

# Native Gardens

A planting and landscaping guide  
for the southern region of Tasmania



local

style

water-wise

habitat

# Healthy and attractive gardens

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for people living in the southern region of Tasmania. Water-wise local native plants that are suitable for gardens are suggested as attractive alternatives or replacements for introduced plants that can be harmful to our local natural landscapes.

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# Using this planting guide

## Getting started

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Local native plants can be used to create a unique, attractive and sustainable garden whatever the shape, size or style of your garden. Native gardens are water efficient, conserve native plants, support wildlife and contribute to a greener suburban environment. With a long history of adapting to local soils and climatic conditions, native plants are well placed to cope with future localised changes in climate and seasonality.

This guide provides examples and inspiration for you to create your own vibrant and stylish local native garden using popular design styles and just some of the fantastic variety of native plants found within the southern region of Tasmania. Only a limited number of native plants from the southern region are featured, however there are many more available for you to consider. You may use a landscape design in its entirety or incorporate elements of a design to work in with existing aspects of your garden. Either way, step-by-step, you will learn which plants will work well, how to incorporate them in different landscaping styles and how to maintain them.

The guide also provides information on plants which are renowned for becoming serious weeds in natural areas and are best avoided in a garden setting. When buying plants, you will be able to consider native alternatives and enjoy the benefits they provide. You can use this guide to identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with the recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your garden can benefit your wallet and is an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. You will enjoy learning more about your garden and the huge array of beautiful native plants that can be incorporated in a functional and stylish way. Happy gardening!



# Discovering local plants

## What is a local plant?

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Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your area and have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'indigenous plants'. Native plants included in this guide are local to the southern region of Tasmania (see map on back page). Many are widespread throughout the region, however some have more restricted distributions as noted in the species descriptions.

## Why use local plants?

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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.
- Flower at different times of the year providing colour all year round.

Local plants are a great option for residents in suburban areas. They are adapted to the local temperature, rainfall and soil conditions and are the best plants for your neighbourhood and the environment.





How to use  
local plants

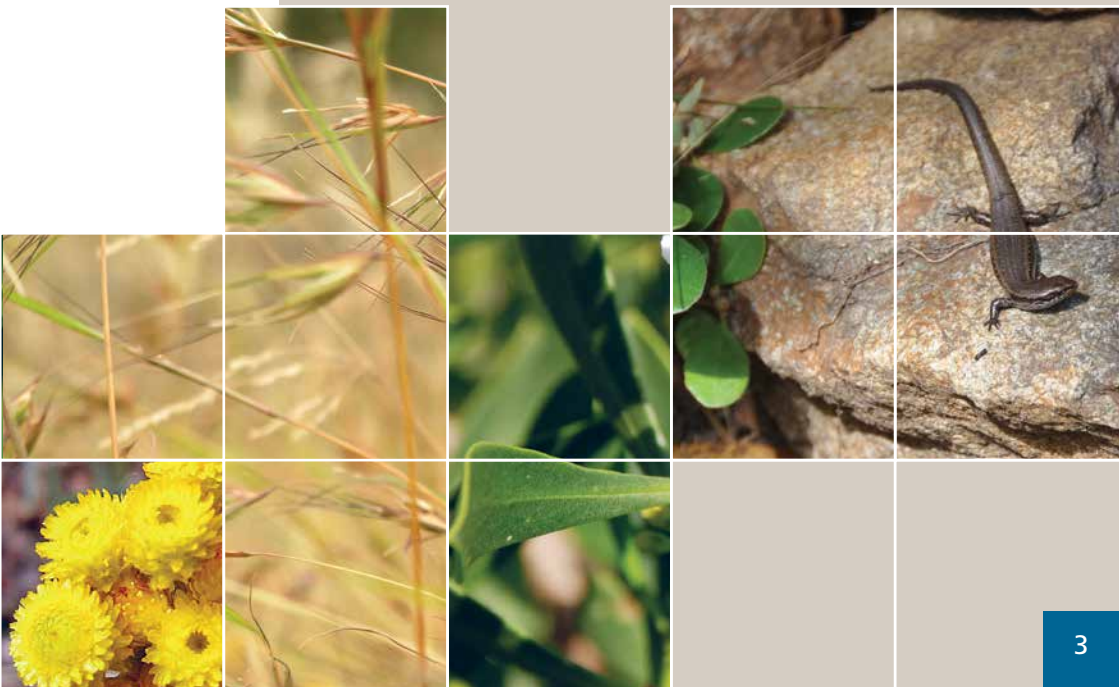
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Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants can. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, in courtyards and pots.

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

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

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 30–31.



# Garden escapes

## Are you harbouring known villains?

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

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment.
- They reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna.
- They can alter soil conditions.
- They can clog up waterways and affect water quality.
- They can harbour feral animals such as feral cats and rats that prey on our native wildlife.

Garden escapes are very costly to control and take resources away from other important environmental issues.

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates to ours. Thriving in the similar conditions, they out-compete local natives and they don't have the pests and diseases that control them in their original environment.

## How do garden plants become invaders?

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

- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, soil, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc).
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings that can grow several months later.
- Sometimes people deliberately plant garden plants in adjoining reserves and bushland areas.
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly into natural areas.



## You can help!

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Have a good look through this guide to check which common garden plants are nasties in natural areas. 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.
- Join a local Coast or Landcare group to learn more about your local area and lend a hand! Call your local Council for more information on how to get involved.



