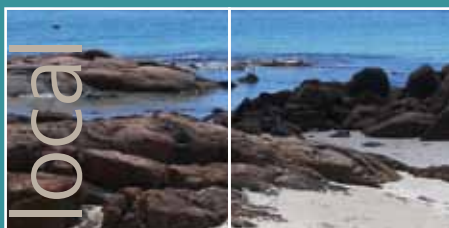




Coastal Gardens

A planting guide for
Geographe Bay
Bunker Bay to Dalyellup.



local

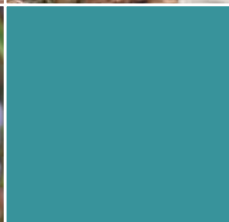
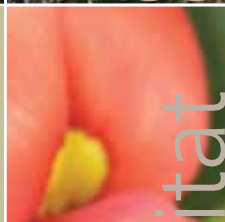
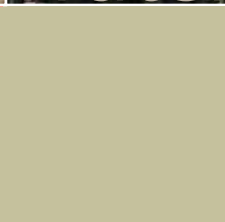


water-wise

style



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



habitat

Healthy & attractive urban landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for people living in the Geographie Bay coastal region from Bunker Bay to Dalyellup. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

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Using this planting guide

Getting started

Our gardens are challenged with long-hot-dry summers, drought, water restrictions, and a changing climate. As a coastal resident you may also have to tackle salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils.

However, there is good news! You can have a waterwise garden that requires minimal fertilising and copes with our tough climate without compromising on style, by using resilient, local native coastal plants.

This guide shows you how to utilise the fantastic variety of native plants available to make a stunning garden. Taking you through step by step, you will learn what plant works best for a given area or need, how to incorporate them in different landscaping styles, how to maintain them, and where to buy. Information has also been provided on the traditional names and uses of these plants by the Nyungar people where relevant.

You will learn about plants to avoid which are known for becoming serious weeds in natural coastal environments. When buying future plants, you will be prepared to consider natives for the benefits they provide. You may also identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your coastal garden benefits your wallet. Its an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering local coastal plants. Happy gardening from the SWCC team.



Discovering local plants

What is a local plant?

Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your neighbourhood so they have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'indigenous plants'.

Why use local plants?

Local plants have a huge range of benefits:

- Low maintenance.
- Drought tolerant.
- Require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies.
- Don't need fertilisers or pesticides.
- Provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards.
- Save you money and time.
- Adaptable for various landscaping styles, producing striking results.
- Native plants flower at different times of the year so you can have a flowering garden all year round.

Local plants are a great option for residents of coastal areas. They have adapted to survive the harsh conditions of sand and salt blasting, prolonged sun exposure, nutrient-deprived soils, and limited water availability. They are the best plants for your neighbourhood and the environment.

Request 'local provenance' plants from your native nursery where possible. Local provenance plants are grown from seed that is collected from healthy plants growing near the planting site in similar environmental situations.

Using plants of local provenance is important because local plants are genetically adapted to local conditions. Provenance plants decrease the risk of disrupting the gene pool of the local flora.



How to use
local plants

Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, to courtyards and pots.

As you will discover throughout this guide, there is a local coastal plant for most garden situations. Plants featured include striking ground-covers, low shrubs, structured sedges and grasses, flowering creepers and trailers, bird-attracting shrubs and screening trees.

This guide also shows you which local species to use for particular effects, and makes friendlier recommendations for replacing plants known to become invasive coastal weeds.

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 34 - 35.



Garden escapees

Are you harbouring known villains?



How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

Weeds are plants growing where they aren't wanted, and they aren't just sour sobs and thistles! Some plants, even those deemed 'beautiful', escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural environments.

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment.
- Can reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna.
- Can alter soil conditions.
- Clog up waterways and effect water quality.
- Harbour pest animals such as foxes, feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife.
- Can alter coastal dune shape.
- Garden escapees are very costly to control and take resources away from other important issues.

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates, such as the Mediterranean and South Africa. Thriving in similar conditions, they out-compete local natives as they don't have the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment.

You might not realise you're harbouring garden escapees, or might not know they 'jump the fence' to become problems. Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally and deliberately.

- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc).
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings can grow even several months later.
- Sometimes people deliberately plant garden plants in our natural coastal environments.
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly on the coast.



You can help!

Have a good look through this guide to check which common garden plants are nasties in the coastal environment. You might like to remove any you have and replace them with the indigenous plants suggested. Take this guide with you when you are making new plant purchases and don't buy plants which are known to be a problem.

Here are some other easy things you can do:

- Use local native species in your garden.
- Dispose of your garden waste responsibly.
- Check with your local council before you plant into natural coastal environments.
- Join a local Coastcare group to learn more about our coast and lend a hand! Call the South West Catchments Council on 9780 6193, or visit www.swccnrm.org.au for information on how to get involved.



Bay care

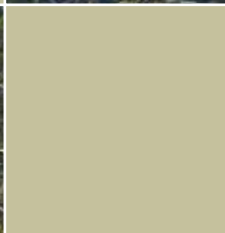
Fertilise wisely

Fertilisers are products that release nutrients which assist plant health and growth. Nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous and magnesium are all important plant foods. These nutrients are absorbed by plants when dissolved. When fertilisers are used incorrectly they can actually be harmful to plants, gardens and surrounding waterways.

Excessive fertilising and overwatering can lead to nutrients being washed directly into waterways. High nutrient loads disturb the delicate balance of an aquatic ecosystem and can cause large algal blooms and fish kills.

The benefit of using local native plants is that they don't generally require fertiliser (see page 35 for more information). For non-natives and lawns especially, you can help protect Geographe Bay and its important wetlands through responsible fertiliser use. This includes:

- Don't wash it away- Fertilise in spring. Fertilising in winter will most likely amount to the rains washing the nutrients past the root zone before they can be absorbed by the plants.
- Improving your soil- Sandy soils do not hold nutrients well, by adding soil amendments such as compost, minerals (such as clay; gypsum; spongelite and zeolite) and soil wetting agents your plants will absorb water and nutrients much more effectively.



- **Fertilise Sparingly** – The nutrient needs of plants vary depending on their size and type. For example, lawns only need fertilising once or twice a year, vegetables every few weeks and natives need much less fertiliser than exotics. Fertiliser only needs to be applied to the root zone, a good guide is within the canopy area of the plant. In sandy soils, slow release fertilisers work best.
- **Use as directed-** Application rates identified on the packet will most likely be the maximum amounts recommended.
- **Know your soil** – When soil pH is not suitable for a particular plant it won't absorb nutrients. Finding out whether your soil is alkaline or acidic can assist you in choosing the right plants for your garden, as well as the right way to treat it if required. Easy to use soil testing kits are available from your local hardware store. Your local nursery can provide more information on how to raise or lower your soil pH.

For more information:

www.geocatch.asn.au

www.fertilisewise.org.au

www.homeriverocean.com.au



Trees & tall shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Eastern State Wattles

E.g Sydney Golden Wattle *Acacia longifolia*

(NSW, VIC, SA, QLD)

Flowers: winter to spring

Reproduces: seed pods spread by birds, water and ants.



Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*

(NSW)

Flowers: Creamy perfumed flowers with red orange fruits.

Reproduces: Red seeds spread by birds eating the fruit.

Problem weed along banks of waterways.



Victorian Tea-tree, Coast Tea-tree

Leptospermum laevigatum

(East coast Australia & Tasmania)

Flowers: August to November

Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)



Norfolk Island Hibiscus *Lagunaria patersonia*

(Norfolk Island)

Flowers: Pink hibiscus like flowers.

Reproduces: Large pods of spiny hairs and red seeds.

Can colonise coastal dunes.



Bracelet Honey Myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris*

(Eastern States)

Flowers: white brushes in spring/summer

Reproduces: fine seed



Spanish Flag *Lantana camara*

(North and South America)

Flowers: Dense multi-coloured clusters in Autumn and

Winter. Reproduces: Seeds spread by birds.

GROW ME instead



Local Wattles Kileyung *Acacia*

Tall shrubs to medium trees with yellow pom-pom flowers during spring and summer. Provides food and shelter for birds and insects. Can be short lived and fast growing. Edible seed and gum. *Acacia cyclops* dark green foliage, seeds have red 'eye'. Neat shrub; *A. littorea* has spiky 'shark teeth' foliage; *A. rostellifera* and *A. saligna* both small to medium trees to 8m high x 4m.



Hamelin Bay Mallee *Eucalyptus calcicola*

Fast growing, compact small tree 6m high x 4m. Light green leaves, attractive buds, ribbed fruits and white flowers. Smooth bark. Availability can be limited.



Local *Melaleucas*

Large shrubs to medium trees. Rough papery bark. Dense, compact foliage good for shade. Creamy flower heads early summer to autumn. *Melaleuca huegelli* large shrub to 5m, lime tolerant. *M. cuticularis* also to 5m often grows in moist areas. *M. lanceolata* medium tree to 8m, dense wood and foliage.



Dungyn, Olive-leaved *Hakea oleifolia*

Sturdy, erect large shrub or small tree 8m high x 3m. Attractive dark, glossy prickly leaves. White flowers in spring and interesting, corky fruit. Smooth bark. Wind firm and adaptable. Good substitute for weedy olives. Availability can be limited.



Peppermint, Wanang *Agonis flexuosa* var. *flexuosa*

Shrub or tree to 10m high x 6m. Long lived. Graceful plant, weeping habit, rough bark, masses of white flowers in spring and summer. Important habitat for possums and many native insects. Accepts pruning, adaptable in gardens. Many cultivars available. Leaves used for breath freshener or to make tea.

Trees & tall shrubs

GROW ME instead



Rottnest Island Pine *Callitris preissii*

Medium to large tree 8m high x 5m, cypress-like habit and foliage, large warty cones, neat habit, dark green foliage. A native conifer. Fragrant wood and foliage. Good screen or windbreak. Tolerates lime and salt.



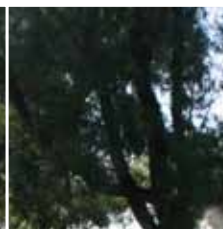
Pinkwood *Beyeria viscosa*

Small tree 5m high x 3m. Neat habit, dull foliage, separate sexes, interesting pinkish new growth. Insignificant flowers. Very lime, salt and wind tolerant. Good in Mediterranean context instead of olives. Availability can be limited.



Basket Bush *Spyridium globulosum*

Compact shrub 3m high x 2m, leaves glossy and dark green above and white and furry underneath. Masses of white perfumed flowers winter and spring. Important possum food. Tolerates most soils, lime and wind tolerant.



Medium Shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Mirror-bush

Coprosma repens

(New Zealand)

Flowers: summer

Reproduces: seed from fleshy orange/red berries



Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: long lived seed



Marguerite

Argyranthemum frutescens ssp. foeniculaceum

(Canary Islands)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed



Broom

Genista spp.

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: Yellow pea flowers much of the year. Number of different species, all weeds.

Reproduces: Fine, long lived seed germinates massively



Pride of Madeira *Echium candicans*

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: Showy blue-purple spires. Grey whorls of foliage.

Reproduces: Seed, vegetatively

Medium Shrubs

GROW ME instead



Lilac Hibiscus *Alyogyne huegelii*

Upright shrub to 3m high x 1m. Large interesting bright green foliage and showy blue to purple or white flowers for spring and summer. Popular garden shrub that benefits from pruning as can grow spindly, hardy and adaptable, semi-shade or sun. Some beautiful cultivars available such as "West Coast Gem", but wild forms are excellent and graceful garden plants. Kangaroo resistant. Availability can be limited.



Coast Saltbush *Atriplex isatidea*

Shrub 2m x 2m with silver-grey foliage. Suitable for the most exposed coastal position as salt tolerant, lovely contrast in the garden when kept well pruned. Attracts butterflies and has edible leaves. Will grow in most soils. Full sun. Availability can be limited



Sea Box *Alyxia buxifolia*

Neat compact habit, glossy foliage, small white, perfumed flowers in spring. Orange berries. Milky sap medicinal. Could be used in Mediterranean or formal context used for hedges. Tolerant in most soils, very hardy. Availability can be limited.



Southern Diplolaena *Diplolaena dampieri*

Shrub to 2m, much less in exposed areas. Beautiful orange-red flowers in winter and spring, attract nectar feeding birds. Grey downy foliage, accepts some shade but does best in full sun. Not eaten by kangaroos.



Chorilaena *Chorilaena quercifolia*

Dense to open shrub to 5m, much less by the coast. Interesting bright green, bristly oak shaped foliage. White to green flowers in spring that attract small honey eating birds such as spinebills. Beautiful and reliable shrub that grows in sun or shade, makes a lovely hedge. Foliage not eaten by kangaroos as it is very aromatic. Availability can be limited.

GROW ME instead



Cut-leaf Hibbertia *Ballion Hibbertia cuneiformis*

Upright shrub 2m high x 1m. Large, bright yellow flowers over a long period followed by very attractive orange fruits which provide food for numerous native animals. Hardy and adaptable, will accept most conditions in the garden. Tolerates shade and most soils.



Rigid Wattle *Kileying Acacia cochlearis*

Compact shrub 2m x 2m, spikey dark green foliage, yellow pom-pom flowers spring, edible gum. Lime tolerant, good screen plant.



Shining Fanflower *Scaevola nitida*

Erect shrub to 2m x 2m, less in exposed areas. Beautiful, glowing blue-purple fan shaped flowers in spring. Bright green, glossy foliage. Hardy and adaptable, will tolerate some shade. Flowers attract native bees and butterflies. Some lovely cultivars available.



