

Native Habitat Landscaping & Gardening



Get back to nature with this wildlife-friendly native landscaping and gardening guide for the Adelaide Hills

Native habitat gardening – the benefits



This booklet is designed to help you create a healthy, attractive garden using native plants that thrive in the local conditions of the Adelaide Hills Council district.

Native plants are attractive, with various shapes, colours and densities, and with the right species you can have a flowering garden all year round.

They are easy to grow and are naturally adapted to suit local conditions, making them low maintenance, drought and frost tolerant, requiring minimal water and no fertilisers or pesticides. They also provide valuable habitat for native birds, butterflies, mammals and lizards. For these reasons, native gardens are better for the environment all round.

How to use this book



The aim of this book is to inspire you to select local native plants when deciding what to use in your garden or landscaping project.

Native plants can provide all the form, function and aesthetics of non-native plants traditionally used for landscaping and gardening.

This book outlines how to approach your project to provide maximum habitat for the animals you wish to attract.











The plants featured in this book have been specifically selected for the Adelaide Hills Council district and can be found growing naturally throughout most of the region.



The book is divided into categories based on form to assist with landscaping, but there is a special section for wet and damp places for watercourses, bogs, ponds and areas that receive a lot of runoff from either a sealed surface or a hill face.

Each species has accompanying notes about their optimal growing conditions, what size they grow to, when they flower, and the types of animals they attract.

Key

-  Autumn flowering
-  Summer flowering
-  Winter flowering
-  Spring flowering
-  Attracts birds
-  Attracts lizards
-  Attracts butterflies
-  Attracts insects
-  Attracts Southern Brown Bandicoots
-  Attracts frogs

Adelaide Hills region



By helping the environment, we are actually helping ourselves – both now and into the future.

The local native plants and animals of the Adelaide Hills form part of a 'biodiversity hotspot'; biologically rich and unique, yet under threat due to human activity. Only about 15% of the original native vegetation of the Adelaide Hills remains. This reduction in food and shelter for native animals has resulted in a trend of species decline.

We can help reverse this decline by replacing the lost habitat in our gardens and urbanised areas, thereby supporting the plants and animals that make the Adelaide Hills so unique, who in turn, support human life by the ecosystems services they provide.

Ecosystem services are the result of the complex relationships between plants, animals and the climate interacting and working together.

These services are:

- provisioning; such as the production of food and water
- regulating; such as the control of climate and disease
- supporting; such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination
- cultural; such as spiritual and recreational benefits.

Fauna

A number of iconic animals that live throughout the Adelaide Hills can greatly benefit from decisions you make about what and how to plant in your garden.

These include the federally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot, the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, and the Superb Fairy-wren. While well known in the region, many of these species are under threat or in decline due to habitat loss and predation from introduced animals. They rely on certain trees and shrubs for food and shelter.

Lizards and frogs love to hang out under leaves, in long grass, rushes or sedges, and under rocks where they can watch their prey. They also like to hide in and under logs where predators can't get them.

Bees, butterflies and other insects are important pollinators of both native plants and crops, they rely on a range of flowers throughout the year to provide food, and caterpillars on native grasses.

You can help provide habitat for all these creatures by adopting the Backyards for Wildlife principles:

- use locally native plants
- use plants that are a range of heights
- provide flowers throughout the year
- manage your pets responsibly
- minimise chemical use.

Climbers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Native Lilac

Hardenbergia violacea

Can form bush if preferred. Drought tolerant. Tolerates drier soil, full sun to part shade.

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.

Height: 1-2m

Width: 2-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Climbers



Above: Photographs courtesy of Tonia Brown (left) and Renae Eden (right)

Old Man's Beard


Clematis microphylla

Can form bush or ground cover if preferred. Drought tolerant. Birds use feathery seeds to line their nest. Tolerates drier soil, full sun to shady.

Height: 1m

Width: 2-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Climbers



Above: Photograph courtesy of A. Annells

Sweet Apple-berry


Billardiera cymosa

Can form bush if preferred. Berries are food source for lizards and birds. Bees and insects are attracted to the flowers. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1m

Width: 1-4m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Climbers



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Australian Bindweed


Convolvulus remotus

Native 'Morning Glory'. Plant instead of Periwinkle. Nectar source for butterflies. Can form groundcover if preferred. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Trees



Above: Photograph courtesy of A. Farjon

Oyster Bay Pine


Callitris rhomboidea

Fruit popular with several parrots. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Trees grow to a variety of heights and widths depending on site conditions. In perfect conditions, usually well drained fertile soils with moderate soil moisture and full sun, they may grow to their full height and width. Trees can be pruned to influence their growth form, including shape and height. Tall trees provide refuge from predators for birds and marsupials such as possums and koalas.

