

CITY OF CASEY



CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL



Indigenous Plant Guide



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About this Guide

The Shire of Cardinia and City of Casey cover the southern slopes of the Dandenong Ranges and continue south to the coast of Western Port. Within these municipalities there are sections where the original plants of the area still exist (remnant vegetation) that are of state, national and international importance. These include Western Port, Barn Bam Swamp in Casey and Bunyip State Park in Cardinia. However, only a small amount of the plants that were once present remain with 7 percent in Casey and approximately 11 percent in Cardinia.

This guide highlights a selection of plants that grew naturally in the area before European settlement. These are called indigenous plants which are those that occur naturally in an area having evolved there over thousands of years. These plants have subsequently adapted to the local conditions of that area and grow better than those from other areas. Native plants are simply plants that occur naturally in one or more parts of Australia. This guide aims to highlight the importance of protecting areas of remnant vegetation in Cardinia and Casey, and growing indigenous plants in private gardens and on farms.

Growing indigenous plants contributes to sustainability through the creation of healthier ecosystems, increasing habitat for animals, using plants in holistic house and garden design, and recognising their cultural significance while providing scents, textures, sights and sounds of beauty. Using indigenous plants also helps to create regional landscape identity rather than having all areas look the same.



How to Use this Guide

This guide has information on 141 plant species indigenous to both the areas of Cardinia and Casey. Photos are included for 97 of these plants and 44 species without photos are listed towards the back of the guide. Plants with photos have been grouped into five colour-coded sections with strips along the sides of pages being yellow for trees, green for shrubs, blue for wildflowers, violet for grasses, sedges and rushes, and orange for groundcovers and climbers.

To help with plant selection, maps of Cardinia and Casey (see inside back cover) have been divided into vegetation zones based on soil types, topography and other natural influences. You can find a suitable plant species for your property by identifying the zone your property lies within and then selecting plants labelled with your zone.

For a more detailed study of vegetation communities in your local area the Department of Primary Industries has developed Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC). EVCS provide specific detail about flora communities. For more information about EVCS visit <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrence.nsf>

Why Grow Indigenous Plants?

Indigenous plants are different to non-indigenous plants in a number of ways that make them ideal for growing in Cardinia and Casey. Some of the reasons that indigenous plants may grow better are listed below.

Genetics

A particular plant species may grow in more than one area but be different from one another genetically. This is because over time, indigenous plants have changed to cope with the conditions of their area, including the soil, topography, and weather patterns. These different areas are called a plant's provenance. Because of their particular genetics, indigenous plants grown from seed with local provenance generally have a better chance to establish and survive locally than other plants.

A list of nurseries that grow indigenous plants from seed collected locally is included at the back of this guide.

Local ecosystems

Indigenous plants have changed to cope with local conditions in tandem with indigenous animals and micro-organisms. As a result, they sometimes need each other to keep healthy and survive. Together they form part of local ecosystems (the interactions of groups of living things and their environment) whose processes allow for the continuation of life. These processes result in clean air and water, a sustainable soil environment, stable temperature, food, pollination of flowers and spreading of plant seeds.

By growing a mixture of indigenous plants from all the vegetation layers ecosystems have a better chance of being healthy. Vegetation layers are the canopy (made up of tall trees), the shrub layer (made up of shrubs and small trees), and the ground layer (made up of small shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, groundcovers, mosses, lichen and includes leaf litter, rocks and logs).

Relationship to indigenous animals

Clearing large areas of indigenous plants for houses and farming has led to a loss of shelter, food and nesting sites for indigenous animals. Choosing indigenous plants based on the needs of indigenous animals can replace some of what has been removed.

Growing a variety of plants will cater for a diverse range of animals. Some birds, such as owls, require tree hollows for nesting, others prefer prickly shrubs. Frogs need groundcovers to hide amongst and sedges from which to call. Grasses, leaf litter and branches on the garden floor are useful for lizards and insects as well as frogs, while native bees love hedges displaying nectar and pollen rich flowers.

For more information on attracting a variety of indigenous animals to your garden visit Flora for Fauna at www.floraforfauna.com.au

Maintenance needs

Indigenous plants are also valuable because they do not need fertilisers and pesticides, resulting in better quality soil, less polluted stormwater runoff and healthier animals and micro-organisms in waterways. Although some indigenous plants do not need much water, some do. All species have their particular water needs. Generally, during their first and/or second year, plants will need to be watered and it may be needed in future years when the weather is dry until the plants are well established.



Plant Symbols

Plant is suitable in:



Total sun.



Some shade.



Total shade.

Plant Moisture Needs:



Wet.



Moist.



Dry.



Plant suitable for coastal areas, tolerates exposure to saline conditions.



Plant suitable for coastal areas if sheltered from saline winds.



Plant may provide:

- food;
- shelter;
- habitat;
- and/or nesting sites for birds.



Plant is a source of nectar for butterflies and/or food for caterpillars.



Plant attracts frogs.



Plant is a good source of shade.



Plant can be used to create a partition or screen.



Plant is suitable as a windbreak.



Medium or Tall Tree- height: 8 metres or more



Small tree- height: below 8 metres



Large Shrub- height: above 2.5 metres



Medium or Small Shrub- height: 2.5 metres or less

** To avoid damage by plant roots, suggested planting distances from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths are only a guideline and root spread will depend on the final size of the plant and its growing conditions.*



GW

*Acacia dealbata*

Silver Wattle

Size: (H x W) 6-30 m x 5-10 m

Description: The feather-like leaves (up to 13 cm in length) of this plant are silvery and bark streaked grey, white and green.

Flowers: Displays round scented yellow flowers from July to October.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage but can tolerate temporary waterlogging.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Common Imperial Blue, Moonlight Jewel, Silky Hairstreak and Caper White butterflies.

Aboriginal people ate the gum and formed axe handles from the wood.

Suitable for control of soil erosion including along watercourses.

Comments: Does not tolerate pruning. Plant at least 3.5 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3.



UBIN

*Acacia mearnsii*

Black Wattle

Size: (H x W) 8-25 m x 6-10 m

Description: A tree with dark green feather-like leaves (up to 20 cm in length) and bark that is smooth and dark.

Flowers: Displays yellow perfumed blooms from September to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage. Tolerates mildly saline soil.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Common Imperial Blue, Moonlight Jewel and Caper White butterflies.

Aboriginal people used the gum for food and to make cement and the bark to make buckets, thread, and a remedy for indigestion.

Suitable for firewood and control of soil erosion.

Comments: Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



MD

*Acacia melanoxylon*

Blackwood

Size: (H x W) 5-30 m x 4-15 m

Description: A tree with dark bark and deep green foliage (up to 15 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays round, creamy yellow flowers from July to October.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates mildly saline soil.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Common Jewel, Silky Hairstreak and the Capar White butterflies.

Aboriginal people used the wood for making weapons and the bark to relieve rheumatism.

Suitable for erosion control along watercourses, agro-forestry and for planting in large open areas.

Comments: Does not tolerate pruning. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



AB/GW

*Allocasuarina littoralis*

Black Sheoak

Size: (H x W) 4-8 m x 2-5 m

Description: A tree with dark green needle-like leaves and textured bark.

Flowers: Male and female flowers usually grow on separate plants and appear from March to June. Small red female blooms become bumpy seed cones.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for use in pots, for firewood and control of soil erosion.

Comments: A very decorative tree that can be pruned. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 5, 6, 8.



GW



Banksia integrifolia subsp. integrifolia

Coast Banksia

Size: (H x W) 10-20 m x 5-10 m

Description: This tree has textured bark and dark green leaves (up to 15 cm in length) that are powdery white underneath.

Flowers: Dotted with yellow floral brushes mainly from February to September, these become woody fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Useful to possums for nectar and nesting.

Aboriginal people made a drink from the nectar of Banksia flowers.

Suitable for control of soil erosion and for hedging that is especially beautiful when a variety of Banksias are used.

Comments: Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 7.

Casey Zone: 6.



HM



Eucalyptus camaldulensis

River Red Gum

Size: (H x W) 12-50 m x 15-35 m

Description: A broad tree that sheds its grey, red and cream coloured bark.

Flowers: In bloom from November to March with many white flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours deep subsoil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates waterlogging and moderately saline soil.

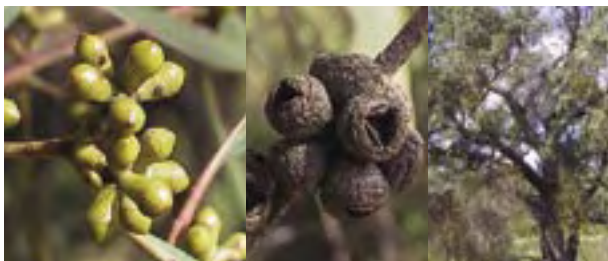
Uses: Hollows are used by birds, bats and possums. Preferred koala food plant.

Attracts native bees. Leaves, gum and strong bark were used by Aboriginal people. Suitable for erosion control along watercourses, agro-forestry and firewood.

Comments: Consider position before planting as large branches are sometimes shed. Plant at least 22 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 5.

Casey Zone: 1, 3, 5.



PGVI

*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*

Mealy Stringybark

Size: (h x w) 8-20 m x 5-15 m

Description: A tree with grey-green and roundish juvenile foliage that does not shed its thick textured bark.

Flowers: An abundance of white blossoms from March to August.

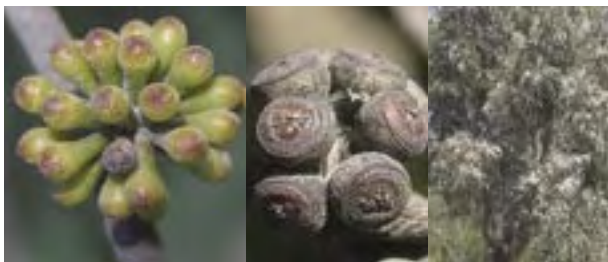
Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good and poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Source of nectar and pollen for native bees.

Comments: A Eucalypt with decorative new growth. Plant at least 9 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8.



PGVI

*Eucalyptus dives*

Broad-leaved Peppermint

Size: (h x w) 8-25 m x 6-15 m

Description: This tree has low branches and textured grey-brown bark. Leaves are peppermint scented and broad.

Flowers: Displays many white blossoms from September to December.

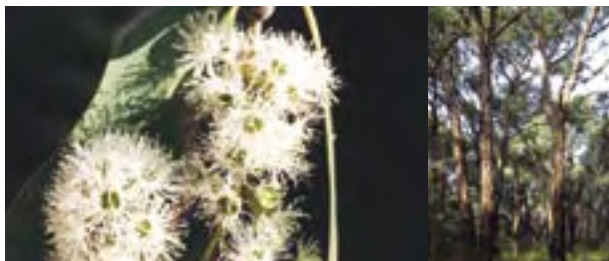
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Does not tolerate wet soil.