Berry Saltbush *Rhagodia baccata*

Sprawling shrub or groundcover 2m high x 3m with colourful fleshy foliage, tiny flowers and deep edible red berries eaten by birds and bobtail lizards. Attracts butterflies. Can be trained on a fence or clipped into a hedge. Good bird habitat



Coastal daisy Bush *Olearia axillaris*

Upright shrub 2m x 2m. Woolly silvery-grey foliage, aromatic. White, daisy flowers occur along stems in summer and autumn. Benefits from pruning. Good screen, beautiful foliage contrast in the garden. Accepts some shade but best in full sun. Dwarf cultivars available. Can be used as a flavouring in cooking.

Medium Shrubs

GROW ME instead



Cockies Tongues, Indji *Templetonia retusa*

Upright shrub 2m high x 1m. Spectacular brick red flowers (rarely yellow or cream) in winter to spring, which attract birds. Attractive dark green foliage which makes a lovely contrast in the garden. Hardy and lime-tolerant. Can be planted from seed.



Coastal Honeymyrtle *Melaleuca systena*

Upright shrub 1m x 1m, fine furry leaves, pale yellow pom-pom flowers spring and autumn. Availability can be limited.



Grevillea vestita *Grevillea vestita*

Upright shrub 2m high x 1m, white flowers intermittently over most of the year. Interesting spikey, light green foliage. Good bird plant.



Coastal Hopbush *Dodonaea aptera*, Horny hopbush *D. ceratocarpa*

Compact spreading shrubs 2m high x 2m, glossy rounded foliage, insignificant flowers in winter, separate sexes, decorative papery fruits. Hardy.



Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*

Open shrub or small tree 2m x 2m. Thick narrow pale green leaves and small white or pink flowers for a long period from winter-summer, followed by edible purple fruit. Fast growing hardy windbreak and shelter. Prostrate cultivar available.

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Aurora Daisy *Arctotis stoechadifolia*

(South Africa)

Flowers: various, spring to summer

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Gazania *Gazania sp.*

(South Africa)

Flowers: various, most of year, mainly spring to autumn

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Lavender *Lavandula sp.*

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: purple, most of year

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Veldt Daisy *Dimorpotheca ecklonii*

(South Africa)

Flowers: Purple or white with black centre

Reproduces: seed, suckers



Periwinkle *Vinca major*

(Europe)

Flowers: Blue

Reproduces: vegetatively



Nasturtium *Tropaeolum spp.*

(America)

Flowers: Variously orange, red, yellow

Reproduces: Seed, vegetatively

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

GROW ME instead



Dune Moses *Acacia lasiocarpa*

Compact shrub, fine, ferny bright green foliage and masses of bright yellow pom-pom flowers in winter and spring. Can be short lived, very lime, salt and wind tolerant. Likes well drained soils. Good border plant.



Cushion Bush *Leucophyta brownii*

Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage with small, pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, colour contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Several cultivars available. Contrast plant. Full sun. Good border plant.



Barrier Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*

Low sprawling shrub or groundcover 0.3m high x 2m. Leaves small, blue-green, fleshy with fine hairy leaves. Small yellow flowers and yellow to red edible, medicinal fleshy fruits. Attracts native wildlife. Responds well to pruning (can prune seasonally if starts to dominate garden bed). Full-sun to semi-shade. Will climb and ramble. Salt and drought tolerant, suitable in most soil types. Availability can be limited.



Strawberry-leaved Guinea Flower, *Ballion Hibbertia grossulariifolia* or *H. racemosa*

Prostrate ground cover 0.2m high x 0.5m. Large bright green, rounded textural leaves and large, bright yellow 'buttercup' flowers any month. Does best in shade to semi-shade. Attracts butterflies. Availability can be limited.



Coastal Pigface, *Bain Carpobrotus virescens*

Thick, fleshy ground cover 3m high x 2m. Green leaves triangular in cross-section, large bright pink or purple flowers occur in spring. Attractive ground-cover, soil stabiliser. Suitable as trailing plant for pots or down walls. Ripe fruits are edible and flesh is medicinal, similar to aloe vera. Do not plant similar South African variety *Carpobrotus edulis*, recognisable by yellow flowers.



Tar Bush *Eremophila glabra* ssp. *albicans*

Sprawling shrub or groundcover 0.5m high x 1m with silvery leaves. Tubular orange, red and green flowers. Several cultivars available including fully prostrate. Attracts birds, suitable to most soil types.

GROW ME instead



Swan River Rulingia *Commersonia (Rulingia) cygnorum*

Compact shrub 0.5m x 0.5m, crinkly bright green leaves with white starry flowers winter / spring. Good border plant. Availability can be limited.



Common Beaked Triggerplant *Stylidium adnatum*

Erect perennial shrub to 0.5m. Pale pink to white "trigger" flowers late spring to summer on showy stems with attractive fine foliage. Suits sandy soils, sun to shade. Prune after flowering. Attracts native bees. Availability can be limited.



Coastal Pimelea *Pimelea ferruginea* or *P. rosea*

Dense, dome shaped shrub 1m x 1m. Attractive symmetrical bright green glossy foliage and showy clusters of pale to deep pink flowers at ends of stems spring to summer. Hardy and reliable garden plant, suits exposed areas. Best in full sun. Prune after flowering. Several cultivars available. Can be short lived (3–5yrs).



Coast Bonefruit *Threlkeldia diffusa*

Small shrub or groundcover to 0.5m x 0.5m. Small fleshy, pale green succulent leaves with purple tinge. Tiny flowers and red or yellow edible berries. Tolerates saline conditions and clay. Will climb and ramble. Grows in shade or sun.



Rock Thryptomene *Thryptomene saxicola*

Small compact spreading shrub 0.5m high x 1m. Fine green foliage and masses of white or pale pink flowers over a long period from autumn to summer. Excellent cut flowers, fine reliable garden shrub. Several cultivars available.



Serrate-leaved Guinea Flower *Hibbertia serrata*

Upright shrub 1m high x 0.5m. Bright yellow buttercup flowers any month. Bright green serrated leaves. Neat habit.

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

GROW ME instead



Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata*

Fast growing groundcover 0.2m x 2m. Crinkly trifoliate leaves. Large red pea shaped flowers all through foliage in spring. Sun or shade. Suitable to most soils. Can be grown from seed.



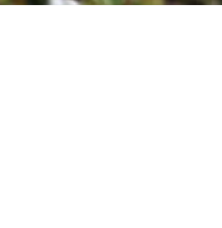
Guichenotia *Guichenotia ledifolia*

Upright shrub 1m high x 0.5m, grey furry leaves, long trusses of papery pink flowers with a black centre. Availability can be limited.



Slender Myoporum *Myoporum caprarioides*

Upright shrub 1m x 1m. Bright green foliage with small starry white flowers and pink or purple edible medicinal berries. Can make a good hedge in formal context.



False Boronia *Phyllanthus calycinus*

Upright shrub 1m high x 0.5m. Dull light green foliage with white pendulous flowers in winter to spring.



Grey Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea* or *A. hypoleuca*

Sprawling shrub 0.5m x 0.5m, insignificant flowers, silver grey foliage. Good soil binder, roots down as it spreads. Edible leaves. Very salt tolerant, excellent ground cover. *A. hypoleuca* is less robust, but a good ground cover with grey-blue foliage. Requires pruning in winter. Availability can be limited.