Height: 4-7m

Width: 2-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: n/a

Trees



Above: Photograph courtesy of SA Seed Conservation Centre

Drooping Sheoak

Allocasuarina verticillata


Seeds are important food source for the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Also eaten by a number of other native birds. Bees will access the pollen. Very hardy and useful windbreak or shelterbelt species. Female flowers have tiny red flowers, males will tint golden brown or rusty. Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun.

They can look impressive as a roadside planting or along a long driveway on larger properties. Smaller trees can provide an interesting feature in garden beds, to provide shade or screening. If you can find room for one, trees in the garden will help provide a wider variety of plant heights, which in turn will make your landscaping project more appealing to a wider variety of animals.

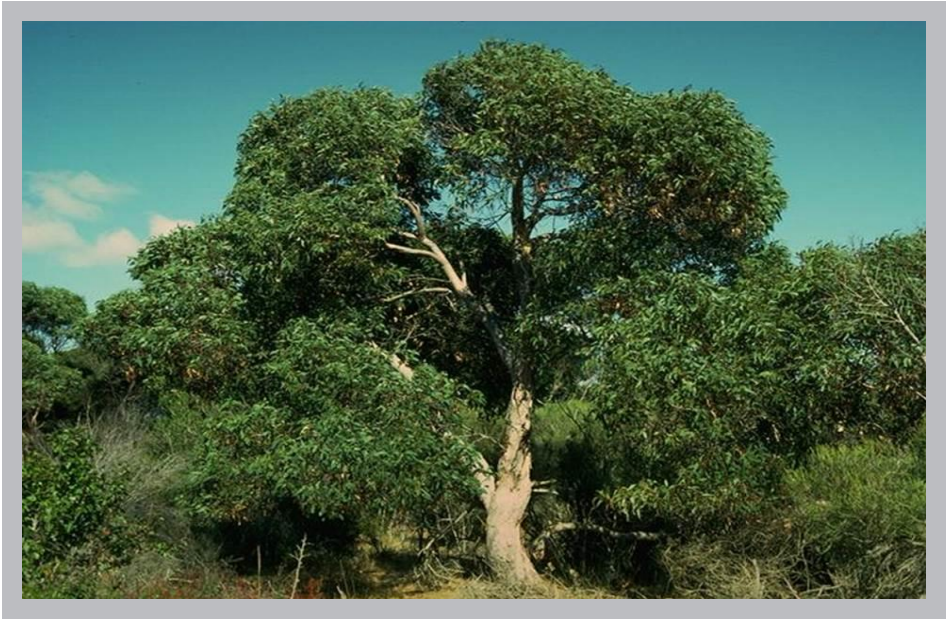
Height: 5-8m

Width: 4-6m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Trees



Cup Gum

Above: Photograph courtesy of Brooker Kleinig


Eucalyptus cosmophylla

A smaller Eucalypt native to Mt Lofty Ranges. Good for informal screen or shade tree. Tolerate wide range of soil conditions, from boggy to drought. Full sun.

Height: 3-8m

Width: 5-8m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Trees



Above: Photograph courtesy of Brian Cartwright

Silver Banksia


Banksia marginata

Seeds are important food source for the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.
Contributes to bandicoot habitat.

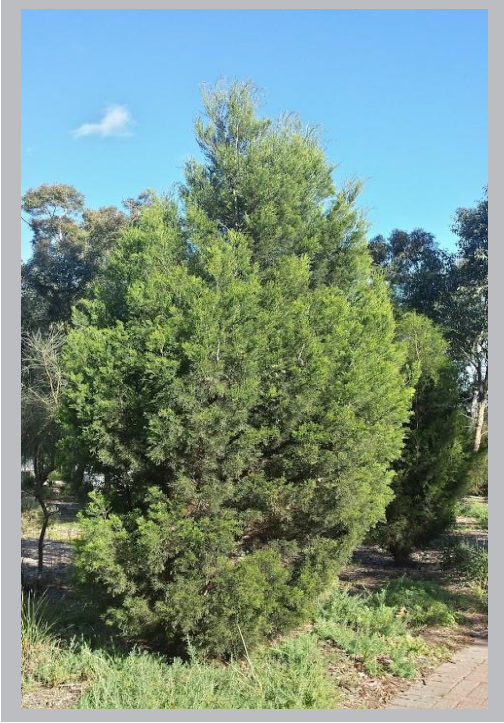
Height: 2-8m

Width: 1-5m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Trees



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Southern Cypress Pine


Callitris gracilis

Fruit popular with several parrot species. Normally soils over limestone.