Uses: Suitable for firewood. Leaves are used to make eucalyptus oil.

Comments: Plant at least nine metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4.

Casey Zone: 2.



HM/MD

*Eucalyptus obliqua*

Messmate

Size: (H x W) 4-70 m x 6-35 m

Description: This Eucalypt has leaves with uneven ends and a shiny surface. Textured outer bark has a rusty brown under layer.

Flowers: In bloom from December to March with many white or cream flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates temporarily dry soil.

Uses: Nectar and pollen source for native bees and koalas eat the leaves.

Aboriginal people created fishing nets and bags from string produced from the bark, which was also used to make fire.

Suitable for agro-forestry and firewood.

Comments: Plant at least 22 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



GW

*Eucalyptus ovata* var. *ovata*

Swamp Gum

Size: (H x W) 8-30 m x 8-20 m

Description: A tree with peeling dark bark and leaves that are curvy edged and glossy.

Flowers: From March to June displays white or off-white blossoms.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer and slightly saline soil.

Uses: Hollows, (that usually take at least 100 years to form), are used for shelter and nesting by birds, bats and possums. Flowers are important for native bees, and koalas eat the leaves.

Suitable for firewood and erosion control along watercourses.

Comments: Plant at least 14 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.



GW



Eucalyptus radiata subsp. radiata

Narrow-leaved Peppermint

Size: (H x W) 10-30 m x 6-20 m

Description: A tree with slender, peppermint scented leaves and a trunk covered in lightly textured bark.

Flowers: From October to January bears an abundance of white blossoms.

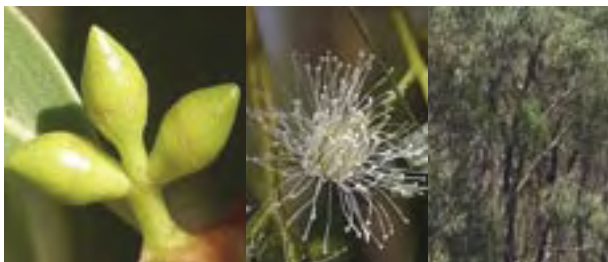
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Koalas eat the leaves.

Suitable for firewood and planting in large open areas. Leaves are used to produce eucalyptus oil.

Comments: Plant at least 15 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.



PGVI



Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana

Gippsland Manna Gum

Size: (H x W) 8-16 m x 5-12 m

Description: A tree with dark green leaves that are slender and peeling coarse bark.

Flowers: In bloom from March to May with white flowers in groups of threes.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: A preferred koala food plant. Nectar source for native bees.

Suitable for firewood. Unsuitable for small gardens.

Comments: Consider position before planting as large branches are sometimes shed. Plant at least 9 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.



JW



Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. viminalis

Manna Gum

Size: (H x W) 10-50 m x 8-15 m

Description: A tree with slender leaves and textured bark that peels in strips.

Flowers: Displays white blossoms in groups of threes from January to May.

Growing Conditions: Tolerates dry soil, waterlogging and soil affected by moderate salinity.

Uses: Hollows, (that usually take at least 100 years to form), are used by birds, bats and possums. A preferred koala food plant. Pollen source for native bees.

Aboriginal people used the leaves to treat fever, formed water containers and shields from the timber and ate the manna from this tree.

Suitable for agro-forestry, erosion control, and growing along watercourses.

Comments: Consider position before planting as large branches are sometimes shed. Plant at least 10 metres away from underground water pipes, building foundations and paths*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4.



MD



Acacia myrtifolia

Myrtle Wattle

Size: (H x W) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: Dark green foliage (up to 6 cm in length) has a yellow outline and contrasts against red stems on this upright shrub.

Flowers: Displays many round light yellow flowers from July to October, and then slender seed pods.

Growing Conditions: Favours a sunny location in soil with good drainage

Uses: May be a source of nectar for native bees.

Comments: A robust plant with decorative foliage and flowers. To keep shrub healthy can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2.

S
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GW



Acacia oxycedrus

Spike Wattle

Size: (H x W) 1-10 m x 2-5 m

Description: This shrub with teardrop-shaped, spiky foliage (up to 4 cm in length) may grow as a small tree.

Flowers: In bloom from June to November with small bright yellow brush-like flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours semi-well drained soil. Tolerates temporarily wet soil.

Uses: Ideal for creating a hedge.

Comments: An eye catching wattle with beautiful textures. Can be pruned at end of its flowering period. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 4, 6.



AD



Acacia paradoxa

Hedge Wattle

Size: (H x W) 2-4 m x 2-5 m

Description: This shrub has compact growth and thorn lined stems. Ripple-edged foliage (up to 3 cm in length) is dark green.

Flowers: Teems with round yellow flowers from August to November, these become white fluffy seedpods.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

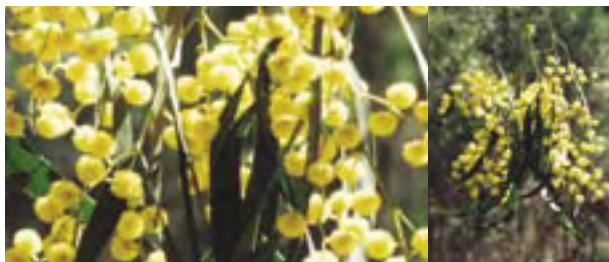
Uses: Can be used to create a hedge.

Comments: A decorative shrub due to its detailed features. Can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 3, 5, 8.

S H R U B S



HM



Acacia pycnantha

Golden Wattle

Size: (H x W) 3-10 m x 2-5 m

Description: May grow as a small tree and has foliage (up to 20 cm in length) that is long, arched and bright green.

Flowers: In bloom from July to October with fragrant round golden flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates saline conditions.

Uses: Gum is eaten by sugar gliders during winter. Food source for caterpillars of the Common Imperial Blue butterfly and may attract native bees.

Aboriginal people made drinks from the gum or ate it on its own. String and medicine were possible uses for the bark. Suitable for firewood and control of soil erosion.

Comments: This plant is the floral emblem of Australia. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 2.

Casey Zone: 7.



HM



Acacia stricta

Hop Wattle

Size: (H x W) 2-5 m x 2-4 m

Description: A shrub with upright branches and light green ellipse-shaped foliage (up to 15 cm in length) with visible yellow middle vein.

Flowers: Displays round light yellow flowers along branchlets from May to October.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates moist conditions and drought.

Comments: This robust plant grows well beneath tall trees such as stringybarks. Can be pruned at end of its flowering period. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2, 4, 6.

SHRUBS



GW



Acacia suaveolens

Sweet Wattle

Size: (H x W) 1-3 m x 2-5 m

Description: A sparsely branched plant with slender, slightly arched blue-green foliage (up to 15 cm in length).

Flowers: Adds fragrance to the garden air from April to October with scented round cream flowers, these become seed pods with a blue tone.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: May be a source of nectar for native bees.

Comments: A shrub with beautiful flowers and seedpods that can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 6.



HM



Acacia verticillata

Prickly Moses

Size: (H x W) 2-6 m x 3-5 m

Description: This shrub has spreading branches and may grow as a small tree. Dark green very narrow spiky foliage (up to 2 cm in length) forms star-shaped rings around stems.

Flowers: Displays soft brush-like flowers that are pale yellow from June to December.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good and poor drainage. Tolerant of alkaline and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Suitable for hedging and bog gardens.

Comments: A decorative wattle with contrasting textures, suited to a very damp shady spot. Can be pruned at end of its flowering period. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8.

SHRUBS



UBIN



Allocasuarina paludosa

Swamp Sheoak

Size: (H x W) 0.5-2 m x 1-2 m

Description: A compact and upright shrub. Dull green needle-like foliage hangs from thin greyish brown branches.

Flowers: Foliage ends are covered with brown male flowers from March to October. Small red female flowers become oval seed cones.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for firewood, bog gardens and for control of soil erosion.

Comments: A robust plant with attractive foliage and seed cones.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 6, 8.



AD



Banksia marginata

Silver Banksia

Size: (H x W) 1-10 m x 1-5 m

Description: May grow as a small tree and has narrow leaves (up to 10 cm in length) that are silvery white underneath.

Flowers: From September to April displays floral brushes in shades of yellow (up to 10 cm in length), these become woody fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Withstands lime and salt.

Uses: Attracts native bees, sugar gliders and possums. Food source for caterpillars of the Double-headed Hawkmoth butterfly.

When dry the fruits of this plant were turned into strainers by Aboriginal people. Suitable for use in pots, for creating a hedge and for control of soil erosion.

Comments: Plant at least 3.5 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



GW



Banksia spinulosa var. cunninghamii

Hairpin Banksia

Size: (H x W) 2-4 m x 2-5 m

Description: A shrub with a domed shape and dense growth. Fine leaves (up to 10 cm in length) have a pale underside and jagged edges.

Flowers: In flower from February to July and then woody fruits. Styles on dark yellow floral brushes (up to 20 cm long) resemble hairpins.

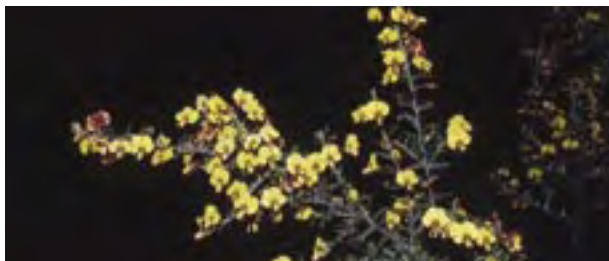
Growing Conditions: Favours a sunny position and soil with good drainage. Does not tolerate lime.

Uses: Nectar is taken by native bees, birds and pygmy possums. Food source for caterpillars of the Double-headed Hawkmoth butterfly.

Perfect for hedging.

Comments: A lovely garden feature, striking when many are grown together.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



RBGC



Bossiaea cinerea

Showy Bossiaea

Size: (H x W) 1-2 m x 1-2 m

Description: A compact or twiggy shrub whose triangle-shaped leaves (up to 2 cm in length) have a light green underside.

Flowers: Displays many yellow pea-flowers with red detail from August to December; seed pods follow.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

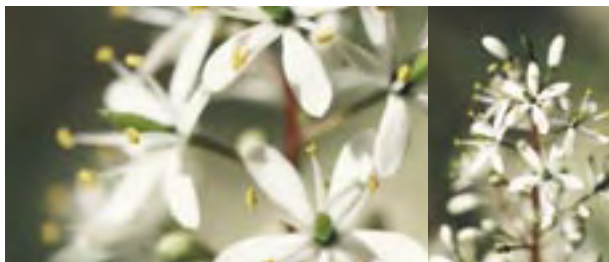
Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Fringed Heath-blue butterfly.

Able to grow under established Eucalypts.

Comments: A shrub with decorative flowers and foliage that creates a striking effect when many are grown together. Can be pruned.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 4, 6, 7.