GROW ME instead



Thick-leaved Fanflower *Scaevola crassifolia*

Erect shrub 1m x 1m, much less in exposed areas. Beautiful, glowing blue-purple fan shaped flowers from spring to summer. Bright green, thick glossy foliage. Hardy and adaptable but can be short lived, will tolerate some shade. Flowers attract native bees and butterflies. Some cultivars available. Other species include *Scaevola anchusifolia*, *globulifera* and *thesioides*.



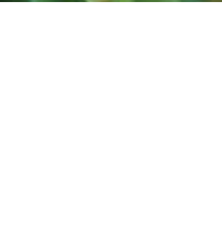
Snake Bush *Hemiandra pungens*

Prickly leaved groundcover 0.5 high x 2m. Flowers mauve or white with spots inside throat. Several cultivars available, local form is upright.



Bower Spinach *Tetragonia implexicoma*

Sprawling succulent 0.3m x 0.5m ground cover. Bright green, fleshy edible leaves. Yellow starry flowers any month.



Thomasia *Thomasia cognate* or *T. triphylla*

Compact small shrub 0.5m x 0.5m. Small furry crinkly leaves and pink papery flowers in spring or summer. *Thomasia triphylla* is usually taller (to about 1m), and more robust with pink-purple flowers.



Common Sea Heath *Frankenia pauciflora*

Compact small shrub 0.5m x 0.5m, fine greyish leaves, small papery pale pink flowers throughout the year. Very salt and wind tolerant. Good border plant. Availability can be limited.

Grasses, sedges, tufties & bulbs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Fountain Grass *Pennistenum setaceum*

(East Africa & Middle East)

Flowers: summer to autumn.

Reproduces: wind borne seed.



Arum Lily *Zantedeschia aethiopica* - **Declared Plant**

(Africa)

Flowers: white, winter

Reproduces: Seed, rhizomes

Toxic, all parts. Illegal to sell and transport this plant.



Freesia, Ixia, Sparaxis, Lachenalia

(South Africa)

Flowers: various, spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds and corms in movement of soil



Agapanthus *Agapanthus praecox*

(South Africa)

Flowers: Purple, blue, spring-summer

Reproduces: seed, rhizomes



Wavy Gladiolus *Gladiolus undulatus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: white, late spring-summer

Reproduces: explosive spread of cormels via water, movement of soil

GROW ME instead



Blueberry Lily *Dianella brevicaulis* or *D. revoluta*

Tufted clumping perennial 0.5m x 0.5m. Blue to purple branching flowers in spring which attract the blue-banded bee, and fine strappy foliage, suits a wide range of conditions. Bright purple edible berries are a feature, and they attract seed eating birds. *D. revoluta* similar and taller. More common in commercial nurseries.



Coastal Sword Sedge, Kerbin *Lepidosperma gladiatum*

Sedge 1m x 1m, broad dark green strappy leaves. Brown flower heads winter to summer. Dark seed heads. Plant in clumps. Good accent plant, use in borders, foliage contrast. Good feature pot-plant. Sun or shade, tolerates dry. Edible tubers, also used to carry fish through their gills.



Knotted Club Rush, Tangil *Ficinia nodosa*

Attractive evergreen clumping plant 1m high x 0.5m. Stems long, dark-green, cylindrical & upright. Flower heads brown ball-shaped, occur all year. Versatile plant. Use as accent, group plantings, pot-plants, around ponds. Tolerates salt spray & wet zones. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade, dry or wet. Traditionally used for making string and rope.



Sea Rush, Talin *Juncus kraussii*

Very upright clumping plant 1m high x 0.5m. Dark green stems with branching seed head. Very salt tolerant. Suitable for most soil types. Attractive upright plant suitable for borders and ponds. Leaves are crushed and used as antibacterial medicine.



Prickly Conostylis *Conostylis aculeata* or *C. candicans*

Clumping plant 0.3m x 0.3m. Flat bristly leaves and yellow pom-pom flowers in spring. Grey Cottonheads *C. Candicans* similar but with greyish furry leaves. Good border plants or in clumps for foliage contrast.



Coast Tussock Grass *Poa poiformis*

Tussock grass growing to 0.5m x 0.5m. Thin blue-green leaves, bronze flowers and seed heads. Tight fine leaved foliage. Great in small or large group plantings, also rockeries, borders. Good table pot-plant. Shear back to rejuvenate. Full-sun very wind tolerant.

Climbers

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*
(Asia)

Flowers: Cream, white, spring-summer
Reproduces: Fruit (seed), vegetatively. Massive climber which smothers and blankets vegetation



Dolichos pea *Dipogon lignosus*
(South Africa)

Flowers: Purple, spring-summer
Reproduces: Seed, rhizomes.
Smothers other plants, can cover vast areas



Morning Glory, *Ipomea indica*
(Asia)

Flowers: Purple, pink
Reproduces: seed, vegetatively
Vigorous and destructive climber



Ivy *Hedera spp.*
(Europe)

Flowers: Greenish-white
Reproduces: Fleshy fruit (seed), vegetatively
All parts toxic. Self clinging via adapted roots ('suckers'), will kill other plants that it smothers



GROW ME instead



Australian Bluebell *Billardiera fusiformis* (syn. *Sollya fusiformis*)

Sturdy climber or twining shrub 3m x 2m. Pendulous, bright blue to pale blue, occasionally white or pink bell-like flowers spring through to autumn. Excellent and manageable small climber, twiner and screen much loved by nesting small birds. Edible fruits when translucent. Makes a good hedge.



Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*

Climber or sprawling shrub. Glossy, bright green, heart shaped leaves. Tiny flowers. Very hardy, can grow in very exposed areas. Availability can be limited.



Australian Bluebell *Billardiera fusiformis* (syn. *Sollya fusiformis*)

Twining shrub to vigorous climber. Dark green trifoliate leaves. Masses of showy pendulous purple pea flowers in winter-spring. Hardy and adaptable to sun or shade, best pruned after flowering to keep from becoming woody. Prolific seeder and bird attractant. Suitable in most soil types, can be short lived. Can be planted from seed..



Augusta Kennedia *Kennedia lateritia*

Fast growing vigorous twiner. Large trifoliate leaves, masses of brick red flowers with yellow eye in spring. Rare in the wild. Can be planted from seed.



Slender Clematis, Tuuruk *Clematis linearifolia* or *C. pubescens*

Delicate to robust climber or twiner 4m x 2m. Large creamy white star like flowers in winter-spring followed by beautiful, long lasting silver, feathery seed heads on female plants. Spectacular contrast when grown with the native wisteria and/or coral vine. Easily grown from very fresh seed. Common Clematis *C. pubescens* similar with edible tubers.

