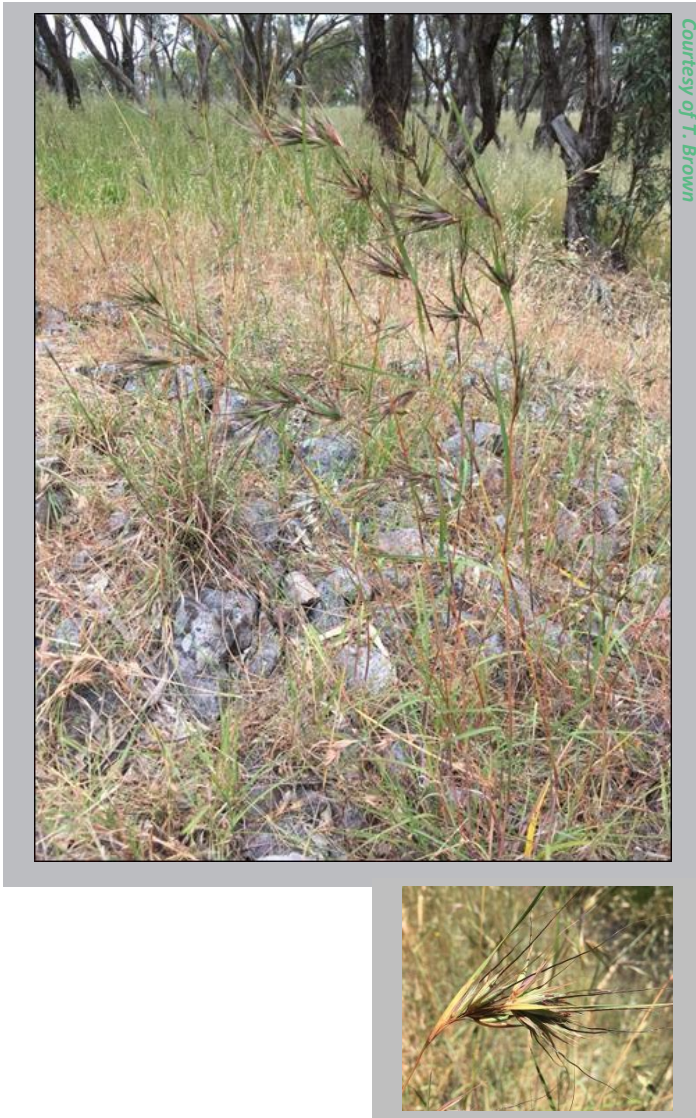
Stiff Mat-rush

Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura

Suitable for planting in clusters or under trees in well-drained soils. Can tolerate semi-shade, frost, drought and brief waterlogging periods. It is a useful species for stabilising banks. Is tolerant to drought and moderate frosts. Is a known fire retardant plant as it does not ignite easily in a moderate intensity bushfire. If burnt it will resprout from the base. Iron grasses readily maintain a green and lush habit over summer. Can absorb some of the heat, trap embers and sparks, and reduce wind speed, slowing the fire down. Provides useful habitat for ground-dwelling fauna, including skinks and other lizards that are known to eat the seeds, and provides food for butterflies and caterpillars.

Height:	0.2 – 0.6m
Width:	0.1-1m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	

Low flammability species – Grasses



Courtesy of T. Brown

Some native grasses are hardy and resilient and look great in rock gardens or as borders to pathways or around ponds. They provide refuge to lizards and frogs and attract insects that feed on them. Butterflies often rely on specific grasses for laying eggs on, and will also need an accompanying selection of flowering plants for nectar. Some species such as Kangaroo Grass and Weeping Rice-grass will reduce fire risk because they often stay green through the summer in response to summer rain events. They can still be very flammable when they dry out and need to be heavily pruned in late summer following seed set.

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

A very drought tolerant perennial grass species. Responds well to hard pruning in summer. Tolerates drier soil, full to part shade. Fire retardant plant as per SA Country Fire Service. Properly managed, Kangaroo Grass can remain a 'low-biomass', spring and summer-growing native grass, with significantly lower potential fire intensity and flame height than many exotic grasses. Provides shelter for lizards, frogs and insects.

Height: 0.9 –1m

Width: 0.8-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 


Low flammability species – Grasses



Weeping Rice-grass

Microlaena stipoides ssp. stipoides

A slender perennial grass for mixed native plantings or grouped as an alternative lawn variety. Considered to be a good fire resistant ground cover that doesn't thatch, however grass tussocks can still be very flammable when they dry out and need to be pruned back in late summer. Has a moderate tolerance to drought, frost, soil salinity and herbicides. Attracts native butterflies, caterpillar food plant.

Height:	0.1 – 0.7m
Width:	0.2-1m
Habitat:	
Flowers:	