S H R U B S



HM



Bursaria spinosa subsp. spinosa

Sweet Bursaria

Size: (H x W) 2-6 m x 2-3 m

Description: Leaves form in clusters and are dark green and glossy on this shrub that may grow as a small tree.

Flowers: Displays many cream flowers with a sweet scent from December to March, these become seed capsules that resemble small purses.

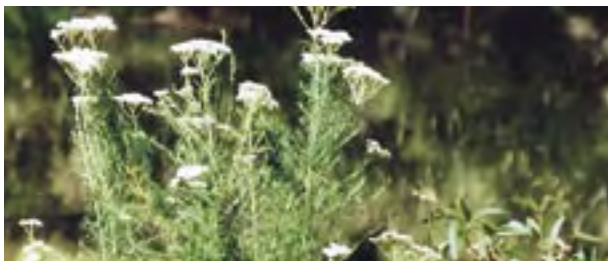
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates wet soil.

Uses: A food source for caterpillars of the Bright Copper butterfly.

Suitable for erosion control, including along watercourses, and for hedging.

Comments: A robust and fragrant plant that can be shaped by pruning. Plant at least 3.5 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



UBIN



Cassinia aculeata

Common Cassinia

Size: (H x W) 2-4 m x 1-2 m

Description: This shrub has slender dark green leaves (up to 4 cm in length) that grow on straight branches.

Flowers: Displays flowerheads of many small off-white blooms from November to March.

Growing Conditions: Favours heavy soil with good drainage.

Comments: A robust shrub with long lasting flowers. Can be pruned to shape and increase fresh growth. Contact with leaves may irritate the skin.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8.

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HM



Cassinia arcuata

Drooping Cassinia

Size: (H x W) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub with long branches and small leaves (up to 1 cm in length) that have a coffee fragrance.

Flowers: From November to February displays arching light brown flowerheads.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Comments: Creates a lovely effect due to weeping form of flowers. Can be pruned to shape and increase fresh growth. Contact with leaves may irritate the skin.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 3.



MD



Coprosma quadrifida

Prickly Currant-bush

Size: (H x W) 2-4 m x 1-1.5 m

Description: A plant with sharp-ended branchlets and small ellipse-shaped leaves (up to 1.5 cm in length) of dark green.

Flowers: Displays very small green flowers from September to November. Female flowers become sweet red berries that may be eaten raw or cooked.

Growing Conditions: Favours a sheltered position in soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for growing in garden beds amongst ferns, and near walls.

Comments: Can be pruned.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 2.

S H R U B S



MD



Correa reflexa var. reflexa

Common Correa

Size: (H x W) 0.3-2 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub that may spread. Furry teardrop-shaped leaves (up to 5 cm in length) grow in opposite pairs.

Flowers: Displays green, or red and green flowers from March to September.

Growing Conditions: Favours compost rich soil with good drainage, some shade and shelter from wind. Tolerates mildly alkaline soil.

Uses: Rich in nectar, flowers are a food source for native bees as well as birds. Suitable for growing in pots, beneath established trees and for hedging.

Comments: A robust plant, beautiful when many are grown together. Can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 3, 6, 8.



RBGC



Dillwynia glaberrima

Smooth Parrot-pea

Size: (h x w) 1-2 m x 1-2 m

Description: This shrub has very narrow leaves (up to 2.5 cm in length) and branches that are usually curved.

Flowers: Displays clusters of yellow pea-flowers with red detail from August to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours sandy soil with good drainage, some shade and mulch to keep the soil cool.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Fringed Heath-blue butterfly. Able to grow below trees that are established.

Comments: A plant with lovely flowers that can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 4, 6, 7.



PGVI



Dodonaea viscosa subsp. spatulata

Sticky Hop-bush

Size: (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-3 m

Description: A plant with straight branches and broad-ended leaves (up to 7.5 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays small flowers from August to November. Winged seed capsules that follow are crinkly and change colour from green to wine.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Comments: Seed capsules of this robust plant have a beautiful texture and colour and are showy compared to its flowers. Can be pruned. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1.



RBGC



Epacris impressa

Common Heath

Size: (H x W) 0.5-1.5 m x 0.2-0.6 m

Description: A narrow shrub whose stiff green leaves (up to 1.5 cm in length) have pointy ends.

Flowers: Heavy with trumpet-shaped pink, white, or red flowers in long clusters from March to November, especially abundant in winter.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage and a mulch layer to help keep soil and roots cool and moist. Tolerates waterlogging.

Uses: Valuable nectar source for birds during winter.

Suitable for growing in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: This very decorative plant with showy flowers is the floral emblem of Victoria. For a more compact shrub can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8.

S H R U B S



HM



Goodenia ovata

Hop Goodenia

Size: (H x W) 1-2.5 m x 1-3 m

Description: A shrub with spreading branches. The glossy pale green leaves (up to 10 cm in length) have toothed edges.

Flowers: Bright display of yellow flowers from August to February.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage and favours a slightly shaded position. Withstands wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Meadow Argus butterfly.

Suitable in rock and bog gardens and for control of soil erosion.

Comments: A very robust shrub, colourful, long flowering and suited to a small garden. Can be trimmed for a compact shape.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



UBIN



Goodia lotifolia var. *lotifolia*

Golden Tip

Size: (h x w) 1-5 m x 1-5 m

Description: A leafy shrub with blue-green foliage made up of leaflets that grow in threes.

Flowers: Displays many scented yellow and red pea-flowers from September to December. Seedpods open up during hot days over summer.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage and some shade. Tolerates drought, but not alkaline soil.

Comments: A very robust shrub, best in medium to large gardens as can spread quite widely. For a more compact shrub trim at end of its flowering period and cut back bare wood. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



UBIN



Grevillea alpina

Mountain Grevillea

Size: (h x w) 1-2.5 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub that may be low-growing whose leaves are oval, straight, or quite round.

Flowers: Displays furry claw-shaped flowers at branchlet ends from August to December ranging in colours of white, yellow, pink and red.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Does not tolerate soil high in phosphorous, heavy shade, humidity, or extra watering during summer.

Uses: Good source of nectar for native bees.

Suitable as a border, rockery and pot plant.

Comments: A plant with lovely texture and colours. For a more compact shape trim new shrubs often. Plant at least 2 metres from underground water pipes*.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



UBIN



Hakea nodosa

Yellow Hakea

Size: (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: A sparsely branched or compact shrub. It has needle-like leaves (up to 4 cm in length) with slightly prickly ends and curved branches.

Flowers: Displays yellow scented flowers spread along branches from April to August, these become textured fruits.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer, but not phosphorous rich soil.

Uses: Nectar source for native bees.

Ideal for bog gardens and hedging.

Comments: A robust shrub with beautiful flowers and fruits that is suited to a damp partly shaded area. For a more compact shrub, prune annually. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2, 6.



GW



Hakea ulicina

Furze Hakea

Size: (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: A slender shrub with elongated prickly leaves (up to 20 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays off-white blooms from July to October, these become groups of egg shaped fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage. Does not tolerate phosphorous rich soil.

Uses: Nectar rich flowers attract native bees.

Suitable for hedging.

Comments: A robust shrub that can be pruned annually for a more compact shape. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 6.



PGIV



Hibbertia acicularis

Prickly Guinea-flower

Size: (h x w)

Prostrate-0.3 m x 0.3-0.6 m

Description: A shrub with leaves that are small and prickly (up to 1.2 cm in length), it grows upright or spreads horizontally.

Flowers: Covered with yellow blooms from September to February.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for growing in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: A lovely plant with brightly coloured flowers. For a more compact shrub trim at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 6.

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Hibbertia riparia

Erect Guinea-flower

Size: (h x w) 0.3-1 m x 0.6 m

Description: A shrub with upright branches and small leaves (up to 1 cm in length).

Flowers: Bright display of yellow blooms in spring and summer.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage and moist soil throughout summer.

Uses: Suitable for growing in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: For a more compact shrub can be trimmed at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2.



UBIN



Indigofera australis

Austral Indigo

Size: (H x W) 1-2 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub with soft leaflets (up to 3 cm in length) of bluish green on slightly arching stems; these may be spreading or upright.

Flowers: Displays pea-flowers from September to December, usually light purple to pink; these become glossy green seed pods.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Does not tolerate wet soil.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Grass Blue butterfly.

Comments: A robust plant with showy flowers. Especially striking when grown in groups and under trees with other leafy plants. For a more compact shrub trim lightly. Plant at least 2 metres away from underground water pipes*.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 6.

S H R U B S



GW



Leptospermum continentale

Prickly Tea-tree

Size: (H x W) 1-4 m x 1-2 m

Description: This shrub may grow as a small tree and has small sharp-ended leaves (up to 1.2 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays many white blossoms from October to March.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer and temporary waterlogging.

Uses: Can be used to create a hedge.

Comments: A robust plant especially pretty when in flower.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



RBGC



Leptospermum myrsinoides

Heath Tea-tree

Size: (h x w) 0.5-2.5 m x 1 m

Description: Leaves (up to 1 cm in length) on this shrub are small and smooth and growth may be sparse or dense.

Flowers: Numerous pink or white flowers visible from September to November.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer and temporary waterlogging.

Uses: Suitable for control of soil erosion.

Comments: A robust plant with an attractive spring blossom display.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 4, 5, 6, 8.

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RBGC



Melaleuca ericifolia

Swamp Paperbark

Size: (h x w) 2-9 m x 3 m

Description: This shrub may grow as a small tree and has fine leaves (up to 1.5 cm in length) and paper-like bark.

Flowers: Displays whitish floral brushes from October to November.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer and soil moderately affected by salinity.

Uses: Aboriginal babies were wrapped with the fabric-like bark from this plant. Suitable for firewood, bog gardens, control of soil erosion and for stabilising banks.

Comments: A robust, versatile shrub that can be pruned. Plant at least 3.5 metres away from underground water pipes*. Not suitable beneath or near powerlines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



GW



Melaleuca squarrosa

Scented Paperbark

Size: (H x W) 2-5 m x 1-2 m

Description: This Paperbark has upright branches and teardrop-shaped dark green leaves (up to 1.8 cm length).

Flowers: Fragrant creamy-yellow floral brushes on display from September to February.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates wet soil that becomes dry in summer, waterlogging and soil affected by salinity.

Uses: Flowers attract native bees.

Aboriginal people produced spears, digging sticks and clubs from the wood of various Melaleucas.

Suitable for stabilising banks, growing in bog gardens and for creating a hedge.

Comments: This shrub is ideal for a shaded, wet area and can be pruned. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 6, 8.

S H R U B S



AD



Olearia lirata

Snowy Daisy-bush

Size: (H x W) 2-5 m x 2-3 m

Description: A shrub with soft long leaves (up to 16 cm in length) with pale underside.

Flowers: Many white daisy blooms on display from September to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage. Tolerates wet soil.