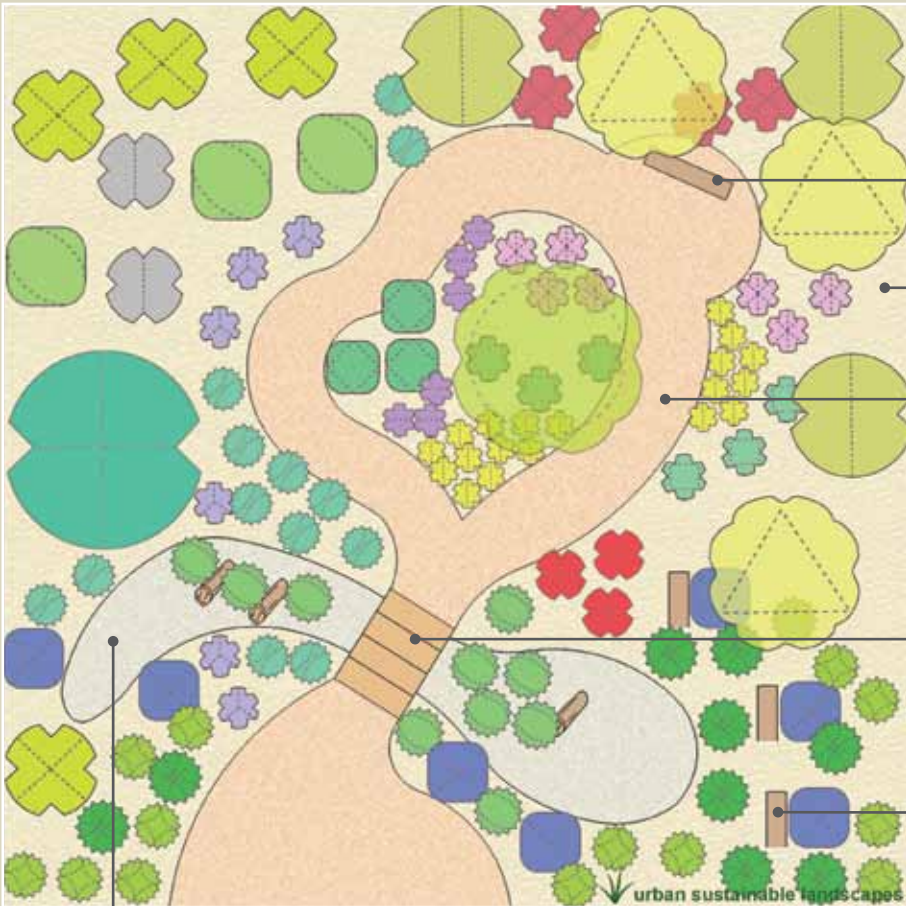


Climbing Chorizema *Chorizema diversifolium*

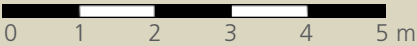
A light twining climber with wiry stems. Long rows of cheerful orange to apricot flowers in spring. Tolerates shade. Can be planted from seed.

Natural cottage garden design

A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants. These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add bird-baths, hollow logs, and nesting boxes to attract and support local wildlife.



Swale with 14mm quartzite gravel and habitat logs



Trees & tall shrubs



Agonis flexuosa



Hakea oleifolia



Melaleuca huegelii

Medium shrubs



Alyogyne huegelii



Scaevola nitida

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Leucophyta brownii



Pimelea ferruginea



Stylidium adnatum



Conostylis candicans



Carpobrotus virescens



Phyllanthus calycinus



Hibbertia grossulariifolia



Guichenotia ledifolia



Hibbertia serrata

Grasses, sedges, tufties and bulbs



Poa poiformis



Dianella revoluta



Lepidosperma gladiatum



Ficinia nodosa



Juncus kraussii

Climbers



Billardiera fusiformis

Bench

Mulch

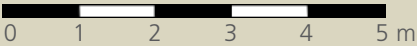
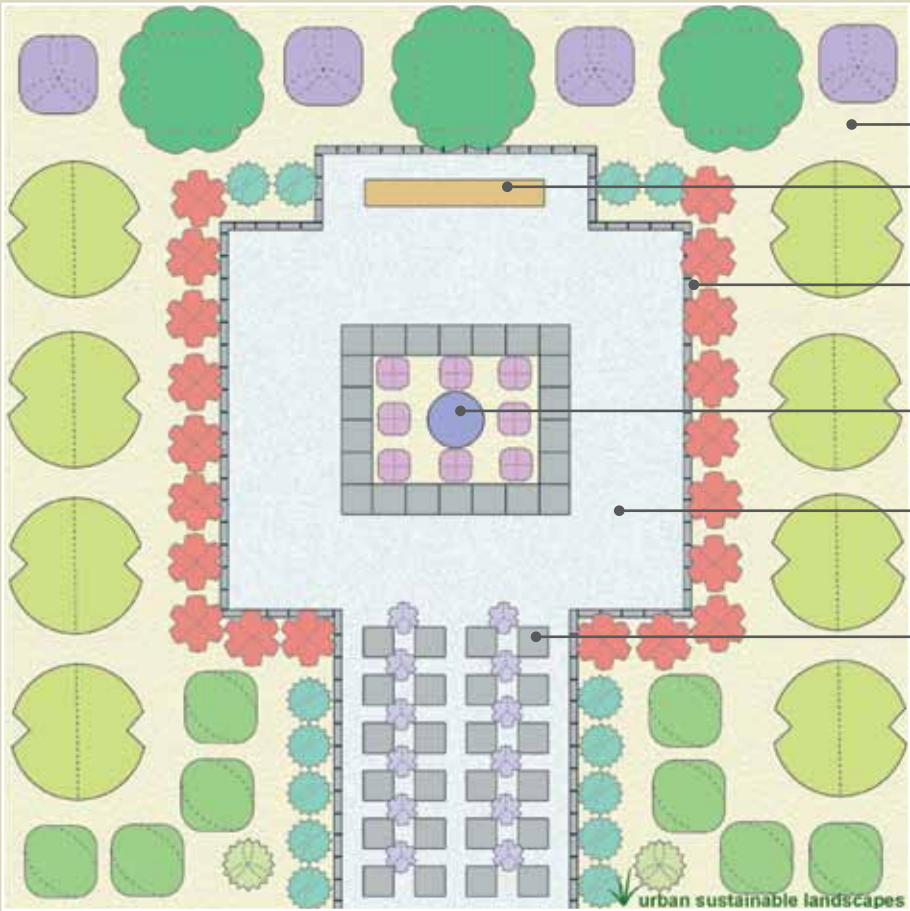
White wash
sustainable
pebble

Flat sleepers
set in gravel to
give boardwalk
appearance

Recycled
hardwood
timber post,
upright 2m high

Formal garden design

A number of local coastal plants can be grown into clipped hedges or shapes to form the basis of the formal garden. Sedges and grasses can be used in mass plantings and accent borders. Use local climbers or trailing plants in a feature urn, terrace or retaining wall. To achieve a formal garden style, emphasise symmetry and borders and use gravel or sustainable pebbles to create and highlight landscaping features.