# Trees & tall shrubs



## DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



### **holly** *Ilex aquifolium* (Europe)

Flowers: late spring-early summer

Reproduces: red berries produce seeds in autumn, vegetative growth from roots and branches

Dispersal: birds, animals



### **coast teatree** *Leptospermum laevigatum*

(East coast Australia, northern Tasmania)

Flowers: late winter-spring

Reproduces: seeds (woody capsule)

Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste



### **mainland Acacia species**

e.g. *Acacia baileyana*

(mainland Australia)

Flowers: late winter-spring

Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: soil, garden waste, ants



### **blue butterflybush**

*Psoralea pinnata* (South Africa)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: birds, water, garden waste, soil



### **cotoneaster** *Cotoneaster* spp. (East Asia)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: red berries produce seeds late summer-late autumn; suckers from base if cut

Dispersal: birds, garden waste



### **cape wattle** *Paraserianthes lophantha* (Western Australia)

Flowers: late autumn-early spring

Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: water, wind, soil, garden waste, ants



### **mirrorbush** *Coprosma repens* (New Zealand)

Reproduces: orange berries produce seeds in summer-autumn

Dispersal: birds, garden waste



### **sweet pittosporum** *Pittosporum undulatum* (eastern Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: orange berries produce seeds in autumn-winter

Dispersal: birds, animals, water, soil, garden waste





## GROW ME instead



### **drooping sheoak** *Allocasuarina verticillata*

Tree growing between 5–8m. Long weeping branchlets, grey-green. Interesting cone-like fruit. Well suited to Japanese gardens. Use as feature tree or for screening. Birds such as parrots and cockatoos are attracted to fruit. Full sun.



### **common boobialla** *Myoporum insulare*

Large shrub to small tree, grows 2–5m. Thick light-green fleshy leaves, white flowers winter to spring, purple berry fruit. Good screening qualities. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full sun.



### **barbers gum** *Eucalyptus barberi*

Small tree to 5–10m, usually single stemmed. Bright green ‘gum’ leaves, prolific white flowers. Great plant for wildlife, provides food, shelter and nesting sites. Use in natural cottage garden setting. Minimum 3.5m set-back from property and sewage pipes. It is drought tolerant and survives well in poor soils. Limited in natural distribution to north east of the region.



### **broadleaf hopbush** *Dodonaea viscosa*

Erect shrub to 3m, bright green sticky leaves. Green flowers in winter turn to striking red seed pods in spring. Great for hedging or screening. Responds to pruning. Attracts butterflies in summer. Females plants are preferable as they flower more prolifically with showy red seed heads.



### **south esk pine** *Callitris oblonga*

Cylindrical-shaped tree to 2–5m. Bluish-green foliage. Fruit is a dark brown cone. Great for formal gardens. Attractive foliage. Use as a replacement plant for exotic conifers, as singular feature plant, line a driveway or for screening. Responds well to pruning. Attracts birds. Limited in natural distribution to north east of the region.



### **silver banksia** *Banksia marginata*

Feature tree grows 3–5m. Various forms. Leaves green on top, silver underside. Large yellow flowerheads in spring to autumn. Interesting foliage and seed pods. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full sun.

# Medium shrubs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape!



**english broom** *Cytisus scoparius* (Europe)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds in summer

Dispersal: exploding pods, ants, animals, water, soil, garden waste



**pride of madeira** *Echium candicans*

(Madeira Islands, Portugal)

Flowers: spring-early summer

Reproduces: seed

Dispersal: deliberately planted, on clothes and equipment, soil, garden waste



**montpellier broom**

*Genista monspessulana*

(Europe) Flowers: winter-

spring Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: water, soil,  
garden waste



**spanish heath**

*Erica lusitanica* (Europe)

Flowers: winter-spring

Reproduces: tiny seeds

Dispersal: wind, water,  
animals, garden waste



**boneseed** *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter-summer

Reproduces: green berries mature and produce seed  
in late summer-autumn

Dispersal: birds, animals, water, garden waste



**myrtleleaf milkwort**

*Polygala myrtifolia* (South Africa)

Flowers: winter-early summer

Reproduces: seeds in autumn

Dispersal: water, ants,  
birds, soil



**fuchsia** *Fuchsia spp.* (Chile)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: fruits

in summer-autumn

Dispersal: birds, water,  
vegetatively



**mainland grevillea species, e.g. rosemary grevillea**

*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* (mainland Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed

Dispersal: deliberately planted, wind, soil, garden waste



## GROW ME instead



### **dusty daisybush** *Olearia phlogopappa*

Hardy shrub to 3m. Leaves dark blue-green above, white below. White, pink, magenta, blue or purple daisy-like flowers occur along stems in spring and summer. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, good foliage contrast. Full sun to part shade.



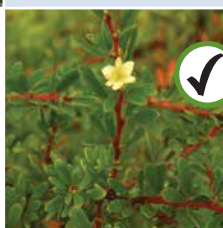
### **common speedwell bush** *Veronica formosa*

Hardy and adaptable Tasmanian endemic shrub to 1.5m. Variable form with many stems arising from the base. Pink, mauve, purple, blue or white flowers in spring. Responds well to pruning.



### **sunshine wattle** *Acacia terminalis*

Shrub to 2m. Attractive bronze-green, fern-like foliage, with usually pale yellow flowers in autumn to winter. Flowers best in full sun or dappled shade. Lives 8–10 years.



### **river tridentbush** *Micrantheum hexandrum*

Hardy shrub with soft foliage, reaching up to 4m high and wide. Dark green leaves and cream flowers in spring. Can be pruned to create a dense screen.



### **slender honeymyrtle** *Melaleuca gibbosa*

Dense rounded shrub to 2m. Attractive foliage and bright pink to mauve flowers in spring and early summer. Full sun to part shade. Drought hardy, frost resistant and tolerates waterlogging. Variable shape and size, can be managed with regular light pruning. Good for screening. Attracts insects and birds.



### **narrowleaf westringia** *Westringia angustifolia*

Hardy, aromatic Tasmanian endemic shrub to 1–3m. Showy white or pale lilac flowers in spring on the ends of branches. Responds well to light pruning.

# Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape!