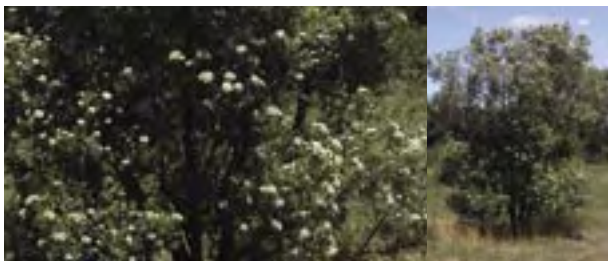
Uses: Suitable for bog gardens.

Comments: A plant with beautiful flowers that is ideal for a moist shaded area.

To create a leafy shrub trim regularly. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 6.



MD



Ozothamnus ferrugineus

Tree Everlasting

Size: (H x W) 2-6 m x 1-3 m

Description: This plant may grow as a small tree and has a domed shape and slender leaves of dark green (up to 7 cm in length).

Flowers: Branch ends are covered with groups of small, white, starry flowers from November to February.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Comments: A lovely plant that can be pruned at the end of winter for thick new growth. Not suitable beneath or near powerlines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2, 6.

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PGVI



Pimelea axiflora subsp. axiflora

Bootlace Bush

Size: (H x W) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub with upright or curved branches. The dark green slender leaves (up to 8 cm in length) grow in pairs and have a light underside.

Flowers: Cream flowers are dotted along stems from September to November.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage and protection from wind.

Uses: Aboriginal people produced a thin thread from the bark fibre that was used to make nets.

Comments: A plant with beautiful flower and leaf formation suited to a shady area.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



RBGC



Pimelea humilis

Common Rice-flower

Size: (H x W) 0.1-0.5 m x 0.3-1 m

Description: A low growing shrub with pairs of ellipse-shaped leaves (up to 1.5 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays groups of small creamy flowers from September to January.

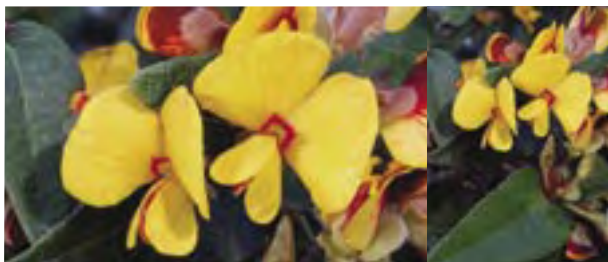
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage and to be kept moist during dry weather.

Uses: Suitable for use in rock gardens.

Comments: A small and robust shrub with beautiful flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 2.

S H R U B S



MD



Platylobium formosum

Handsome Flat-pea

Size: (H x W) 0.3-1.5 m x 1-1.5 m

Description: A shrub that may spread along the ground. The leaves (up to 6 cm in length) are thick, heart-shaped and deep green.

Flowers: Displays yellow pea-flowers with red detail from September to December. These stay closed on cloudy days.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage, intolerant of wet soil.

Comments: A robust shrub with lovely flowers that grows well in the shade created by other plants.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



PGIV



Polyscias sambucifolia subsp. 3

Elderberry Panax

Size: (H x W) 1-6 m x 1-3 m

Description: A bushy shrub with feathery leaves (up to 11 cm in length) that may grow as a small tree.

Flowers: From November to January displays greenish blossoms. Berries that follow change colour from green to blue.

Growing Conditions: Favours compost rich soil with good drainage.

Uses: Able to grow in pots.

Comments: This very robust shrub has lovely foliage and coloured berries. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

S H R U B S



PGVI



Pomaderris aspera

Hazel Pomaderris

Size: (H x W) 3-12 m x 2-4 m

Description: An upright tree or bushy shrub with bark that develops an attractive pattern over time. Dark green broad leaves (up to 14 cm in length) have very noticeable vein detail.

Flowers: From October to December displays small yellow feathery flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours compost rich soil with good drainage.

Uses: Food source for the Yellow Jewel butterfly.

Comments: Can be shaped by pruning. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 7, 8.



HM



Prostanthera lasianthos var. lasianthos

Victorian Christmas Bush

Size: (H x W) 2-8 m x 2-5 m

Description: This shrub has an upright shape and may grow as a small tree. Dark green leaves (up to 10 cm in length) are mint scented and have jagged edges.

Flowers: From November to January displays softly perfumed white flowers with small spots of gold and purple.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage, moist soil during hot weather, mulch and shelter from wind.

Uses: Aboriginal people made fire sticks from this shrub.

Can be used to create a hedge.

Comments: Flowers are highly attractive and plant grows well in a cool position. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 7, 8

S H R U B S



HM



Pultenaea scabra

Rough Bush-pea

Size: (H x W) 1-2 m x 0.5-1.5 m

Description: The leaves (up to 1.5 cm in length) on this upright plant have a wedge-shape and coarse texture.

Flowers: From September to November displays many clusters of red and dark yellow pea-flowers.

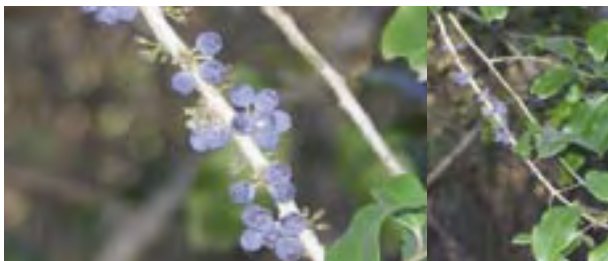
Growing Conditions: Favours permanently damp mulched soil with good drainage and compost high in leaf litter. Intolerant of phosphorous rich soil.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Fringed Heath-blue butterfly.

Able to grow below trees and in rock gardens.

Comments: A robust plant that creates a striking floral display when grown in groups. To keep shrub healthy can be pruned at end of its flowering period.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



PGIV



Rapanea howittiana

Mutton-wood

Size: (h x w) 3-10 m x 2-4 m

Description: A cone shaped shrub whose leaves (up to 9 cm in length) are curvy-edged and shiny and may grow as a small tree.

Flowers: Displays green blossoms from winter to summer that become purple circular fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage and moist soil during summer.

Uses: Suitable for planting along watercourses to stabilise banks.

Comments: A robust plant with lovely foliage and coloured fruit. Ideal for growing instead of the environmental weed Sweet Pittosporum, *Pittosporum undulatum*. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



RNGC



Solanum laciniatum

Large Kangaroo-apple

Size: (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-3 m

Description: A shrub with a visible vein pattern on long dark green leaves (up to 30 cm in length).

Flowers: From September to March displays violet star-like blossoms. Fruits that follow are toxic when unripe and should only be eaten when very ripe. Ripe fruit is deep orange and bumpy.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: This was a valuable food plant for Aboriginal people.

Suitable for stabilising banks and erosion control.

Comments: Pruning as a young shrub can prevent the base from splitting which may reduce its life span.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 7, 8.



UBIN



Spyridium parvifolium

Dusty Miller

Size: (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Description: A shrub with compact or sparse growth and roundish dark green leaves (up to 2.5 cm in length) with lighter underside.

Flowers: From July to November silvery leaves encircle groups of white flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Comments: This robust plant is effective as a backdrop to showier plants or positioned so the floral detail is visible.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

S H R U B S



UBIN



Tetratheca ciliata

Pink-bells

Size: (h x w) 0.3-0.6 m x 0.3-0.6 m

Description: A sprawling or upright plant with rings of leaves (up to 1.2 cm in length) around the stems.

Flowers: Covered with pinkish or white scented blooms from July to December, they begin as partly closed bell-shaped flowers and open up over time.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage that is kept watered during summer. Withstands lime.

Uses: Suitable for use in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: A lovely plant with beautiful fragrant flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



RBGC



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Viminaria juncea

Golden Spray Size: (h x w) 2.5-5 m x 2 m

Description: This shrub has arched branches and very narrow foliage.

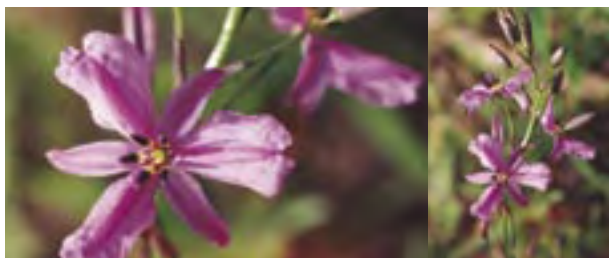
Flowers: Displays yellow pea-flowers that are sprinkled along stems from October to February.

Growing Conditions: Grows in soil with good or poor drainage. Tolerates waterlogging, permanently wet and saline soil and lime.

Uses: Suitable near ponds and for control of bank erosion.

Comments: A plant with beautiful flowers and pendulous shape. Not suitable beneath or near power lines.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 5.



HM



Arthropodium strictum

Chocolate Lily

Size: (h x w) 0.2-1 m x 0.2-0.8 m

Description: A tuft forming perennial lily with narrow grassy leaves (up to 40 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays star-shaped purple flowers with chocolate aroma from September to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Aboriginal people ate the tubers of this plant.

Perfect for rock gardens.

Comments: The fragrance of this beautiful lily will fill the air during warm sunny days and creates a pretty display grown in groups. At end of flowering reduces to a tuber and with enough moisture re-sprouts in autumn.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 6, 7.

WILDFLOWERS



UBIN



Bulbine bulbosa

Bulbine Lily

Size: (h x w) 0.2-0.6 m x 0.3 m

Description: A perennial tufting lily with long, lush, greyish-green leaves (up to 40 cm in length).

Flowers: From September to January displays scented starry yellow blooms.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates total shade.

Uses: Aboriginal people ate the sweet corm at the base of the leaves.

Suited to rock gardens.

Comments: The scent of lightly fragranced flowers becomes more noticeable when grown in groups. Dies back to a corm when conditions are dry, but continues to grow and flower if watering is maintained.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 6.



HM



Dianella revoluta

Black-anther Flax-lily

Size: (h x w) 0.3-1 m x 0.5-2.5 m

Description: A perennial plant with tufts of rough edged, curved, dark green strappy leaves (up to 70 cm in length).

Flowers: In bloom from August to May with sprinklings of bluish flowers that become dark, glossy berries.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage and moist soil. Tolerates poor drainage and full shade.

Uses: Seeds are eaten by lizards.

From the leaves Aboriginal people made durable ties.

Suitable for use in pots, rock gardens and near trees.

Comments: A beautiful and robust plant whose flowers and berries add colour to the garden for most of the year. Fruits should not be eaten as some Dianella plants bear toxic berries.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 6, 7, 8.



GW/UBIN



Dianella tasmanica

Tasman Flax-lily

Size: (h x w) 0.6-1.5 m x 0.5-2 m

Description: A perennial plant with tufts of rough, wide, strappy leaves (up to 100 cm in length).

Flowers: Yellow centred blue flowers hang from long flowering stems from August to February and then become purple berries.