grows on light

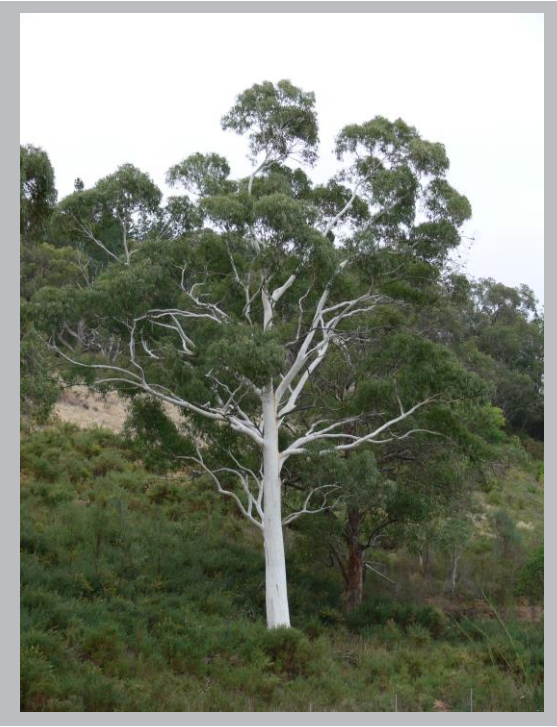
Height: 7-14m

Width: 3-6m

Habitat: 

Flowers: n/a

Trees



Above: Photograph courtesy of Peter Watton

Candlebark Gum


Eucalyptus dalrympleana

Distinctive white trunk. Endangered in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Damp soil, full sun to part shade.

Height: 15-35m

Width: 10-30m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

Long Purple-flag

Patersonia occidentalis

An attractive plant for rockeries, water features and bog gardens. Will tolerate quite dry garden conditions. Purple flowers attract bees and butterflies. Prefers moist soil conditions, full sun to shady.

Strappy plants offer great architecture to your landscaping project.

Larger plants can provide a central feature, or smaller plants can create great border effects along paths or around water features.

They also look great in rockeries.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 0.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Soft Tussock Mat-rush

Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden


Lomandra densiflora

Seeds eaten by lizards. Important food source for several native butterflies and shelter for bandicoots and small mammals. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.2-0.6m

Width: 0.2-0.6m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Black-anther Flax-lily

Above: Photograph courtesy of Baron

Dianella revoluta ssp. *revoluta*

Birds and lizards eat the berries. Shelter for bandicoots and small mammals. Aboriginal people ate the berries and roots, and used the leaves for weaving. Food source for blue banded bee. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.3–1m

Width: 0.5-2m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Knobby Club-rush

Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting


Ficinia nodosa

Very hardy plant that will grow in a wide variety of conditions. Can be used in a garden bed or around ponds. Drought tolerant and readily available. Will provide habitat for water birds and provide shelter for lizards and insects. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 0.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

Hard Mat-rush


Lomandra multiflora ssp. *dura*

Seeds eaten by lizards. Important food source for several native butterflies and shelter for bandicoots and small mammals. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.5-0.8m

Width: 0.8m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Rock Grass-tree

Above: Photograph courtesy of Yvonne Gravier

Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata

Birds and insects are attracted to the flowers, also provides shelter for wrens, mammals and small reptiles. Moderate soil moisture, good drainage, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1.2-5m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Above: Photograph courtesy of Brian Cartwright

Yacca


Xanthorrhoea semiplana

Honeyeaters, Rosellas, moths and butterflies are attracted to the flowers and cockatoos eat the seeds, also provides shelter for wrens, mammals and small reptiles. Great bandicoot habitat. Moderate soil moisture, good drainage, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1-3m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Strappy foliage



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Pale Flax-lily

Dianella longifolia var. *grandis*

Difficult to source. Birds and lizards eat the berries. Shelter for bandicoots and small mammals. Aboriginal people ate the berries and roots, and used the leaves for weaving. Food source for blue banded bee. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.5-0.8m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Wreath Wattle

Acacia acinacea

Great hedging or screening shrub. Flowers food source for butterflies and birds. Seeds were used as a food source by Aboriginal people. Tolerates drier soil, full sun to shady.