**false dandelion** *Urospermum dalechampii*

(Europe, Western Asia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seeds in late spring-summer

Dispersal: wind, soil, root growth



**euphorbia species** *Euphorbia spp.*

(Africa, Madagascar, Mediterranean)

Flowers: depends on species

Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: wind, deliberately planted, garden waste



**red valerian** *Centranthus ruber*

(Western Europe, Mediterranean)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds, late summer-autumn

Dispersal: wind, soil, garden waste



**gazania** *Gazania spp.* (South Africa)

Flowers: year round, particularly spring and autumn

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively

Dispersal: water, deliberate planting, garden waste



**foxglove** *Digitalis purpurea*

(Europe)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds

Dispersal: water, wind, soil, animals, garden waste



**succulents**

(Africa, Mediterranean)

Flowers: various

Reproduces: vegetatively, seed

Dispersal: wind, deliberate planting, garden waste



**yellow pigface** *Carpobrotus edulis* (South Africa)

Flowers: late summer-winter

Reproduces: fruits in summer, vegetatively

Dispersal: wind, birds, garden waste, deliberate planting





## GROW ME instead



### **stinky boronia** *Boronia anemonifolia*

Erect shrub to 1.5m. Variable in its leaf shape. Numerous white to pink small flowers in groups in spring-summer. Attractive strongly scented leaves. Very reliable and quick growing.



### **common everlasting** *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Herb to knee high. Silver-grey leaves, clusters of bright-yellow daisy flowers, October to January. Works well in natural cottage and contemporary gardens. Long-lasting flower, looks great as a cut flower, can also be dried. Butterfly food source.



### **cushionbush** *Leucopytha brownii*

Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage, pale-yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, colour contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Full sun. Ideal for coastal sites. Limited in natural distribution to north eastern coastal areas of the region.



### **southern storksbill** *Pelargonium australe*

Herb to knee high. Large green velvety leaves, pale-pink flowers with purple stripe occurs in spring to summer. Pretty plant, great in cottage or bushland garden. Can plant in pots. Prune after flowering, will self seed. Full sun to part shade.



### **common teatree** *Leptospermum scoparium*

Several prostrate forms growing as low, ground covering shrubs, generally spreading to about 2m wide. Different forms have varying leaf shapes and heights. Generally white flowers in spring to summer. Hardy plant suitable for well drained, dry and coastal sites, in full sun to light shade.

# Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



## GROW ME instead



### ground clematis *Clematis gentianoides*

Non-climbing ground cover endemic to Tasmania, with star shaped white flowers from spring to summer. Grows well in more protected sites with full or part sun. Does not tolerate water logging or drying out in summer. Can be pruned during winter-spring to increase flowering. On female plants, flowers are followed by fluffy seed heads.



### spreading guineaflower *Hibbertia procumbens*

A widespread, spreading shrub to about 1m. Prolific yellow flowers in spring. Prefers a well-drained position, preferably with a little shade.



### running postman *Kennedia prostrata*

Prostrate runner to 2m. Leaves pale green, bright red pea-flowers winter to summer. Eye-catching flowers, use as an attractive ground cover or plant in small to large garden pots. Light shade preferred.



### matted lobelia *Lobelia pedunculata*

A matting groundcover, spreading to 1m or more, with masses of small, scented white or blue flowers in summer. Flowers are a deep blue when young, fading as they age. Butterfly attracting.



### roundleaf pigface *Disphyma crassifolium*

Succulent ground-running plant. Green leaves round in cross section, bright-pink flowers in spring. Attractive ground cover, soil stabiliser. Will trail over walls. Tolerates saline soils. Full sun to part shade.



## GROW ME instead



### **bluebell** *Wahlenbergia* spp.

Delicate herb to 30cm, pretty blue flowers in late spring and summer. Self seeds but dies back over summer. Very pretty, delicate plant. Suitable pot-plant. Great in cottage or bushland gardens, especially planted in drifts.



### **forest candles** *Stackhousia monogyna*

A delightful, low accent plant. Cream flowers occur in candle-like clusters at the ends of the stems (up to 30cm long) in spring and summer. Flowers have a pleasant scent at night. Usually lives for 3–5 yrs but pruning after flowering may extend longevity. Prefers well-drained sites and some protection from full sun.



### **wiry bauera** *Bauera rubioides*

Attractive low spreading shrub, growing to between 30cm and 1.2m high, depending on form. Flowers are white or various shades of pink in spring. May prefer cooler, moister parts of the garden but generally hardy. Tolerates frost.



### **climbing saltbush** *Einadia nutans*

Groundcover spreading 1 to 2m, will climb if supported. Small arrowhead shaped green leaves, insignificant green flowers turn to red/orange edible berries. Attracts native birds and butterflies. Sun or shade.



### **common correa** *Correa reflexa*

Small shrub with dark-green leaves and green bell flowers in winter and spring. Attractive flowers, great in formal, cottage or bushland garden settings. Attracts birds. Full sun to shade. Variable forms.



## DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



**fountaingrass** *Pennisetum setaceum*

(North East Africa)

Flowers: late spring-mid winter

Reproduces: seed

Dispersal: wind, water, animals, soil, garden waste, on clothing



**pampasgrass** *Cortaderia spp.*

(South America, New Zealand)

Flowers: depends on species

Reproduces: prolific seed in winter-spring, rootstock

Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste



**african feathergrass** *Cenchrus macrourus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds in summer-autumn

Dispersal: rootstock, seeds, water, soil







## GROW ME instead



### **coastal tussockgrass** *Poa poiformis*

Tussock grass growing to knee high. Thin blue-green leaves, brown-yellow flower heads. Tight foliage. Great in small or large group plantings, also rockeries and borders. Good as a pot-plant. Full sun.



### **common wallabygrass** *Rytidosperma caespitosum*

Clumping grass to knee high, fluffy white seed heads in summer. Plant in clumps, good in bush garden setting. Attracts wildlife including butterflies.