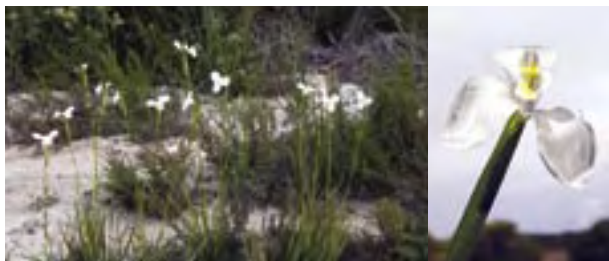
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage, wet soil that becomes dry in summer and a cool shady area.

Uses: Suitable for use in pots, rockeries and bog gardens.

Comments: A robust lily with beautiful brightly coloured fruits.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 4, 7, 8.



MD



Diplarrena moraea

Butterfly Flag

Size: (H x W) 0.3-0.6 m x 0.5-1 m

Description: A perennial plant that forms clumps of upright, flat, slender leaves (up to 60 cm in length).

Flowers: From October to December displays sweetly fragrant white flowers with yellow, white and violet centres singly blossoming for a day.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates wet soil.

Uses: Suitable for use in bog gardens, rockeries and pots.

Comments: Striking when grown in groups and although flowers survive for a short time each plant displays many during the flowering season.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 3, 4.



RBGC



Patersonia occidentalis

Long Purple-flag

Size: (H x W) 0.2-0.4 m x 0.3-0.6 m

Description: This herbaceous perennial has dense tufts of strap-like leaves.

Flowers: Displays many purple, three-petalled flowers from September to January with each flower surviving for only a small number of hours.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage. Withstands wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

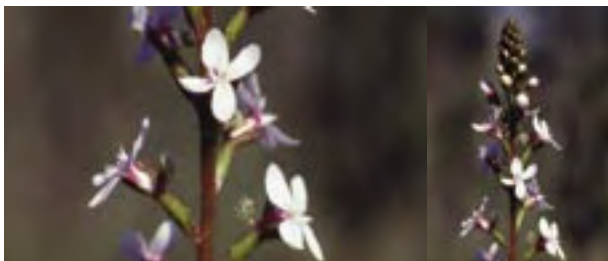
Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Eastern Iris-skipper butterfly.

Able to grow in pots, bog gardens and around ponds.

Comments: A beautiful plant, striking when grown in groups.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



RBGC



Stylidium armeria

Grass Trigger-plant Size: (H x w) 0.2-0.6 m x 0.2-0.3 m

Description: This perennial herb has upright tufts of grassy leaves (up to 30 cm in length).

Flowers: From September to December groups of flowers in shades of pink blossom on long stems.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

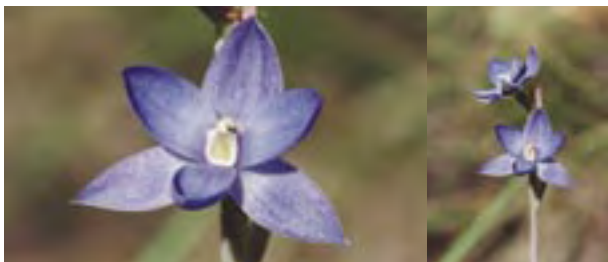
Uses: Some insects become part of this plant's pollination process when a trigger on the flower swings up and covers the insect with pollen when it stops to drink its nectar. This also allows the flower to take any pollen on the insect deposited by other flowers.

Suitable for use in rockeries, pots and bog gardens.

Comments: Ideal in a sunny position, and striking when grown in groups.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

WILDFLOWERS



HM



Thelymitra media

Tall Sun-orchid Stem: (H) up to 0.9 m

Description: An orchid with a lance-shaped leaf (up to 30 cm in length).

Flowers: Long flower stem displays up to twenty five blue six petalled flowers from October to January that open on warm sunny days.

Growing Conditions: Favours poor drainage and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Starchy tubers were eaten by Aboriginal people.

Comments: Native orchids are rarely cultivated by nurseries; however they are occasionally available through the Australian Native Orchid Society and can sometimes be seen in our bushland areas.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4.



UBIN



Thysanotus tuberosus subsp. tuberosus

Common Fringe-lily

Size: (h x w) 0.15-0.3 m x 0.15-0.2 m

Description: A small, fine, perennial herb with sparse tufts of slender grassy leaves (up to 20 cm in length).

Flowers: In bloom from November to January when each purple flower with fringed edges opens for just a day.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Aboriginal people ate the tubers from this and other Fringe-lilies. Suitable for use in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: A beautiful plant in flower that dies down to a tuber each year.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 6, 7.

WILDFLOWERS



UBIN



Wahlenbergia stricta

Tall Bluebell

Size: (h x w) 0.4-0.9 m x 0.3-0.4 m

Description: A clump-forming upright herb with teardrop shaped, curvy edged leaves (up to 7 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays many pale blue flowers with white detail on fine stems from August to January.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for use in rock gardens and pots.

Comments: Creates a lovely floral display when grown in groups.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



MD



Austrodanthonia setacea

Bristly Wallaby-grass

Size: (h x w) up to 0.3 x 0.4 m,
Stem (h) up to 0.6 m

Description: A perennial grass with very narrow leaves in dense straight tussocks that stays green for the whole year.

Flowers: Displays powdery purple flower spikes from October to January.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates drought.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Marbled Xenica and White Grassdart butterflies.

Suitable for use in rock gardens and as a groundcover.

Comments: Creates a striking effect when grown close together in groups, using the same or different grasses. Can be refreshed by trimming to just above ground level once it has set seed.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 3, 6.

GRASSES, SEDGES & RUSHES



PGVI



Baloskion tetraphyllum subsp. tetraphyllum

Tassel Cord-rush

Size: (h) up to 1.5 m

Description: A perennial rush with bright green plume-like foliage and pendulous stems in large tussocks.

Flowers: Displays rusty-gold coloured flower spikes from October to February.

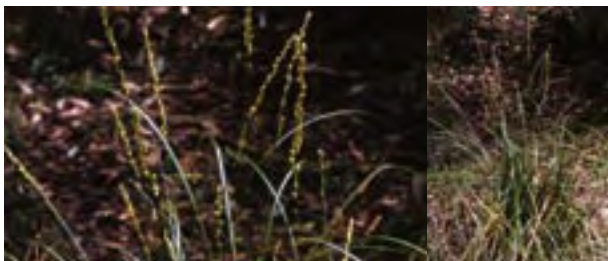
Growing Conditions: Favours sandy soil. Tolerates living in shallow water and waterlogging.

Uses: Able to grow in pots, bog gardens and the shallow end and edge of wetlands and ponds.

Comments: A decorative rush for wet and damp areas.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 6.



FOSF



Carex appressa

Tall Sedge

Size: (H x W) 0.5-1.2 m x 0.5-1 m

Description: A perennial plant with narrow grassy leaves and triangular shaped stems in coarse tufts.

Flowers: Displays small golden brown flower spikes amongst leaves from August to January.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage. Tolerates living in shallow water, wet soil that becomes dry in summer and waterlogged conditions.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Bright-eyed Brown butterfly.

Ideal around the edge of bog gardens and ponds and along watercourses where it can control erosion of banks.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 4, 6.



RBGC



Eleocharis acuta

Common Spike-rush

Size: (H) 0.3-0.9 m

Description: This aquatic rush has narrow hollow stems and is a perennial.

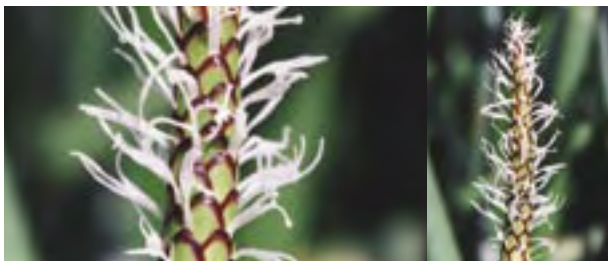
Flowers: Brown flower spikes cover stem ends from September to April.

Growing Conditions: Favours living in water up to 15 cm deep or wet soil with poor drainage. Tolerates waterlogging and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Creates shelter for fish when grown in and around the edge of ponds and wetlands.

Comments: To prevent this rush from becoming dominant in an aquatic environment plant into pots before placing it into the water.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 3, 5, 6, 7.



HM



Eleocharis sphacelata

Tall Spike-rush

Size: (H) 0.5-2 m

Description: This perennial is an aquatic plant with bulky leaf-like hollow stems that form dense clumps.

Flowers: White flower spikes cover stem ends from November to February and become light brown over time.

Growing Conditions: Favours growing in water up to 1.2 m deep. Tolerates water-logging and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Some waterbirds use the stems for nest building.

Comments: To prevent this robust rush from becoming dominant in an aquatic environment plant into pots before placing it into the water.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 5, 6.

GRASSES, SEDGES & RUSHES



BF



Ficinia nodosa

Knobby Club-rush

Size: (H x W) 0.5-1.5 m x 0.6-2 m

Description: A perennial plant with narrow stiff stems and brown foliage.

Flowers: Almost always in bloom with brown ball-shaped flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage. Tolerates drought and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Suitable for binding moist and sandy soils.

Comments: A very robust plant with beautiful foliage and flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 3, 5, 6, 8.



MD/BF



Gahnia sieberiana

Red-fruited Saw-sedge

Size: (h x w) 1.5-3 m x 2-3 m

Description: A perennial plant with coarse-edged dark green leaves in large arching tussocks.

Flowers: Displays golden brown flowerheads from October to January that turn dark brown, and then bears glossy red fruits.

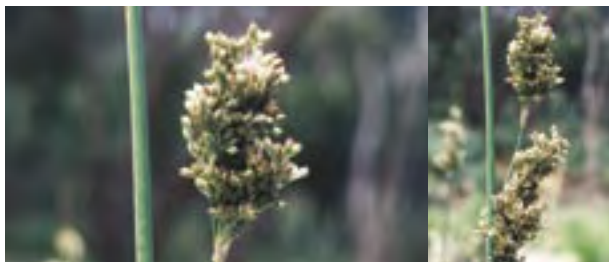
Growing Conditions: Tolerates poor drainage and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Sword-grass Brown and Skipper butterflies. Suitable around the edge of ponds and wetlands and for control of erosion.

Comments: A robust plant with striking colours and textures. Plant instead of the environmental weed Pampas Grass.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



HM



Juncus pallidus

Pale Rush

Size: (h x w) 0.5-2.3 m x 0.3-1 m

Description: This perennial has long upright stems and brown leaves.

Flowers: Displays clusters of light yellow flowers from December to March.

Growing Conditions: Tolerates poor drainage, waterlogged soil and shallow water. Grows best in soils that experience seasonal flooding.

Uses: Suitable for growing around the edge of ponds and wetlands and to control erosion of wet soil on sloped areas.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 3, 5, 6.



MD



Lomandra filiformis subsp. coriacea

Wattle Mat-rush

Size: (H) 0.15-0.3 m

Description: A perennial tufting herb whose strappy leaves have slightly rough edges.