Shrubs are especially important habitat to birds and mammals as they offer protection as well as food. Many small birds, such as wrens, will only use areas that have a shrubby layer. Some shrubs also make fantastic hedging plants, such as the Wreath Wattle and Sticky Hop-bush.

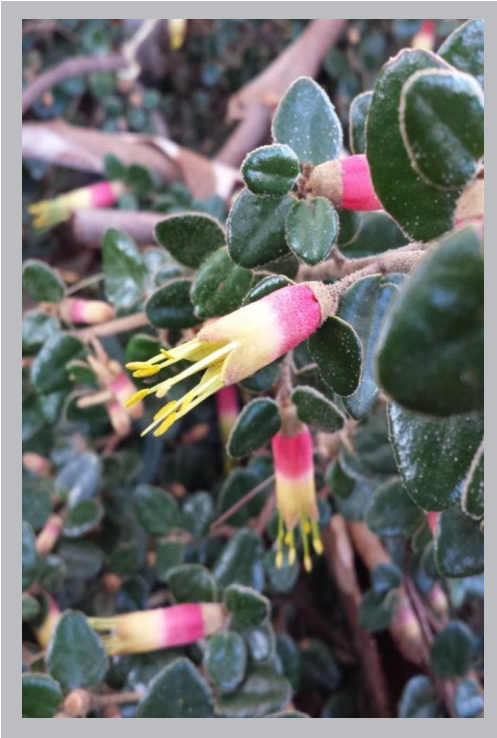
Height: 1-2m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat:  

Flowers:   

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden


Rock Correa

Correa glabra var. *turnbullii*

Important source of nectar for honeyeaters during winter. Tolerates drier soil, full shade to part sun.

Height: 1-1.5m

Width: 1-1.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Bill Doyle

Beaked Hakea

Hakea rostrata

All Hakea species are an important food source for the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Will stay smaller when growing in full sun. Food source for native caterpillars. Contributes to bandicoot habitat. Moderate soil moisture, well drained, full sun to full shade.

Height: 1-4m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Bill Doyle

Fringe Myrtle

Calytrix tetragona

Contributes to bandicoot habitat. Comes in both white and pink flowered forms. Good habitat for birds, mammals, insects and butterflies. Tolerates drier soil and periodic inundation, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1-2m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa

High wildlife value. Habitat for birds and as a nectar source, produces medium to heavy quantities of pollen, flowers very popular with native insects and provides shelter for birds. Slow growing and hardy. Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun

Height: 2-4m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat:   

Flowers:  

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden (left), Tonia Brown (right)


Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa ssp. *spathulata*

Seeds eaten by native pigeons and parrots. Good screening/hedging plant. Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun.

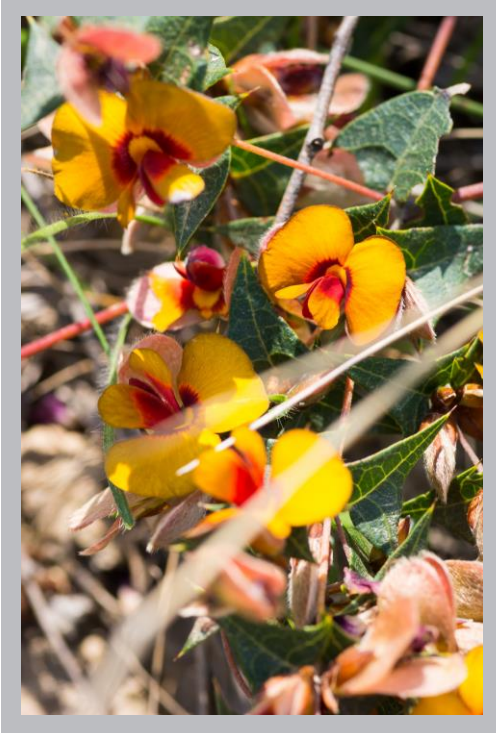
Height: 1.5-4m

Width: 1.5-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of COP

Holly Flat-pea


Platylobium obtusangulum

Contributes to bandicoot habitat. Damp soil, part to full shade.