- Mulch
- Bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Birdbath feature
- 14mm dolomite gravel
- 500mm x 500mm charcoal pavers

Trees & tall shrubs



Melaeuca huegelii

Medium shrubs



Chorileana quercifolia

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Hibbertia serrata



Carpobrotus virescens



Pimelea ferruginea



Coastal Pigface



Leucophyta brownii

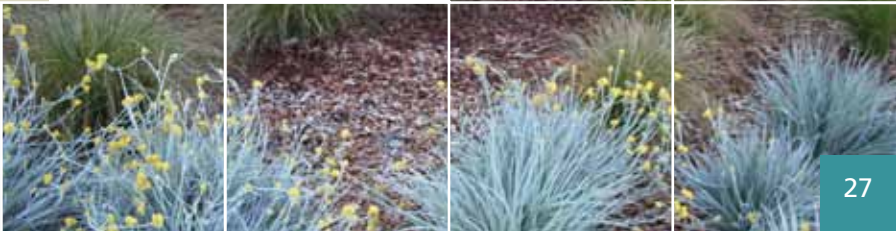
Grasses, sedges, tufties and bulbs



Lepidosperma gladiatum

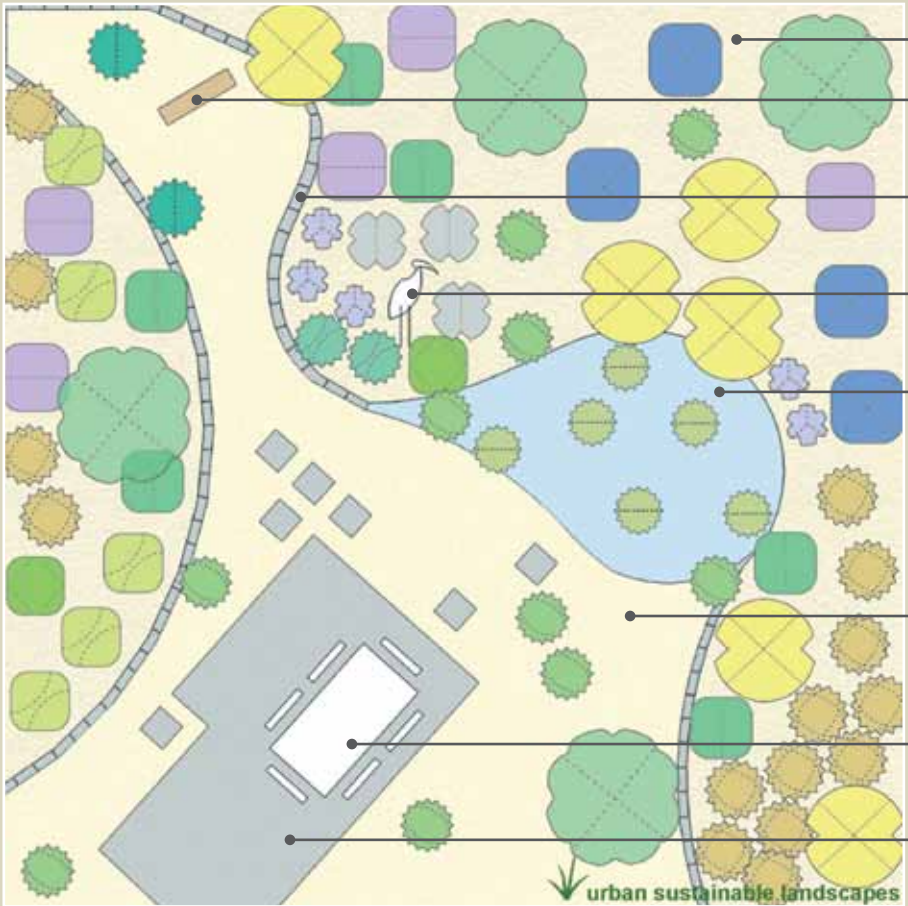


Billardiera fusiformis



Japanese style garden design

Local coastal plants are well suited to the minimalist style and reflective feeling of Japanese gardens. Aim to create a garden that mimics the natural balance and flow of nature. Clumps of local grasses can be used to compliment raked gravel areas. Incorporate natural elements such as plants with graceful habit, water features, stepping stones and gravel areas to achieve your Japanese-style garden.



- Mulch
- Recycled wooden bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Feature sculpture
- Clay or plastic lined wet/dry stormwater fed pond coated with quartzite gravel at a maximum of 200mm depth
- 14mm quartzite gravel
- Table & chairs
- 400mm x 400mm charcoal pavers

Medium shrubs



Templetonia
retusa



Hibbertia
cuneiformis

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Phyllanthus
calycinus



Leucophyta
brownii



Pimelea
ferruginea



Carpobrotus
virescens



Stylidium
adnatum

Grasses, sedges, tufties and bulbs



Juncus
kraussii



Ficinia
nodosa



Dianella
revoluta



Lepidosperma
gladiatum



Poa
poiformis

Climbers



Clematis
linearifolia

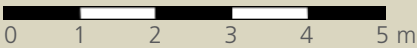
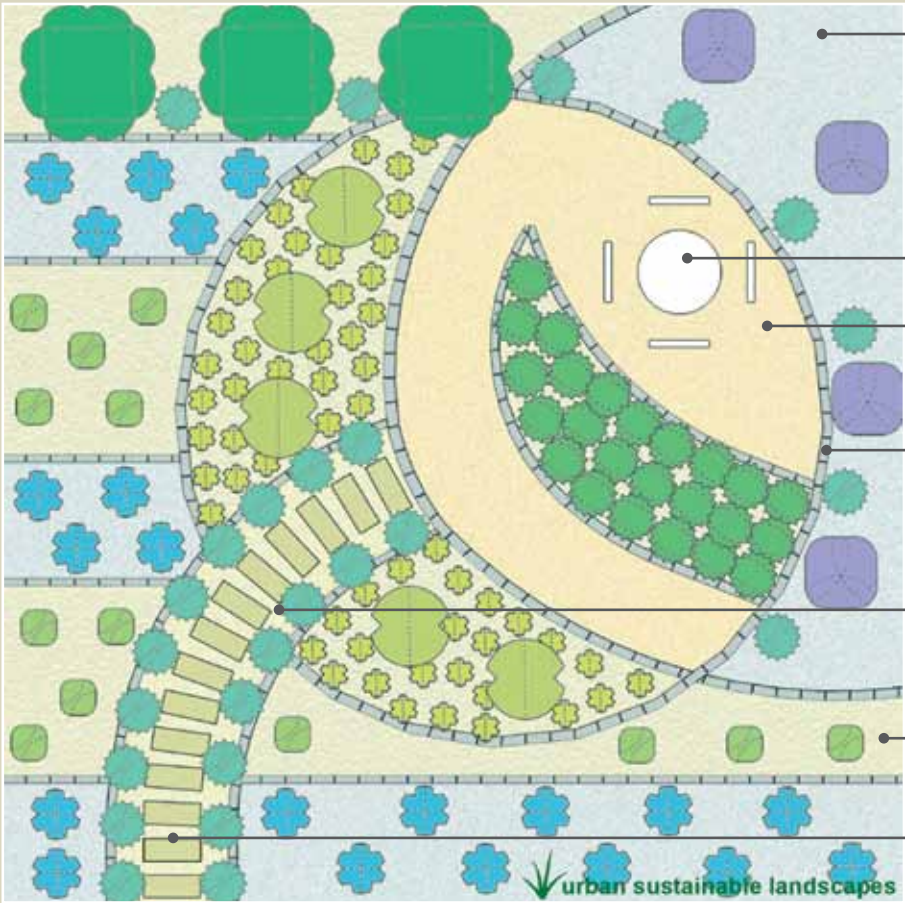


Hardenbergia
comptoniana



Contemporary garden design

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture for these bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts. A simple outdoor setting suits the contemporary garden design.