Flowers: Displays clusters of yellow ball-like flowers nestled amongst the leaves from September to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Established plants tolerate dry soil.

Uses: Suitable for growing in rock gardens.

Comments: A plant with beautiful shape that is not easy to propagate.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 6, 8.



POSF



Lomandra longifolia subsp. longifolia

Spiny-headed Mat-rush

Size: (H x W) 0.5-1 m x 0.5-1.2 m

Description: A tussock-forming herb with slender strappy leaves of bright green.

Flowers: Displays fragrant pale yellow flowers in prickly clusters from September to December, these become glossy seed capsules.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

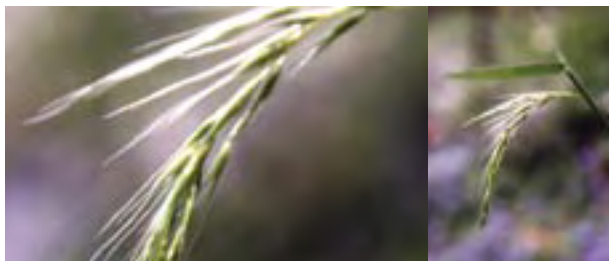
Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Eliena Skipper and Phigalioides Skipper butterflies. Useful for frogs when positioned near ponds.

Aboriginal people created mats, baskets and bags from this plant.

Able to grow in pots and below established trees.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



FOSP



Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides

Weeping Grass

Size: (H x W) up to 0.3 m x 0.6 m

Stem (H) up to 1 m

Description: A perennial lightly tufted grass with pendulous stems and slender leaves that retain their green colour for the whole year.

Flowers: Flowers present from September to November. Flowerheads take on a weeping form when they turn to seeds.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage, in a shaded area for lawn, and in mild to highly fertile soils for pasture. Tolerates drought.

Uses: Kangaroos and farm animals eat this grass and it grows back when grazed. Suitable as lawn especially when trimmed frequently and for control of soil erosion including along watercourses.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 4, 7.



HM



Poa ensiformis

Purple-sheath Tussock-grass

Size: (H x W) 0.3-0.75 m x 1 m, Stem (H) up to 1.5 m

Description: A grass with purplish sheaths and coarse dark green leaves that turn golden brown with age.

Flowers: Long flowerheads in bloom from October to March.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

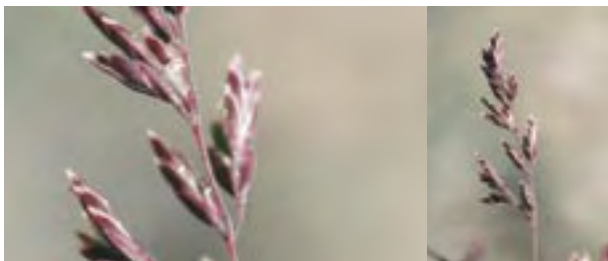
Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the White Grassdart, Lilac and Banded Grass-skipper, Forest, Shouldered and Solander's Brown and Silver Xenica butterflies. Useful for skinks and lizards and for frogs when planted near ponds.

Aboriginal people created bags, nets, mats and baskets from the Poa species.

Comments: Striking when grown in groups or with wildflowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1.



HM



Poa morrisii

Velvet Tussock-grass

Size: (H) up to 0.3 m

Stem (H) 0.5-0.9 m

Description: A grass with dull green velvety leaves in compact tussocks.

Flowers: Long flowerheads in bloom from October to January.

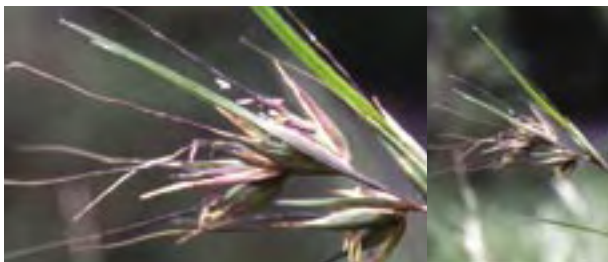
Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: A useful plant for frogs when planted near ponds. Attracts the Lilac and Banded Grass-skipper and the White Grassdart butterfly and used by skinks and lizards for shelter.

Comments: Especially striking when grown in groups or with wildflowers. Maintain by trimming to just above ground level after it has set seed.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 6.



FOSF



Themeda triandra

Kangaroo Grass

Size: (H x W) up to 0.4 m x 0.75 m

Stem (H) 0.7-0.9 m

Description: A perennial grass with tussocks of slender leaves and curved stems.

Flowers: Displays brown shiny flowers from September to February.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates drought.

Uses: Food source for caterpillars of the Ringed and Marbled Xenica and the Common and Shouldered Brown butterflies. Useful for geckoes and blue-tongued lizards. Aboriginal people ate the seeds and with the fibre created fishing nets and bags. Suitable in rock gardens, pots and on sloping areas as a groundcover.

Comments: Lovely in summer when flowerheads are rust-coloured and leaves turn an orange-brown. To maintain trim to a little above ground level in early autumn.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.



MD



Xanthorrhoea minor subsp. lutea

Small Grass-tree

Size: (h x w) 0.6 m x 1 m

Description: Curved grassy leaves sprout in tufts from the trunk of this plant that is below ground.

Flowers: Light yellow flowers are heavily fragrant and cover end of stems from November to February.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Aboriginal people ate the bottom parts of new leaves and possibly made small spears from the stems.

Able to grow in pots.

Comments: A beautiful plant that grows slowly.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



FCBR



Acaena novae-zelandiae

Bidgee-widgee

Size: Prostrate x 1-4 m

Description: This perennial ground-covering herb has small, jagged-edged leaflets (up to 1 cm in length).

Flowers: Flowering from October to January, then green ball-shaped flowers become red prickly fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates poor drainage, dry and wet soil.

Uses: Suitable for control of erosion and for binding soil on sloping areas.

Comments: Ideally located where burrs on fruit cannot catch on clothing and animal fur. New plants benefit from mulching to reduce weeds. To increase new growth and flower numbers, prune plant tips during growing season.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 8.



GW



Acrotriche serrulata

Honey-pots

Size: (H x W) 0.1-0.3 m x 0.5-1 m

Description: This shrub with slender pointy leaves (up to 1 cm in length) forms a thick groundcover.

Flowers: From May to October displays scented flowers with green star-shaped tips and brown and clear nectar filled bases; these become green fruits.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage and does not tolerate wet soil.

Uses: The flowers and fruits from this plant were eaten by Aboriginal people. Suitable for rock gardens and erosion control on sloping areas.

Comments: New plants benefit from mulching to reduce weed growth.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. **Casey Zone:** 7, 8.



HM



Adiantum aethiopicum

Common Maidenhair

Size: (H x W) 0.1-0.45 m x spreading

Description: This fern, with intricate wavy-edged fronds of light green and dark stems, forms a groundcover.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage in a sheltered position. Tolerates poor drainage and total shade.

Uses: Suitable for erosion control on slopes, for planting next to ponds, fountains and in rock gardens, and kept well watered in raised pots.

Comments: A plant with beautiful foliage that can spread widely.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2.



MD



Ajuga australis

Austral Bugle

Size: (H x W) 0.2-0.3 m x 0.3-0.5 m

Description: This ground-covering herb is a perennial, whose soft silvery-green leaves (up to 12 cm in length) have toothed edges.

Flowers: In bloom from September to February with rings of purple, pink or blue flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Aboriginal people applied an infusion from the leaves to boils and sores. Suitable for control of erosion on sloped and sandy areas and for planting in rock gardens and borders.

Comments: A robust plant that is attractive amongst ferns. To cover an area plant 50 cm apart.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 5.



AD



Billardiera scandens var. *scandens*

Common Apple-berry

Description: A sparse climber or scrambling groundcover with curvy-edged light to dark green leaves (up to 5 cm in length).

Flowers: Bell-flowers of greenish-yellow are almost always present, particularly from June to January. Fruits that follow can be eaten when very ripe; this is usually when they fall to the ground.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for use in raised pots, for growing around posts and along fences and positioned beneath trees where it can climb through other plants. Grows as a groundcover on bare areas.

Comments: A plant with beautiful blossoms that produces thicker growth when in a sunny spot. Can be pruned.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 7, 8.



PGVI



Brachyscome multifida

Cut-leaf Daisy

Size: (H x W) 0.1-0.4 m x 0.2-1 m

Description: This perennial herb has little bright to dark green leaflets that form a soft groundcover.

Flowers: Mainly in bloom during spring and summer, but light purple, white or pink daisy flowers are almost always present.

Growing Conditions: Favours good drainage, moist soil until established and a sheltered position.

Uses: A useful plant for beetles and lizards.

Suitable for growing in rock gardens and pots and for binding soil on sloped areas.

Comments: A robust and pretty plant that can be pruned to keep it healthy.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



MD



Clematis aristata

Austral Clematis

Description: A climber or groundcover with glossy leaves that grow in threes (each up to 8 cm in length).

Flowers: Displays many flowers from August to March, these are cream coloured and star-shaped and become white fluffy fruits on female plants.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage away from strong winds.

Uses: Food source for moth larvae.

Ideal climber for screening fences, walls and structures or positioned so it can climb through large plants. Grows as a groundcover when planted on bare areas.

Comments: A beautiful plant with decorative fruits and long lasting floral display.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



MD



Dichondra repens

Kidney-weed

Description: A mat-forming groundcover with crowded roundish foliage (up to 4 cm in length).

Flowers: Very small green flowers blossom from September to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Suitable for framing paved areas and for control of soil erosion on sloping sites. Can be planted instead of grass in low use areas and does not need frequent mowing. Not ideal in garden beds where it can quickly become dominant.

Comments: A thick low groundcover when grown in the sun, leaves are bigger in a shady spot. To cover an area plant 30 cm apart.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 2, 4, 6.



PGV1



Disphyma crassifolium subsp. clavellatum

Rounded Moon-flower

Size: Prostrate x 1-2 m

Description: A perennial groundcover with succulent leaves (up to 5 cm in length) in shades of green, purple or pink.

Flowers: Displays bright pink and white flowers from October to February.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates saline soil and drought.

Uses: Suitable for use in rock gardens and for control of erosion on windy coastal sites and sloped ground.

Comments: To cover an area with beautiful flowers plant 30 cm apart.

Cardinia Zone: 5, 7. **Casey Zone:** 4.



HM



Geranium solanderi

Austral Crane's Bill

Size: Prostrate-0.5 m x 0.6-1.5 m

Description: This herbaceous groundcover with rounded and divided leaves (up to 10 cm in length) and fuzzy stalks is a perennial plant.

Flowers: From October to February displays small pink blooms.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Tolerates poor drainage and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Aboriginal people used the plant roots for food and medicine.

Suitable for use in rock gardens and attractive along the sides of walkways.