Height: 0.3-1m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Common Oak-bush

Allocasuarina muelleriana

Seeds are important food source for the threatened Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Also eaten by parrots and galahs. Great bandicoot habitat. Tolerates dry to moist soil conditions, full sun to part shade.

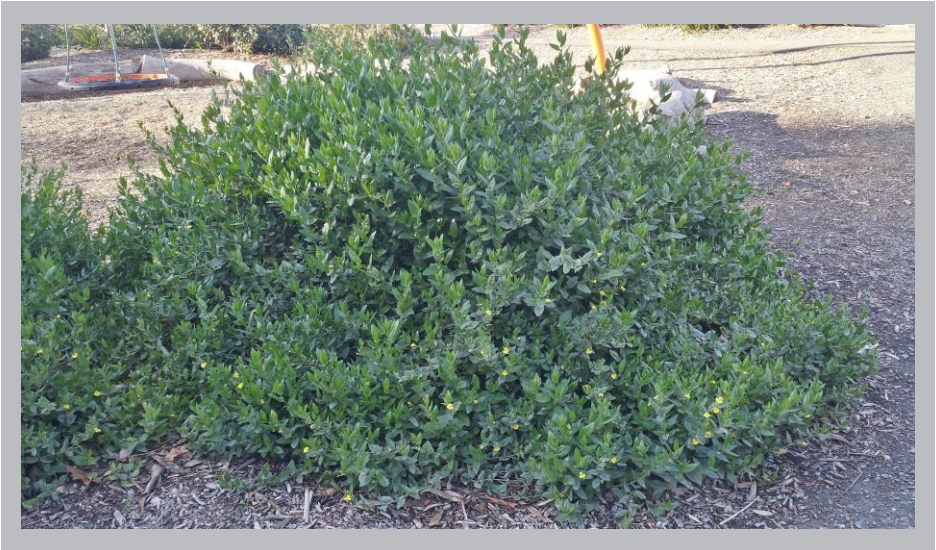
Height: 1-3m

Width: 2-3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Shrubs



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata

Good for riparian plantings on the upper banks of a watercourse. A great alternative to blackberry. Good bandicoot habitat. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1-2.5m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Tall Scurf-pea

Cullen australasicum

Food source for butterflies and bees. Good alternative to Lavender. Moderate soil moisture, full to part shade.

Flower add colour and attract butterflies and native insects to the garden. Insects are important pollinators for both our native plants, but also for our agricultural crops. They also provide a food source for insectivorous birds. Pick species that flower at different times to keep colour in your garden all year round.

Height: 0.5-2.5m

Width: 1-2m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Tonia Brown


Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Attractive, hardy low-maintenance plant. Food source for butterflies. Keep well as cut flowers, low maintenance once established. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 0.2-0.4m

Habitat: 

Flowers:   

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting


Mount Lofty Daisy-bush


Olearia grandiflora

Suckering, understory plant. Doesn't need much maintenance once established. Moist soil conditions, part sun to shady.

Height: 0.4m

Width: 0.4m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Fringed Everlasting

Chrysocephalum baxteri

Food source for butterflies and other native insects. Keep well as cut flowers, low maintenance once established. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun.

Height: 0.2-0.4m

Width: 0.3-0.6m

Habitat: 

Flowers:   

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting


Bulbine Lily


Bulbine bulbosa

Food source for native insects, such as hoverflies. Aboriginal people ate the tuberous roots. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun.

Height: 0.3m

Width: 0.3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Pink-eyed Susan

Tetratheca pilosa

Food source for native bees and other insects, including butterflies. Moderate soil moisture, full to part shade.

Height: 0.2-0.5m

Width: 0.2-0.5m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden


Garland Lily

Calostemma purpureum

Food source for native bees and other insects.
Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun.

Height: 0.2-0.5m

Width: 0.2m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden


Common Heath

Epacris impressa

Bright pink and white forms. Food source for native insects. Bushtucker – Aboriginal people ate flowers and fruits. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to full shade.

Height: 0.3-1.5m

Width: 0.3-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Tonia Brown

Yam Daisy

Microseris lanceolata

Flowers provide nectar for butterflies, and tuberous carrot-like roots eaten by bandicoots and Aboriginal people. Low maintenance once established. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: <insert height>

Width: <insert height>

Habitat:

Flowers:

Flowers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden


Hills Daisy

Ixodia achillaeoides

White papery flowers preserve well as cuttings. Moderate soil moisture, full to part shade.