### **longhair plumegrass** *Dichelachne crinita*

Decorative evergreen with an attractive flower cream plume in spring. Fast growing to 1m. Prefers full sun. Tolerates wind, frost and drier conditions.



# Tufting plants, water plants & bulbs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape!



**agapanthus** *Agapanthus praecox* var. *orientalis*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: summer

Reproduces: seed in late summer-autumn, rootstock

Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted



**new zealand flax** *Phormium tenax*

(New Zealand)

Flowers: spring-summer

Reproduces: seed, rootstock

Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted



**watsonia** *Watsonia meriana*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: summer-autumn

Reproduces: vegetatively from bulbs, rarely seeds in summer,

Dispersal: water, slashing, ants, soil, garden waste



**montbretia** *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: summer-early autumn

Reproduces: seeds summer-early autumn, vegetatively from rootstock and bulbs

Dispersal: water, soil, garden waste



**arum lily** *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: winter-summer

Reproduces: seed, rootstock

Dispersal: water, birds, animals, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted



**evening gladiolus** *Gladiolus tristis*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: variable, often summer-early autumn

Reproduces: seeds, vegetatively from bulbs

Dispersal: water, slashing, ants, soil, garden waste



## GROW ME instead



### **knobby clubsedge** *Ficinia nodosa*

Attractive evergreen clumping plant to 1m high. Leaves 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 part shade.



### **flag-iris** *Diplarrena latifolia* / *moreaea*

A tufting plant to 1m, white flowers with yellow and purple markings over summer. Frost hardy. *Diplarrena latifolia* more suited to wetter sites, *Diplarrena moreaea* more suited to drier sites.



### **sagg** *Lomandra longifolia*

An extremely hardy tussock with bright green foliage to 60cm. Straw-coloured flowering seed heads on stems to 50cm. Survives very dry conditions, but looks better with some watering.



### **running marshflower** *Ornduffia reniformis*

Aquatic plant for pond edges or containers. Floating shiny green, round leaves and stalked yellow flowers in summer. Likes full sun to part shade. Will die back if water recedes. Ideal for water depths to 60cm.



### **flaxlily** *Dianella tasmanica* / *revoluta* / *brevicaulis*

Small clumping plant to knee high. Dark-green leaves are strappy and stiff. Blue to purple flowers produced on narrow stalks in spring. *D. revoluta* does not tolerate direct coastal exposure. Great for borders, large or small group plantings, pots & indoors. Full sun to shade.

# Climbers



## DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



### **bluebell creeper** *Billardiera heterophylla*

(Western Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: fruits produce seed in summer-autumn, rootstock, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, soil, water, garden waste



### **ivy** *Hedera helix* (Europe)

Flowers: late summer-winter

Reproduces: berries produce seed in summer, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, water, soil, garden waste



### **bridal creeper** *Asparagus asparagoides*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: berries produce seeds in November, rootstock

Dispersal: birds, rabbits, water, soil, garden waste



### **bridal veil** *Asparagus declinatus* (South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: berries produce seed in late winter-early spring, rootstock

Dispersal: birds, animals, water, soil, garden waste



### **asparagus fern**

*Asparagus scandens* (Southern Africa)

Flowers: winter-spring

Reproduces: berries produce single seed, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, soil, garden waste



### **blue periwinkle**

*Vinca major* (Mediterranean)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: vegetatively

Dispersal: water, wind, soil, garden waste



### **banana passionfruit** *Passiflora tarminiana*

(South America)

Flowers: summer

Reproduces: fruits produce seed in early autumn

Dispersal: birds, animals, soil, water, garden waste





## GROW ME instead



### mountain clematis *Clematis aristata*

A vigorous vine with relatively large creamy white flowers in spring. Prefers to grow with a support. Female vines have fluffy seeds following flowering. Hardy in most soils, likes sunny or semi shaded position and will withstand heavy pruning.



### purple appleberry *Billardiera longiflora*

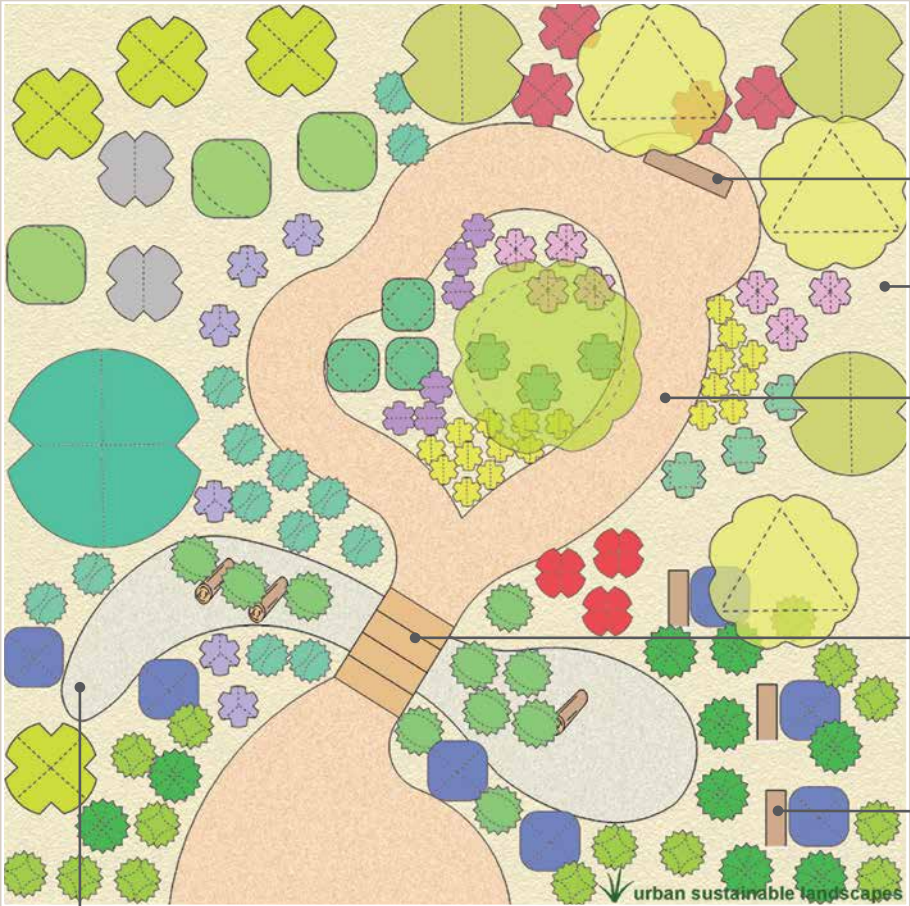
Climber or small shrub to shin high. Dark green leaves, green flowers in spring and red/purple berries in summer. Attracts butterflies. Full sun to part shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