Comments: A sunny position that is always moist will produce a thick groundcover, whereas a shady site will result in taller growth.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Casey Zone:** 1, 6.



UBIN



Hardenbergia violacea

Purple Coral-pea

Description: A spreading climber or groundcover whose tough, elongated heart-shaped leaves (up to 10 cm in length) are dark green.

Flowers: Teems with long clusters of purplish pea-flowers from July to November.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: Useful to native bees, tree frogs and Painted Acacia moths.

As a climber needs sturdy support and can grow around thick pillars and trees. As a groundcover is suitable for erosion control on sloping areas.

Comments: This plant has a beautiful flower display and can be pruned at the beginning of summer.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



UBIN



Helichrysum scorpioides

Button Everlasting

Size: (H x W) 0.3 m x 0.2-0.3 m

Description: A perennial ground-covering herb with greyish green leaves (up to 7 cm long) which are largest at the base of the stem.

Flowers: From September to December, tall stems bear yellow flowers.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage. Grows best in full sunlight.

Uses: Suitable for use in rock gardens.

Comments: A robust plant with beautiful bright flowers it can be pruned heavily in late autumn.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 4.



AD



Kennedia prostrata

Running Postman

Size: (H x w) Prostrate x 1-2.5 m

Description: This perennial plant creates a light or thick groundcover. The leaves are divided into three ripple-edged pale green leaflets (up to 1.8 cm in length).

Flowers: Sprinklings of bright red pea-flowers from April to December.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with good drainage.

Uses: A food source for caterpillars of the Pea Blue butterfly and useful to skinks. Aboriginal people drank the nectar from the flowers and stems were useful as ties. Suitable for sloped areas, for growing with shrubs and in raised pots.

Comments: A robust, long flowering plant that can be pruned to shape.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 4.



FOSF



Viola hederacea

Ivy-leaf Violet

Size: (H x w) Prostrate-0.15 m x 1-2 m

Description: This perennial herb grows as a thick groundcover and has rounded leaves (up to 3 cm in length) of pale green.

Flowers: Mainly in bloom from June to March, but the purple and white violets are almost always present.

Growing Conditions: Favours soil with poor drainage. Tolerates waterlogging and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Uses: Suitable amongst shrubs, in rock gardens and as a pot plant and attractive in a position where it can spill downwards.

Comments: To cover an area plant 50 cm apart.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 6.

Trees

Acacia implexa

Hickory Wattle (h x w) 5-15 m x 4-7 m

Suitable for control of erosion and has scented flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. Casey Zone: 1.



Eucalyptus baxteri

Brown Stringybark (h x w) 3-40 m x 4-20 m

Shiny leaves and many white blossoms. Suitable for firewood.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6. Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Eucalyptus cypellocarpa

Mountain Grey-gum (h x w) 10-65 m x 12-30 m

Lovely peeling bark and white blossoms.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4. Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Eucalyptus fulgens

Green Scent Bark

A small or medium Eucalypt with shiny leaves. Listed as rare in Victoria.

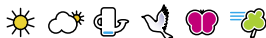
Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4. Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.

Eucalyptus goniocalyx

Bundy (h x w) 8-20 m x 6-15 m

Twisted trunk is covered with coarse bark.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4. Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8.



Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp. pauciflora

Snow Gum (h x w) 8-12 m x 6-10 m

Suitable for firewood and control of soil erosion. Visible in Cardinia as a street tree.

Cardinia Zone: 5. Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8.



Shrubs

Acacia brownii

Heath Wattle (H x W) 0.5-1 m x 1-2 m

Spiky foliage and round dark yellow flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Acacia genistifolia

Spreading Wattle (H x W) 1-3 m x 1-3 m

Scented blossoms for most of the year.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Acacia leprosa

Cinnamon Wattle (H x W) 3-12 m x 2-6 m

Perfumed foliage, branches are pendulous.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Amperea xiphoclada var. xiphoclada

Broom Spurge (H x W) 0.3-0.8 m x 0.4-0.5 m

Small leaves and stiff stems. Suitable for rock gardens.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Bauera rubioides

Wiry Bauera (H x W) 1-2 m x 1-2 m

Forms a high ground cover. Tolerates soil with poor drainage.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Bedfordia arborescens

Blanket Leaf (H x W) 3-7 m x 2-4 m

May be able to host epiphytic ferns and orchids.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Shrubs

Daviesia latifolia

Hop Bitter-pea (H x W) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Numerous scented pea-flowers and lovely when grown as a hedge.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 7, 8.



Gompholobium huegelii

Common Wedge-pea (H x W) 0.3-1 m x 0.3-1 m

Beautiful pea-flowers are yellow. Suitable as a pot plant.

Cardinia Zone: 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Hakea decurrens

Bushy Needlewood (H x W) 2-5 m x 1-3 m

Scented pink or white blooms throughout winter. Suitable for bog gardens.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Hedycarya angustifolia

Austral Mulberry (H x W) 3-7 m x 4 m

Fire drills were produced from the stems and used by Aboriginal people for fire making.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4. *Casey Zone:* 1.



Hovea linearis

Common Hovea (H x W) 0.3-0.6 m x 0.3 m

Light purple pea-flowers on a fine-detailed shrub.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2.



Kunzea ericoides

Burgan (H x W) 2-5 m x 2-4 m

Withstands waterlogging and controls soil erosion. May rapidly invade cleared land.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 5.



Shrubs

Leptospermum lanigerum

Woolly Tea-tree (H x W) 2-6 m x 1-3 m

Tolerates poor drainage and controls watercourse erosion.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Lomatia myricoides

River Lomatia (H x W) 2-5 m x 1-3 m

Fragrant off-white flowers during summer.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2.



Olearia argophylla

Musk Daisy-bush (H x W) 3-8 m x 3-5 m

Glossy, broad, musk scented leaves and white blooms.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2.



Olearia ramulosa var. ramulosa

Twiggy Daisy-bush (H x W) 0.5-2.5 m x 1 m

May sprawl. Suited to a position amongst grasses and wildflowers.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Pittosporum bicolor

Banyalla (H x W) 3-10 m x 3-4 m

Leafy plant with bell flowers in yellow and dark red.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4. *Casey Zone:* 1.



Platylobium obtusangulum

Common Flat-pea (H x W) 0.6-1 m x 1 m

Controls erosion and binds soil on sloping areas.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 2, 8.



Shrubs

Pultenaea gunnii subsp. *gunnii*

Golden Bush-pea (h x w) 0.5-1.5 m x 0.5 m

Beautiful yellow and red flower display.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 6.



Pultenaea hispidula

Rusty Bush-pea (h x w) 1-1.5 m x 1 m

Lovely weeping form and yellow pea-flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Pultenaea stricta

Rigid Bush-pea (h x w) up to 1 m x 0.5-1 m

Favours sandy soil and displays groups of red and yellow pea-flowers in spring.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 6.



Ricinocarpos pinifolius

Wedding Bush (h x w) 1-3 m x 1-2 m

Scented white flowers in abundance during spring.

Cardinia Zone: 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Rubus parvifolius

Small-leaf Bramble (h x w) 0.6-1 m x 0.5-2 m

Berries present from December to April; these can be eaten.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Wildflowers

Brunonia australis

Blue Pincushion (H x W) 0.1-0.5 m x 0.1-0.15 m

Beautiful blue flowers. Save seeds for future planting.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2.



Burchardia umbellata

Milkmaids (H) 0.2-0.5 m

Sweetly perfumed flowers. Aboriginal people ate the starchy roots.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Dianella longifolia var. longifolia

Pale Flax-lily (H x W) 0.3-0.8 m x 0.5 m

Long stems with light blue flowers. Suitable for rock gardens.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 8.



Lythrum hyssopifolia

Lesser Loosestrife (H x W) Flat-0.3 m x 0.2-0.3 m

An annual that tolerates poor drainage and wet soil that becomes dry in summer.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 5.



Stackhousia monogyna

Creamy Candles (H x W) 0.1-0.3 m x 0.1-0.3 m

Night-flying moths pollinate the scented flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2.



Triglochin procerum

Water-ribbon Stem (H) 0.2-0.5 m

Herb that grows in sites that are often flooded or in water up to a depth of 1.5 metres.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



Wildflowers

Wurmbea dioica subsp. dioica

Early Nancy (H x W) 0.05-0.3 m x 0.1 m

Blooms before any other lily when fragrant flowers begin to open in July.

Cardinia Zone: 2, 3, 4.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Grasses

Amphibromus nervosus

Swamp Wallaby-grass

(H) up to 0.25 m, Stem (H) up to 1.5 m

Flowers are brownish red. Tolerates soil with poor drainage.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 3, 5.



Austrodanthonia geniculata

Knead Wallaby-grass

(H x W) up to 0.15m x 0.2 m, Stem (H) to 0.3 m

Can be used as a lawn grass.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 2.



Poa labillardierei var. labillardierei

Common Tussock-grass

(H) 0.3-0.8 m, Stem (H) up to 1.2 m

Source of food and shelter for a variety of animals including skinks and wallabies.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 2, 4.



Poa sieberiana var. sieberiana

Tussock-grass

(H x W) 0.15-0.3 m x 0.4 m, Stem (H) up to 0.9 m

A slender-leaved tussock with flowers in shades of violet, green or golden brown.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Casey Zone: 1, 8.



Climbers

Clematis microphylla var. *microphylla*

Small-leaved Clematis

A climber or groundcover with attractive cream blooms.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 6.



Comesperma volubile

Love Creeper

A fine, twining plant with blue or mauve flowers. Not easy to establish.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8.



Glycine clandestina

Twining Glycine (H) 0.3-2 m

Most visible when in bloom with lilac-blue flowers.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Casey Zone:* 2.



Pandorea pandorana

Wonga Vine

A robust climber. Off-white and dark red flowers are long lasting and abundant.

Cardinia Zone: 1, 2, 4, 6. *Casey Zone:* 1, 2, 4, 7, 8.



Planning and Designing your Garden

Knowing your garden area can make choosing plants easier

Before plant selection begins, it is useful to be aware of the conditions in your garden or property so plants can be chosen that are best suited to your site. These sites may have different areas that are exposed to a variety of conditions. For example, a front garden may receive a lot of sunlight and have dry soil, whereas the back garden may slope downwards and be shady and damp. To help with plant selection some useful things to know about these areas are:

- How hot they get during summer.
- Whether they receive any sun or shade and at what time of the day.
- Whether they are exposed to wind and from which direction.
- How much rain they receive.
- The slope and direction in which water drains.
- Whether ponding occurs in depressions in the soil.
- Soil type, which can vary greatly even on a smaller house block.

Viewing indigenous plants in parks, gardens, and reserves

Plant selection may also be made easier by seeing what particular indigenous plants look like in different stages of growth as well as which plants grow well together and under which conditions. This is possible by visiting parks and reserves within the municipalities. Information about their location can be found on the Cardinia and Casey council websites.



