

Gardens for wildlife

Clump of dense shrubs

Small birds use dense thickets of shrubs and trees with sharp or prickly foliage as a refuge from weather, larger birds, cats, foxes and foxes when they come down to drink, feed or bathe.

Provide a densely planted clump of local native shrubs and trees at various levels low-medium-high – as some species may feed at one level but shelter or breed at another.

Shrubs with prickly foliage e.g. Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*), or shrubs with sharp foliage e.g. banksias and tea tree, provide havens for smaller birds who would otherwise be driven out by larger more dominant honeyeaters. These plants are particularly attractive for wrens and spinebills when feeding, nesting and fledging their young.

An absence or shortage of secure shelter will limit the range of wildlife that visits your garden.

The suggested plants listed below can be used to create connected layers of smaller and larger shrubs.

Dense shrubs for birds

*denotes prickly plants

- Hedge Wattle* (*Acacia paradoxa*)
- Sweet Bursaria* (*Bursaria spinosa*)
- Prickly currant bush* (*Coprosma quadrifida*)
- Prickly Moses* (*Acacia verticillata*)
- Spike Wattle* (*Acacia oxycedrus*)
- Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*)
- Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericoides*)
- Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)
- Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*)
- Victorian Christmas Bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos* var. *lasianthos*)
- Woolly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*)
- Heath Tea tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*)
- Prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)
- Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*)

A cat proof bird bath will attract wildlife to your garden and planting a nearby thicket will also provide a refuge for them and encourage them to stay.



Small dense shrubs

- Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)
- Hop Goodenia (*Gooednia ovata*)
- Victorian Christmas Bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos* var. *lasianthos*)
- Dusty Miller (*Spyridium parvifolium*)

Small trees

- Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)
- Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*)
- Muttonwood (*Rapanea howittiana*)
- Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*)
- Bayalla (*Pittosporum bicolour*)
- Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*)
- Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)
- Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)
- Austral Mulberry (*Hedycarya angustifolia*)

Native birds in Cardinia Shire range from the tiny Blue Wrens to larger Kookaburras through to big Wedge Tail Eagles. Identify the birds in your garden by checking out our local bird guide www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/localbirdguide

Photo: Prickly Moses by Chris Clark, Natureshare