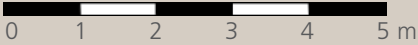
# Natural cottage garden design



A natural cottage garden emphasises colour and diversity and is easy to achieve with local plants. Varied flowering times providing an array of colours year-round, including winter, offering a wonderful place for local wildlife. Varied leaf shape and texture also add interest. These gardens are relaxed and have a feeling of flow, incorporating curved paths and rustic furniture. This garden type is generally more densely planted and may use shorter-lived plants (many of which self seed) offering opportunity for new species with replacements. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic nature's mix of plants, allow them to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Bird-baths, logs and nesting boxes all fit well and support local wildlife.



House Area  
Swale with quartzite or white limestone  
10 -20mm gravel and habitat logs

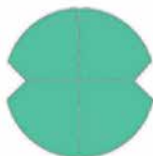




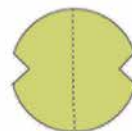
## Trees & tall shrubs



barbers gum



common boobialla



broadleaf hopbush



silver banksia

## Medium shrubs



dusty daisybush



common speedwell bush

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



cushionbush



common correa



stinky boronia



common everlasting



southern storksbill



climbing saltbush



common teatree



wiry bauera



ground clematis

## Grasses, tufts & lillies



common wallabygrass



flaxlily



longhair plumegrass



knobby clubsedge

## Climbers



purple appleberry

Bench

Mulch

Yellow limestone  
(Tassie Gold)  
10 - 20mm or  
native lawn

Flat sleepers  
set in gravel to  
give boardwalk  
appearance

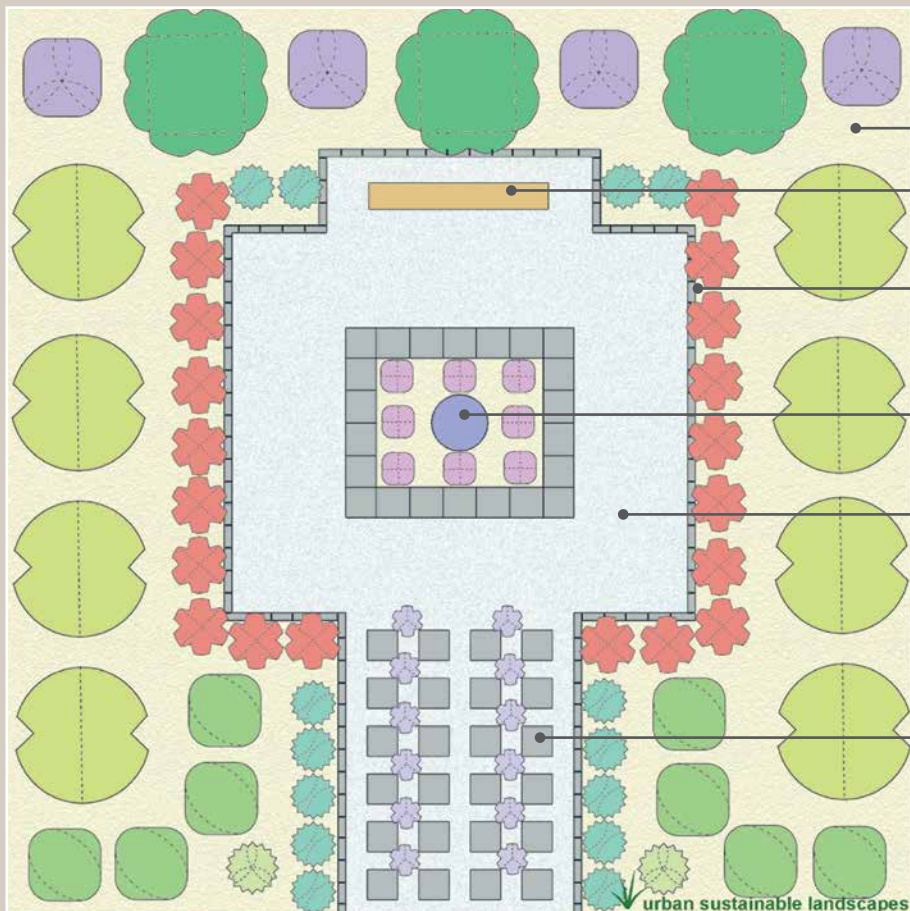
Recycled  
hardwood  
timber post,  
upright 2m high



# Formal garden design



The formal garden has strong design elements, often focusing on straight lines and repetition. Plant diversity is generally lower and species with neat and dense forms are more suited. A number of local plants can be clipped into hedges or shaped 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.