Saving Water in the Garden

A low water use garden can be created by choosing suitable indigenous plants; however, gardening and gardens can be designed in a way to conserve and make the most of the water used or available. This is particularly important when there are water shortages in times of drought and because of the predicted changes in rainfall related to climate change.

When and how to water

If plants do need extra moisture the best time to water is between dusk and early morning. An infrequent good soak is better than watering lightly and often which results in plants that dry out more quickly. Watering gardens with a hose or sprinkler leads to water loss through evaporation. Better alternatives are drippers, or porous hoses that sit below the mulch layer; these are even better if controlled by a timer.

Mulch

Mulch can help reduce water use by keeping the soil moist for longer, but it also has other benefits. Mulch sits on the soil surface and can be any material that allows rain to penetrate and prevents evaporation from the soil. It can stop weeds from growing and protects soil and plants from heat and cold. Indigenous plants do not generally need mulch that is high in nutrients and it is better not to mix too much organic matter with mulch as fungi can grow and cause it to cake. Some suitable materials for mulch are shredded paper, pebbles and shredded tree and shrub clippings.

It is best to apply mulch on top of moist soil in spring when the soil has become warm. To help prevent collar rot, a mulch-free ring should be left around the plant base.



Reducing water use and using what is available

Gardens can be designed with economical water use in mind. Some suggestions are listed below.

- Size of lawn areas can be reduced. Try to choose a grass type which is hardy and doesn't require a lot of water.
- Rainfall runoff can be channelled into the garden. This can be done by draining rainwater from downpipes directly into the garden. Suitable indigenous plants for these areas withstand very wet soil that becomes dry in summer. They should also be spreading perennials with deep roots and form part of the shrub and ground layer.

- A rainwater tank can be installed to collect water for garden use.
- Water collected in the shower while waiting for it to warm up can be used for garden watering.
- Greywater from washing machines and showers can be used on the garden but more advice should be sought about plumbing, water quality, and garden health issues.

For information on conditions and rebates for installing rainwater tanks and greywater systems visit the Department of Sustainability and Environment website at www.dse.vic.gov.au and type in 'Water Smart Rebate Scheme' in the search box.



Rural Properties and Indigenous Plants

Growing indigenous plants on rural properties can result in healthier land, water and animals and can be beneficial to farming. Conversely, their removal can lead to problems such as salinity and erosion, and adds to the greenhouse effect.

Indigenous plants and farms

Below are some indigenous plant uses suitable for farming properties.

- Growing indigenous plants attractive to animals that eat insects may help protect crops and plants and reduce or prevent the use of pesticides.
- Shelterbelts can be created with indigenous plants. They are a source of shade and protect crops and farm animals from hot and cold winds. By reducing wind speeds, shelterbelts can also control soil erosion.
- A variety of indigenous plants grown along watercourses can control erosion, improve water quality and provide animals with habitat.

Landcare

The Westernport Catchment Landcare Network (WCLN) operates throughout both municipalities and assists rural land holders to manage their land in a sustainable way. The WCLN offers funding for revegetation works on private land, subsidies for indigenous plants and fencing, and advice on land management to increase native vegetation habitats and improve water quality. Workshops and field days are run throughout the year. These are subsidised by both municipalities. The WCLN has 12 Landcare groups that plant over 60,000 plants each year. The Landcare Network has 400 landcare projects on private land all with substantial land protection components.

The Westernport Catchment Landcare Network can be contacted at the Cardinia Environment Coalition's Office on 5941 8446 or by email cec@dcsi.net.au



Remnant vegetation on private land

You can protect remnant vegetation on your property by:

- Preventing and controlling salinity and soil erosion;
- Preventing damage and over-grazing by animals by fencing the native vegetation off;
- Limiting seed collection;
- Not collecting firewood from these sites. This guide indicates which tree species are a good source of firewood. It is best if these trees are grown for fuel as collecting firewood from remnant vegetation removes a valuable part of the ground layer;
- Not using local environmental weeds for new plantings. For a copy of the Cardinia and Casey Weed Identification Guide please contact customer service of your local council.

If you have important pieces of remnant vegetation on your property you may be able to protect the future of these indigenous plants with a conservation covenant through Trust for Nature. For more information visit the Trust for Nature website at <http://www.tfn.org.au/>

The City of Casey and Shire of Cardinia both currently offer incentives to landholders to help them manage remnant vegetation more effectively. For more information please contact your local council.

Joining a Local Environment Group

If you would like to help maintain local public areas of indigenous vegetation, you can join one of the many Friends or conservation groups in your area. For a list of these groups enter 'Friends groups' in the search box on the Cardinia or Casey council websites, or contact your local council directly for further information.

Removal of Native Vegetation



A planning permit may be needed from council to remove native vegetation on private land. This is because native vegetation is protected by law in Victoria and a permit may be necessary under the local planning scheme. Fines may apply for the illegal removal of native vegetation. For information about permit requirements please contact the planning department of your local council.

Vegetation on council reserves and roadsides is also protected and its removal or destruction is not permitted.

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WEBSITES

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants,
<http://farrer.riv.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/index.html>

Australian National Botanic Gardens,
www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/index.html

Australian Plants Society (SGAP Victoria),
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sgapvic/>

Birds in Backyards,
<http://birdsinbackyards.net>

Cardinia Shire Council,
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

City of Casey,
www.casey.vic.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries,
www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment,
www.dse.vic.gov.au

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www.floraforfauna.com.au

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www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/VIC/

Melbourne Water,
www.melbournewater.com.au

Museum Victoria,
www.museum.vic.gov.au

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne,
www.rbg.vic.gov.au

South East Water,
www.southeastwater.com.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia,
www.sgaonline.org.au

Trust for Nature,
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Viridans Pty Ltd, "Wild Plants of Victoria 2006" Cd-Rom,
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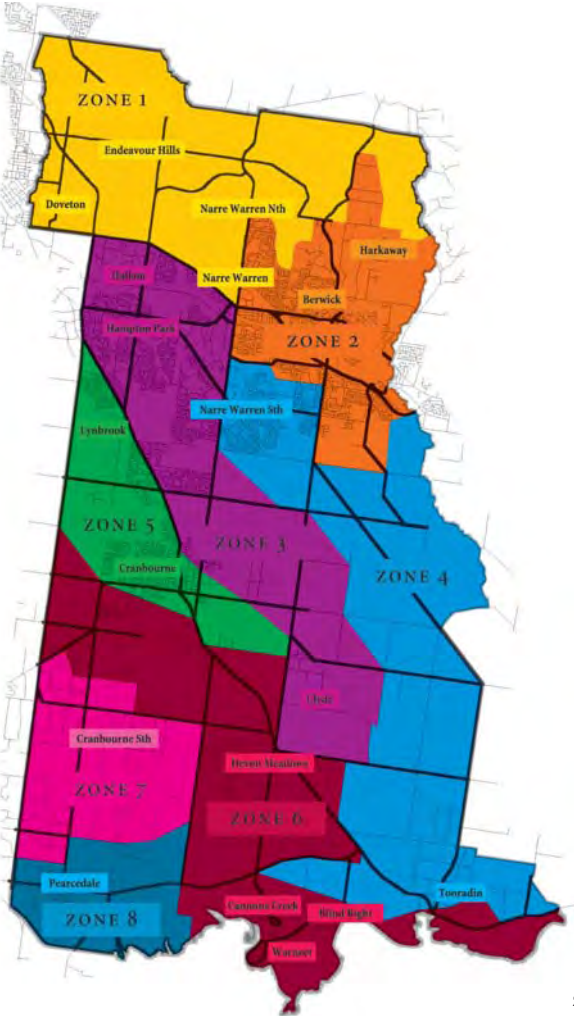
Local Indigenous Nurseries

Bushwalk Native Nursery, Cranbourne South	9782 2986
Cardinia Environment Coalition Community Indigenous Nursery	5941 8446
Chatfield and Curley, Narre Warren (Appointment only)	0414 412 334
Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens (Grow to order)	9736 2309
Kareelah Bush Nursery, Bittern	5983 0240
Kooweerup Trees and Shrubs	5997 1839
Maryknoll Indigenous Plant Nursery	5942 8427
Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery, Belgrave	9754 6962
Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery	9707 2415



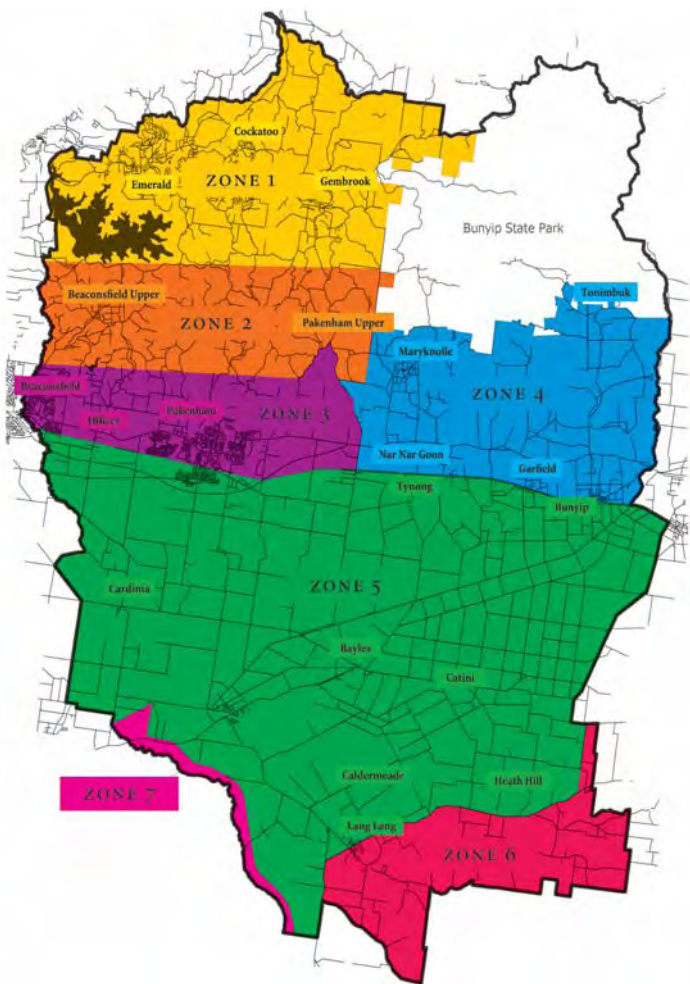
Zoned Vegetation Maps

City of Casey



- ZONE 1
- ZONE 2
- ZONE 3
- ZONE 4
- ZONE 5
- ZONE 6
- ZONE 7
- ZONE 8

Cardinia Shire Council



- ZONE 1
- ZONE 2
- ZONE 3
- ZONE 4
- ZONE 5
- ZONE 6
- ZONE 7

CITY OF CASEY



CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL



Please contact Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624 or the City of Casey on 9705 5200 for further information about indigenous vegetation in these areas, or visit their websites at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

www.casey.vic.gov.au

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