- Dolomite gravel
- Table & chairs
- White wash sustainable pebble
- 110 x 220mm linear paver divider
- 14mm quartzite gravel
- Mulch
- 800mm x 300mm paver stepping stones

Trees & tall shrubs



Hakea oleifolia

Medium shrubs



Olearia axillaris



Hibbertia cuneiformis

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Conostylis candicans



Enchylaena tomentosa



Pimelea ferruginea

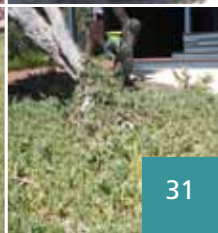
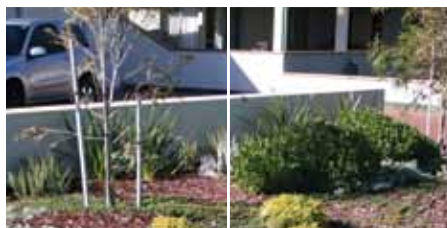
Grasses, sedges, tufties and bulbs



Dianella revoluta

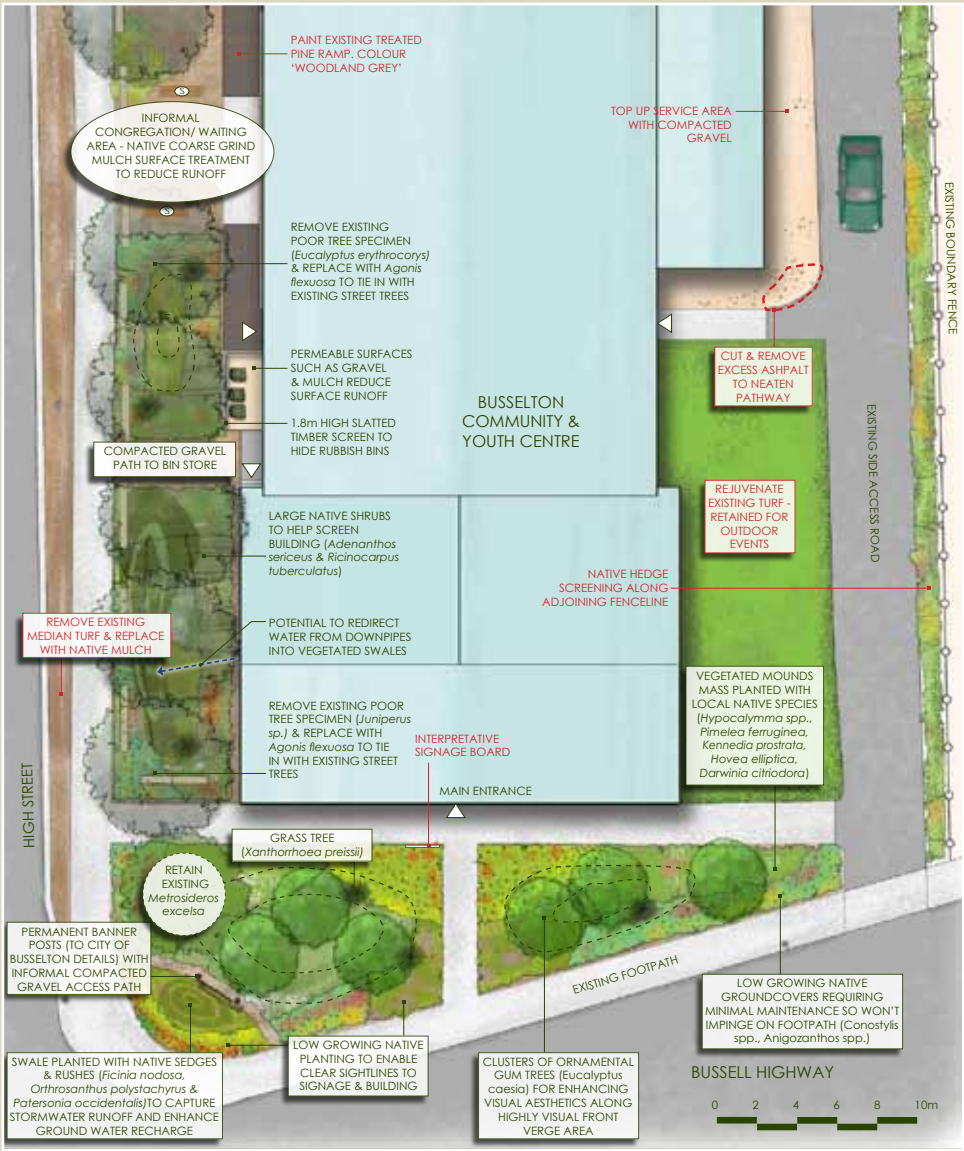


Ficinia nodosa



Bay Friendly Verge Garden

A demonstration 'Bay Friendly' verge garden has been established at the corner of High Street and Bussell Highway in Central Busselton.



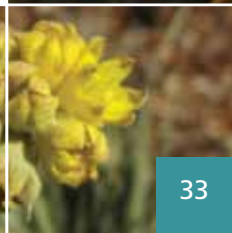
Legend



This demonstration garden showcases some of the key low nutrient and water efficient landscape approaches in the South West of Western Australia that can be applied on a range of property scales including your own backyard. The key principles of this low nutrient demonstration garden include:

1. Utilising local native tree and shrubs which are well suited to the local soils and climatic conditions. They are water efficient and require minimal fertilising, if any.
2. Utilising coarse grade second grind native mulch and organic soil amendments (i.e. no inorganic fertilisers etc.) not only help suppress weeds but maximises moisture retention around the roots and insulates the plants during hot weather. Only native organic mulches should be used.
3. Incorporation of vegetated swales helps to capture stormwater, increase groundwater recharge and also reduces the amount of water and nutrient run off into our waterways. Local native sedges and rushes are planted within the swales to assist with improving water quality by stripping the nutrients from the collected water.
4. Reducing the total area of lawn and replacing it with suitable local native trees and shrub planting. Lawn requires lots of water and application of fertiliser to thrive, so by reducing the total area of lawn, the overall amount of nutrients is reduced. Careful consideration needs to be given to ensure adequate lawn is still provided for outdoor activities.

Designed by prominent garden experts Josh Byrne and Associates, this project was made possible by the South West Catchment Council, GeoCatch and the City of Busselton through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and the Government of Western Australia.