House Area

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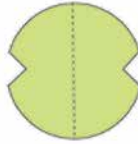




## Trees & tall shrubs



south  
esk pine



broadleaf hopbush  
or silver banksia

## Medium shrubs



slender  
honeymyrtle

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



climbing  
saltbush



common  
correa



ground  
clematis



matted  
lobelia

## Grasses, tufts & lilies



sagg



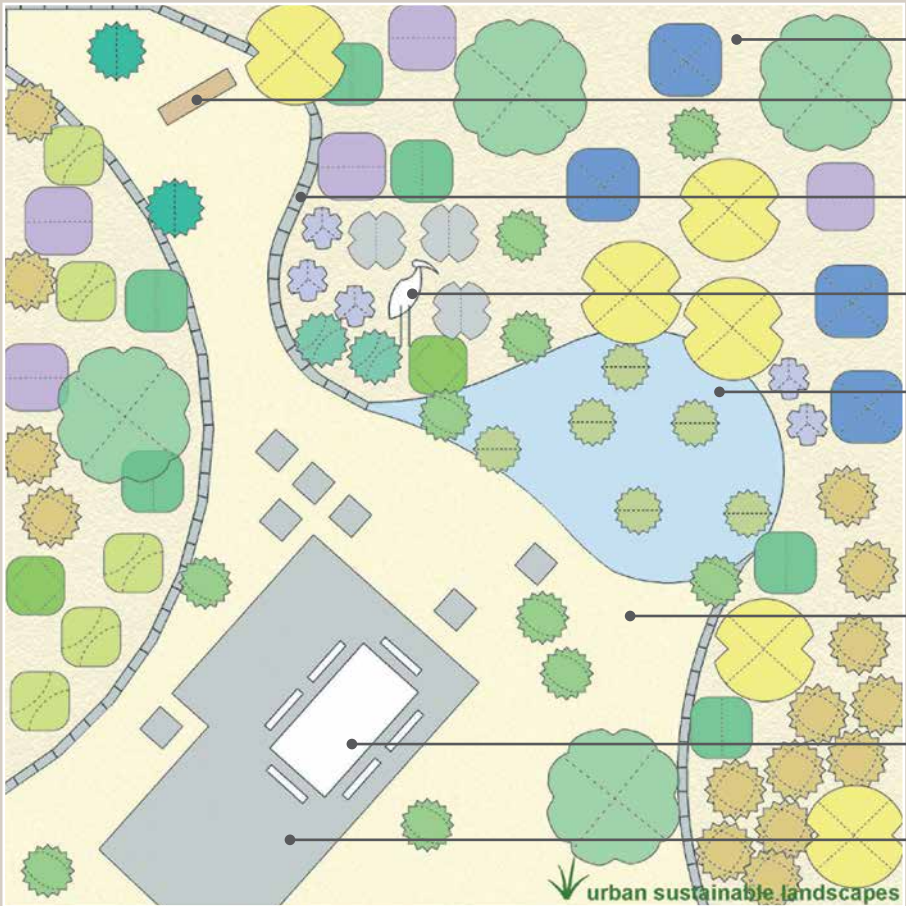
flaxlily

- Mulch
- Bench
- 110mm x 220mm  
linear paver divider
- Birdbath feature
- Dolerite gravel  
(Blue Metal) or  
white limestone  
10-20mm or  
native lawn
- 500mm x 500mm  
charcoal pavers

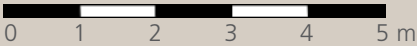
# Japanese style garden design

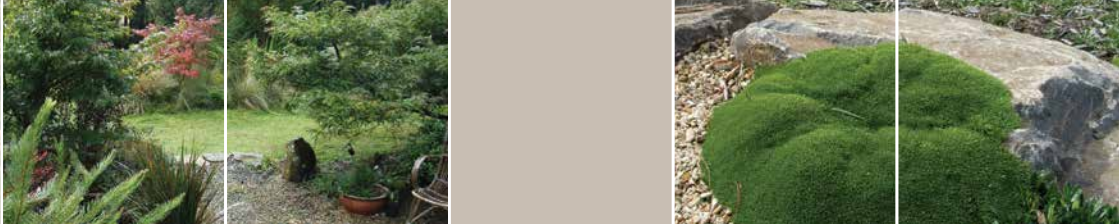


Local native plants are well suited to the minimalist style and reflective feeling of Japanese gardens. Aim to create a garden that mimics the natural balance and flow of nature. Clumps of local grasses can be used to complement raked gravel areas. Incorporate natural elements such as plants with graceful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



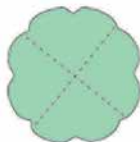
House Area





- Mulch
- Recycled wooden bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Feature sculpture
- Shallow wet/dry pond
- 14mm quartzite or limestone gravel or native lawn
- Table & chairs
- 400mm x 400mm charcoal pavers