Height: 1m

Width: 1m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata

Food for native caterpillars. Shelter for ground dwelling insects. Good for containers. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Groundcovers are great for pots, rock gardens, garden beds and slopes – they suppress weeds, stabilise soils, and add structure to your garden. Groundcovers are always good for frogs and lizards as they provide shelter from predators, and also attract insects that they feed on.

Height: 0.1m

Width: 1.5-4m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of ANBG


Matted Bush-pea

Pultenaea pedunculata

Drought and frost tolerant. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.1m

Width: 1-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Nathan Johnson

Muntries

Kunzea pomifera

Drought tolerant. Butterflies are attracted to the flowers, and birds and lizards eat the fruit. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade. Aboriginals would eat the purple berries raw or crushed into a mixture and then made into large dried cakes.

Height: 0.2m

Width: 2-4m

Habitat:   

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



White Goodenia

Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

Goodenia albiflora

Rhizomatous, so good soil binding properties, ideal for planting on slopes. Will grow well in pots. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.3-0.8m

Width: 0.3-1m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Kidney Weed

Dichondra repens

Forms dense, low maintenance groundcover. Use true local form with hairy leaves. Works well planted between paving stones, in shaded areas and on steep embankments. Often grows where grasses won't. Grows well in hanging baskets. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun.

Height: <insert height>

Width: <insert height>

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Groundcovers



Common Eutaxia

Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Eutaxia microphylla

Food source for the Common Grass Blue and Fringed Heath Blue butterflies. Moderate soil moisture, full to part sun.

Height: 0.5-1m

Width: 1-1.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of Idmaer Saxon


Spreading Correa

Correa decumbens

Important food source for nectaring birds during winter. Good for planting under trees. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions, full sun to part shade.

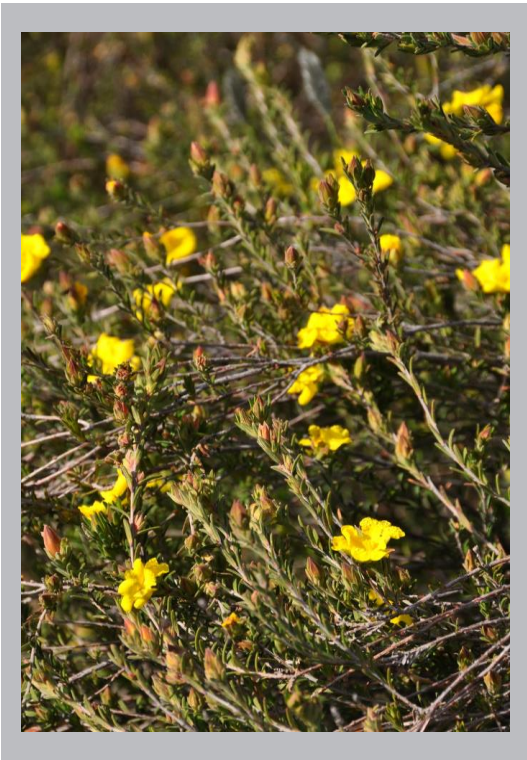
Height: 0.3m

Width: 0.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of COP

Guinea Flowers

Hibbertia exutiacies / sericea / riparia

Drought tolerant. Requires good soil drainage.
Contributes to bandicoot habitat.
Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

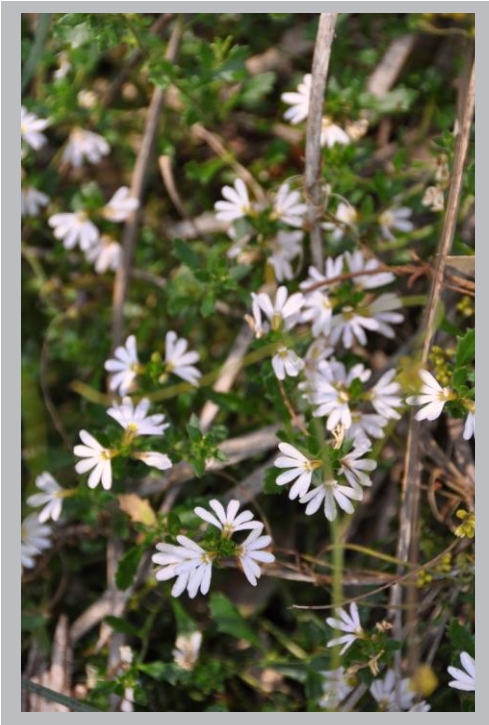
Height: 0.5m

Width: 1m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Groundcovers



Above: Photograph courtesy of COP


Pale Fanflower

Scaevola albida

Food plant for Meadow Argus butterfly. Flowers predominantly Oct-Jan, but can be found flowering most times throughout the year. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to shady.