Growing local coastal plants

When to plant

Planting is best done in the cooler months of autumn and winter. The ideal time to plant is after the first autumn rains when the soil is moist, and plants have ample time to establish roots before the warm weather kicks in.

Watering

Water-in your new plants. Over the first summer they may need an occasional deep watering, but no more than once a week. After their first summer, they should cope on rainfall alone. Prior to severe heat waves, give your plants a thorough watering, so water penetrates deep into the soil.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil and creates excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

Be mindful of current water restrictions and the prescribed watering days allocated to your street or lot number.

Mulch & gravels

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70%!¹ Organic mulch keeps soil temperatures down, which benefits root density, suppresses weed growth, and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

Apply 5–10 cm of mulch or gravel, creating a bowl shape around the plant to help retain water. To avoid plant disease, keep mulch away from plant stems.

Phytophthora dieback

The introduced plant disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has devastating effects on our native plants, including banksias. You can help reduce the spread and impact of phytophthora dieback on your garden by asking for dieback-free materials including soil, gravel, potting mix, mulch and plants: And of course, don't spread dieback into the bush! ²

¹SA Department for Environment & Heritage – www.backyards4wildlife.com.au

²South Coast NRM Coastal garden Guide- Albany, Denmark and Walpole



Fertilising

Fertilisers are not usually needed with local native plants. If you decide to fertilise, seek advice from your local nursery, as products with high levels of phosphorus can harm some local native plants. You will want to avoid rapid growth that makes your local plants leggy, weak and short-lived. If anything, a low phosphorous slow release fertiliser applied once a year in spring should be sufficient.

Maintaining your local plants

Pruning is beneficial for many local plants. Most species will appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote new growth and encourage flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering, usually late spring or early summer. Young plants can be pruned lightly and regularly. Older plants can be refreshed with a more extensive prune after flowering. Replace old plants that die or become straggly.

Potted local plants need a little more care than those planted out in gardens. Water your pot plants more regularly in summer, and apply a low-phosphorus fertiliser in spring and summer (check with your local nursery which product is best). Don't over-apply fertiliser as it can harm local native plants. Some plants may need re-potting in the future.

Sustainable landscaping

You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials, and avoid materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch.

More information

More information on native gardens can be found from the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, www.bgpa.wa.gov.au or from the WA Wildflower Society [www.http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/](http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/)

For further information on building frog-friendly gardens visit <http://frogwatch.museum.wa.gov.au/>



Sourcing local coastal plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries in the Geographe Bay region stock local coastal plants. Refer to the details below or contact the South West Catchments Council on 9780 6193.

Ask your local plant nursery for plants that are of 'local provenance' meaning native plants, endemic to the area, which are grown from seeds or cuttings collected from your local area, catchment or neighbourhood. These plants have adapted to local conditions, so are the best plants for your garden.

In late spring-early summer, you can often place orders for plants with your local nursery in advance of collecting them in late autumn in time for planting. Placing advanced orders is recommended if you want large quantities of plants, or you do not want to be faced with using substitute and possibly less suitable or desirable species. Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers. Please note: Some plants may not suit all conditions, locations and soil types. Discuss your garden design and species list with your local native nursery.

Local Native Nurseries

- The Tube Nursery - Blond St, Cowaramup
Ph: 9755 5509, tube_nsy@bigpond.net.au
www.tubenursery.wordpress.com
- Geographe Community Landcare Nursery
366 Elizabeth Ave, Busselton
Ph: 0429 644 885, gcln@westnet.com.au
www.geographelandcarenursery.mysouthwest.com.au
- Boyanup Botanical Nursery
Lot 14 Sth Western Hwy, Boyanup
Ph: 9731 5470, boyanupbotanical@westnet.com.au
www.boyanupbotanical.com.au
- Nindethana Seed Service
www.nindethana.net.au/



Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide. From picturesque images of our local coastline, to more in depth gardening resource material, they may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

Internet

- **South West Catchments Council** www.swccnrm.org.au
- **GeoCatch** www.geocatch.asn.au
- **Department of Environment and Conservation's Flora base** florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/
- **City of Busselton's Nature Verge** www.busselton.wa.gov.au/services/environmental_planning/nature_verge
- **Wildflower Society of Western Australia** members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/
- **Sustainable Gardening Australia** www.sgaonline.org.au
- **Water Corporation** www.watercorporation.com.au

Books

- **Coastal Plants: Perth And The South-West Coast Region** – Elizabeth Rippley and Barbara Rowland, 2004.
- **Western Weeds: A Guide to Weeds of Western Australia**, 2nd ed - Hussey et al. 2007
- **Coastal Plants, a guide to the identification and restoration of plants of the Perth region** – Kingsley Dixon, 2011.
- **Find that flower, a colour guide to the wildflowers of the cape to cape track and Leeuwin- Naturaliste National Park** - Jane Scott, 2009.
- **Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Australia's South West, Augusta - Margaret River Region** 3rd ed - Jane Scott & Patricia Negus, 2013.
- **Bushland Weeds, A practical Guide to their management** - Brown, K and Brooks, K.
- **Woody Weeds of the Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin Region** – CCG 2009.

Acknowledgements

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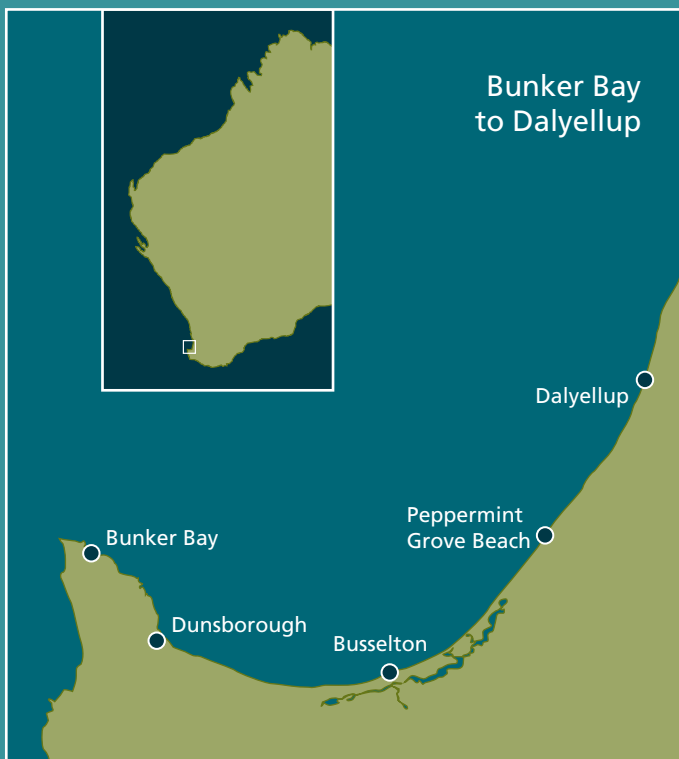


CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Government
of South Australia

Adelaide and
Mount Lofty Ranges
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Management Board



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