## Trees & tall shrubs



drooping sheoak  
or silver banksia

## Medium shrubs



sunshine wattle  
or river tridentbush

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



southern  
storksbill



cushionbush



common  
teatree



roundleaf  
pigface



spreading  
guineaflower

## Grasses, tufts, water plants & lilies



running  
marshflower



knobby  
clubsedge



flag-  
iris



sagg



coastal  
tussockgrass

## Climbers



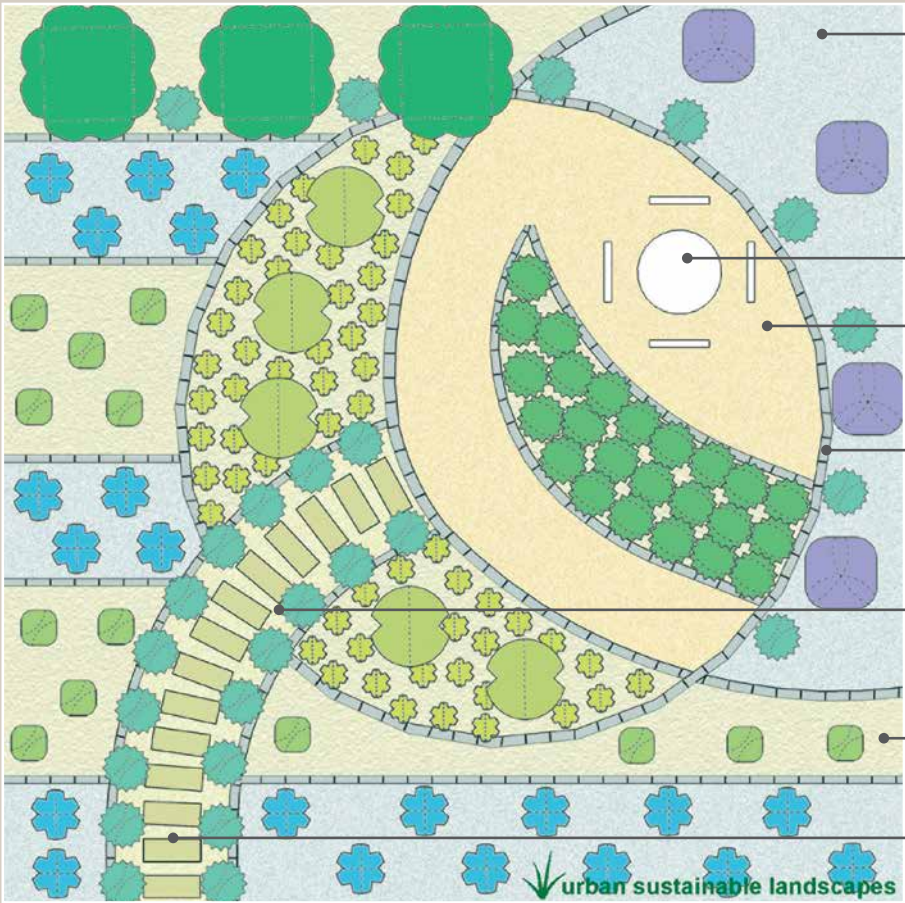
mountain  
clematis



purple  
appleberry

# Contemporary garden design

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local plants offer excellent colour, texture and form 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 lines and contrast. Density and repetition of species in contrasting beds emphasises the design elements. A simple outdoor setting suits the contemporary garden design.







— Dolerite gravel  
(Blue Metal)  
10 - 20mm

— Table & chairs

— Yellow Limestone  
(Tassie Gold)  
10 - 20mm

— 110 x 220mm  
linear paver divider

— 14mm quartzite  
gravel

— Mulch

— 800mm x 300mm  
paver stepping  
stones

## Trees & tall shrubs



south  
esk pine



broadleaf  
hopbush

## Medium shrubs



slender  
honeymyrtle



narrowleaf  
westringia

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



common  
everlasting



roundleaf  
pigface

## Grasses, tufts & lilies



flaxlily

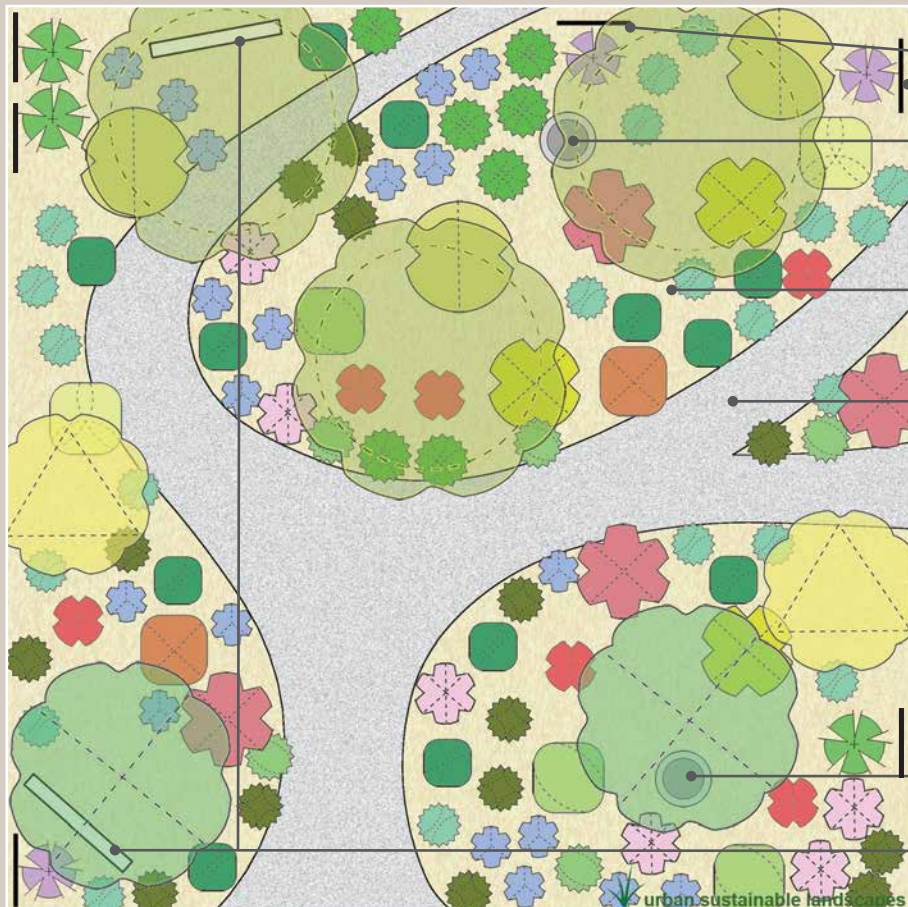


knobby  
clubsedge

# Naturalistic garden design



The naturalistic garden closely reflects the composition and structure of the natural bush and follows a more natural design. This garden offers a peaceful relaxed space with both open sunny spaces and shadier areas under trees and taller shrubs. Small shrubs, herbs, grasses and ground covers are all present and provide varied shape and texture. A more limited palette of colours draws the focus to subtle colour variations. Paths can be more informal and meandering, and habitat logs, nesting boxes, ponds and other garden features can be incorporated to further support wildlife.