Height: 0.3-0.6m

Width: 0.6-0.1m

Habitat: 

Flowers:    

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi


White to pale pink flowers. Suited for riparian planting along watercourses or around bogs. Damp soil, full sun to shady.

All of the plants featured here like or need damp 'feet', making them perfect for planting in or along watercourses, around dams or in bogs. They are also great for areas that receive a lot of runoff from roads or slopes. All natural surfaces that have water moving over them should be vegetated to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality within the catchment.

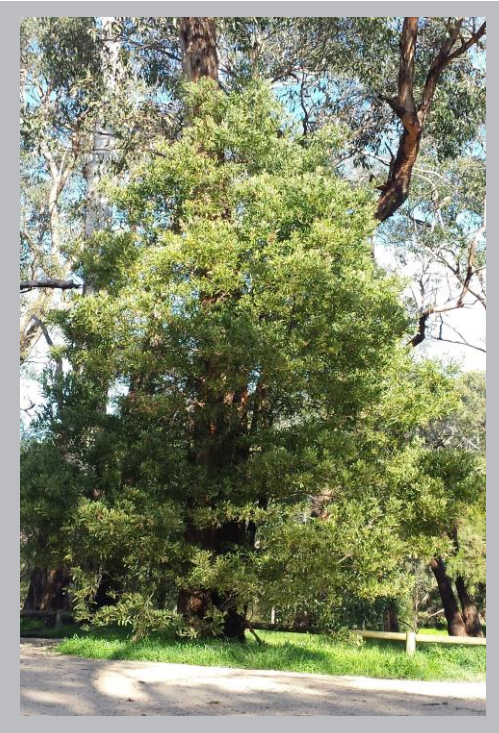
Height: 2-3m

Width: 2-3m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon

Suited for riparian planting along watercourses or around bogs. Honeyeaters eat the bright coloured arils. Damp soil, part to full sun.

Height: 7-20m

Width: 4-10m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden (left), David Francis (right)

Swamp Wattle

Acacia provincialis

Suited for riparian planting along watercourses or in bogs, good replacement for willows. Food plant for *Icilius Blue* butterfly. Damp to wet soil, full sun to shady.

Height: 5-8m

Width: 3-7m

Habitat:   

Flowers:  

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Tall Sedge

Carex appressa

Needs water, best suited to pond, dam, creek or bog. Habitat for water birds in wetland and riparian plantings. Frogs attach eggs to the stalks during breed season. Wet soil, full sun to full shade.

Height: 1m

Width: 1m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Murray Fagg


Rock Fern

Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia

Striking, small green fern good for understorey and provides shelter for frogs. Damp soil, part sun to full shade.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 0.5m

Habitat: 

Flowers: n/a

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden (left), Tonia Brown (right)

Finger Rush

Juncus subsecundus

Smaller and finer than *Juncus pallidus*, needs wetter conditions to survive. Damp soil, full sun to part shade.

Height: 1m

Width: 1m

Habitat: 

Flowers:  

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of COP


Native Broom


Viminaria juncea

Suited for riparian planting along watercourses or around bogs. Rare in SA. Damp soil, part shade to full sun.

Height: 4-6m

Width: 2-4m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Pale Rush


Juncus pallidus

Strong root system provides excellent soil stabilisation. Provides shelter along watercourses for birds and frogs. Doesn't need permanent inundation. Damp to moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.5-2m

Width: 0.5-2m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Seed Conservation Centre, SA

Flat Sedge

Cyperus vaginatus

Provide shelter for pond and river birds, frogs and aquatic insects. Used by Aboriginal people for weaving. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to full shade.

Height: 0.3-1.5m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat: 

Flowers: 

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Red-fruit Cutting-grass

Gahnia sieberiana

Plant instead of Pampas grass. Good contributor to bandicoot habitat. Damp soil, part shade to full sun.

Height: 1.5-3m

Width: 1.5-3m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Wet/damp places



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

Tassel Sedge

Carex fascicularis

Needs permanent water best suited to pond, dam or bog. Frogs attach eggs to the stalks during breed season. Habitat for water birds in wetland & riparian plantings. May be pruned annually to remove old foliage. Wet soil, full sun.

Height: 0.5m

Width: 0.5m

Habitat:  

Flowers:  

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Tall Spear-grass

Austrostipa nodosa


Striking, small green fern good for understorey and provides shelter for frogs. Damp soil, part sun to full shade.

Native grasses are economical, tough and resilient and look great in rock gardens or as borders to pathways or around ponds.

Height: 0.5-1m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of H. Whiting

Lemon Scented-grass

Cymbopogon ambiguus

Very drought tolerant. Provides shelter for lizards and insects. Smells lemony when leaves are crushed. Tolerates drier soil, full to part sun.

Native grasses are an integral part of any butterfly-, lizard- or frog-friendly garden. For lizards and frogs they provide refuge and attract insects for them to feed on. Butterflies often rely on specific grasses for laying eggs on, and will also need an accompanying selection of flowering plants for nectar.

Height: 0.3-1m

Width: 0.1-0.5m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Common Wallaby Grass

Rytidosperma caespitosum


Grazed by kangaroos and wombats. Shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars. Tolerates drier soil, full sun to part shade.

To get the best out of your native grasses, it is recommended that you cut them back every year after they drop their seed to stimulate new growth.

Height: 0.3-1m

Width: 0.1-0.7m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Common Tussock-grass


Poa labillardieri var. *labillardieri*

Good for riparian planting along watercourses, along upper bank. Shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars. Habitat for Ringed Xenica butterfly. Damp well drained soil, full to part shade.

Height: 0.1-0.3m

Width: 0.3-0.7m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of B. Doyle

Feather Spear-grass

Austrostipa elegantissima

Very hardy. Grazed by kangaroos and wombats.
Shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars.
Tolerates drier soil, full sun to part shade.

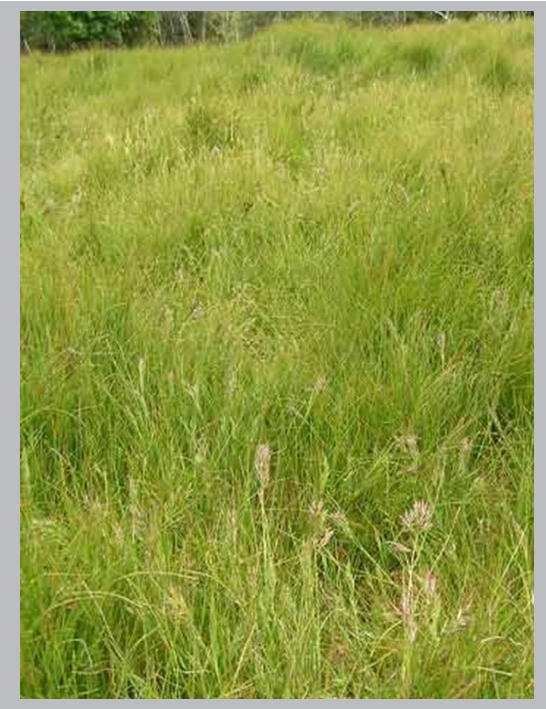
Height: 1m

Width: 1m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of Greg (Native Seeds)

Knead Wallaby-grass

Rytidosperma geniculatum

Grazed by kangaroos and wombats. Shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars. Can form a lush grass bed.

Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.1-0.5m

Width: 0.1-0.3m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of Renae Eden

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

Provides shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars and kangaroos.
Moderate soil moisture, full sun to part shade.

Height: 0.5-1m

Width: 0.5-1m

Habitat:  

Flowers:    

Grasses



Above: Photograph courtesy of Tonia Brown (left), Renae Eden (right)

Weeping Rice-grass

Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides*

Good for riparian planting along watercourses, along upper bank. Shelter for lizards and food source for native caterpillars. Habitat for Skipper moths. Moderate soil moisture, full sun to full shade.

Height: 0.3m

Width: 0.3m

Habitat:  

Flowers: 