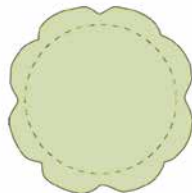


House Area

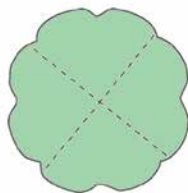
0 1 2 3 4 5 m



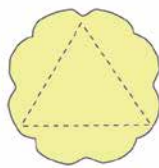
## Trees & tall shrubs



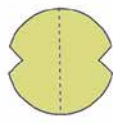
barbers  
gum



drooping  
sheoak



silver  
banksia



broadleaf  
hopbush

## Medium shrubs



dusty  
daisybush



common  
speedwell bush

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



common  
correa



stinky  
boronia



forest  
candles



bluebell



spreading  
guineaflower



common  
teatree



running  
postman

## Grasses, tufts & lilies



common  
wallabygrass



flaxlily



longhair  
plumegrass



knobby  
clubsedge

## Climbers



purple  
appleberry



mountain  
clematis

- Screens
- Bird bath
- Mulch/living mulch
- Dolerite gravel (Blue Metal) 10-20mm

- Bird bath
- Bench seat

# Growing local native plants

## When to plant

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Planting is best done in the cooler months through autumn and winter. The ideal time is after the opening autumn rains when the soil is moist and plants have ample time to establish roots before the heat of summer.

## Watering

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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 longer periods of hotter weather, 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 times allocated to gardeners for watering.

## Mulch & gravels

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A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70%!<sup>1</sup> Chunky Landscape Mulch (CLM) (organic preferably) keeps soil temperatures down, allows water to flow freely through to the soil, contains spaces for air flow reducing growth of fungus and diseases and encouraging good microbes, suppresses weeds, is less flammable and helps to promote good soil structure, root density, and productivity. Choose your mulch carefully as Unscreened Landscape Mulches (ULM) can cause more problems than good. 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. Species such as kidneyweed (*Dichondra repens*), matted lobelia (*Lobelia pedunculata*) and native violet (*Viola hederacea*) can also be used as a 'living mulch' in the garden.

## Native lawns

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Native grasses come in many shapes and sizes. Some can be grown as a tough, waterwise native lawn, that requires little to no fertiliser. Themeda, Poa and Austrodanthonia species are some examples that can be used. These species are tufty and hardier in look and feel than a traditional exotic lawn, but develop attractive seed heads which provide food for native birds and habitat for butterflies and pest-controlling insects. They will self sow if allowed to seed and don't like to be cut too short. *Microlaena stipoides* is another native alternative which retains a significant proportion of green leaves year-round and does well from regular mowing which encourages spreading. The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has established a trial plot of *Microlaena stipoides* to demonstrate its effectiveness as a domestic lawn.

<sup>1</sup>savewater!® Alliance –  
[www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)



## Fertilising

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Fertilisers aren't 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'll want to avoid rapid growth that makes your local plants leggy, weak and short-lived.

## Maintaining your local plants

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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

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You can help the environment by using sustainable, locally sourced, recycled or on-site materials, such as soil, rocks and mulch. Do not take materials from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs, beach sand or seaweed. Where you do source additional materials ensure you use local licensed suppliers. Weed seeds, pests and diseases are a threat to your garden and the natural environment. Investigate different suppliers and ask questions about where materials come from to ensure they are weed, disease and pest free.

## More information

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For further information on establishing local native plants, how you can make your garden wildlife friendly and sustainable landscaping visit the Gardens for Wildlife Program website – [www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/](http://www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/)

The Sustainable Landscapes Project also has great landscaping information (please note: species recommendations are not for southern Tasmania) See publications under 'related links' – [www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Sustainable\\_Landscapes\\_Project](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Sustainable_Landscapes_Project)



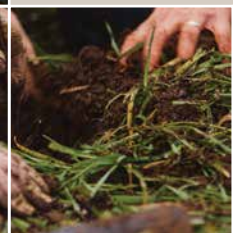
# Sourcing local plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries around southern Tasmania stock local plants. A list of native plant nurseries can be found on NRM South's website – [www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au) under the 'Resources' tab. Alternatively, contact your local council's Environmental Officer for further information.

Ask your local plant nursery for plants that are of 'local provenance', meaning plants 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.

You can often place orders in advance with local nurseries in late spring – early summer to collect for late autumn planting. Advance orders are recommended if you want larger quantities of plants, or don't want to substitute if species aren't available. Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers.

Keep an eye out for local plant giveaways which are sometimes run by your council in winter – these will be advertised in your local paper and are extremely popular!



# Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide and may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

## Internet

- Gardens for Wildlife Program [www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)
- Australian Plants Society Tasmania [www.apstas.com](http://www.apstas.com)
- Understorey Network [www.understorey-network.org.au/index.html](http://www.understorey-network.org.au/index.html)
- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens [www.rtbg.tas.gov.au](http://www.rtbg.tas.gov.au)
- Sustainable Gardening Australia [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)
- Frogs Australia Network <http://frogsaustralia.net.au/conservation/creating-habitat.cfm>
- Your local council's website

## Resources

- Native Plant Species Lists (by council area), *Weeds of Southern Tasmania – A Guide to Environmental & Agricultural Weeds* and other priority weed brochures are available in the 'resources' section of NRM South's website – [www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au)

## Books

- *The Australian Garden, Designing with Australian Plants*, Diana Snape, Garden Art Press, 2003
- *A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania*, Launceston Field Naturalists Club, Reed New Holland, 2008
- *Native Trees of Tasmania*, Jamie Kirkpatrick and Sue Backhouse, Pandani Press, 2007
- *Tasmania's Natural Flora*, Christine Howells, Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc – Hobart Group, 2012





Australian Government



Government  
of South Australia

Adelaide and  
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Natural Resources  
Management Board



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### NRM South

PO Box 425  
South Hobart TAS 7004  
Phone: 03 6221 6111  
[www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au)



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