



Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland

*A Guide for Gardeners in
Queensland South West*



South
West

grow me™



instead



**The Nursery Industry -
Protecting Our Environment**



**Nursery & Garden Industry
Australia**



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Funded by:



2) Area Map



The publication of the Grow Me Instead Queensland South West guide has been generously supported by South West NRM Ltd.



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*Achieving sustainable landscapes
for rural communities*



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Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland

- The 'Grow Me Instead' (GMI) project was first initiated by the Nursery and Garden Industry of NSW & ACT (NGINA) as a voluntary partnership with its member nurseries to encourage the removal from production and sale of plants known to be invasive in the natural environment.
- The original Grow Me Instead Queensland project was supported by funding from



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The nursery and gardening industry has joined with the Australian Government in the fight against invasive garden plants. In championing this initiative, Nursery and Gardening Industry Australia (NGIA) is taking a significant step forward in tackling one of the nation's most serious environmental problems – the spread of weeds.

The Grow Me Instead campaign is a great industry-driven initiative providing relevant local information to nursery operators and gardeners about plants which are potential weeds in their area and less invasive plants for gardeners to use.

This cooperation between the horticulture and nursery industries, the Australian Government and weed management bodies will help ensure horticulturists and gardeners receive the information they need to combat the spread of weeds.

It is estimated that weeds cost the Australian agricultural industry around \$4 billion a year. The real cost of weeds to the environment is difficult to calculate, however it is likely to be at least equal to the cost to agriculture.

Of the almost 3000 introduced plant species now known to be established in the Australian environment, 65% are 'escaped' garden plants. An important step in preventing the spread of weeds is public education to help change attitudes and behaviours that contribute to the weed problem.

The Government is committed to investing in initiatives that have real on-ground benefits for the environment and for industry. We commend this initiative to you.

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

5) Introduction

The Nursery and Garden Industry in Australia employs about 45,000 people in some 22,000 businesses across the country. For many years the Industry has been conscious of their environmental responsibilities and they have been proactive in furthering educational programs, including those concerning invasive garden plants. Garden escapes are not a new issue: weeds have been around since the first settlers brought along reminders of 'home' to help them settle into a new and strange land. How strange the Australian landscape must have seemed then, and how natural it would have been for the settlers to want only the tried and true familiar garden plants of the British Isles. Despite the difficulties of creating a garden in the Antipodes, it took many years for the average Australian to appreciate the native flora of this great land.

Then, there were the early 'acclimatisation societies' who thought it a good idea to introduce plants and animals from the old country and also to spread Australian native plants from state to state.

Although great damage to the environment has occurred as a result of these indiscriminate introductions, this has not been solely the fault of the horticultural industry: certainly other industries have contributed. Graziers have imported new grasses and fodder crops and there were 'accidental' imports that came about unwittingly through inappropriate packaging, movement of plant and machinery, as seed in fodder and in ships' ballast.

However, the weed issue and who is actually responsible should not become a 'blame game'. Together we must seek to repair what damage we can and to work together as a community to prevent similar damage occurring in the future.

The Nursery & Garden Industry is actively participating in lessening the availability of invasive plants in Australia by preventing their production and sale. The Industry has recently established a greater understanding and cooperation with both State and Federal Governments, culminating in this important 'Grow Me Instead' booklet.

Greater awareness and education of the home gardener is a major part of the answer to this problem. By using the information in the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet as a guide and consulting with your local garden centre or plant nursery, you can help to minimise garden escapes and create a better environmental future for following generations of gardeners.

The original 'Grow Me Instead' booklet developed by the Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT (NGINA) has now been extended as a national program by the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA), in partnership with the Federal Government, to reduce the numbers and impact of invasive plants in Australia.

'An environmentally invasive plant' is just another term for a weed. Quite simply, a weed is any plant that poses a threat to the environment, adversely impacts human or animal health, or causes crop or stock losses. For most gardeners, many of the characteristics we most desire in garden plants are the same as those that make them weedy: i.e. plants that are fast growing and disease resilient and those which reproduce easily by the distribution of seeds or plant parts.

A modern definition of a weed is "a plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health and amenity".

Many of the plants that are now considered to be 'environmental weeds' were introduced by early settlers, or by gardeners and farmers who had little or no knowledge of their future impact on the native environment. It is only in recent years that this threat has become apparent.

Weediness is not confined to introductions from overseas. Some Australian native plants introduced from other regions may impact adversely on the natural environment. Non-indigenous (i.e. not local) species may invade and displace species natural to that area or they may cross pollinate to produce new species which may in time alter regional biodiversity. Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) is a good example of the former, while many eucalypts are known to interbreed.

Introduced species may sometimes be controlled in a foreign climate by various vectors such as small animals, insects, diseases or climatic conditions such as frost, thus reducing potential invasiveness.

To gardeners, farmers or botanists, the term 'weed' may mean different things. Pasture weeds reduce the productivity of agricultural land and may also have negative effects on human and animal health. Environmental weeds cause various problems in natural areas and ecosystems and the cost of control for both farmers and government is estimated at billions of dollars per annum.

The purpose of this Grow Me Instead booklet...

is to identify common garden plants that have now become environmental weeds in your local area, and to suggest better, alternative plants that benefit garden diversity while lessening their potential to become weeds of the future.

Apart from nurseries, garden centres or the resources of the local botanic gardens, valuable information may be provided by the Natural Resource Management Boards or you may wish to check out their websites. Here you will find lists of declared weeds for the local area and contact details should you need further information regarding invasive plant identification and approved methods of disposal.

It is important to reduce the spread of environmental weeds because...

better and more effective management of invasive plants will help to reduce the high cost of chemical control, and to reduce the amount of time and energy lost in management of weeds in productive land for food crops, grazing land, cut flowers and forestry. Weed management in public spaces and on natural heritage land is costly, laborious and at times seems overwhelming.

Invasive plants are defined and grouped as follows.

- 1. Noxious weeds** - are those legally declared as noxious plants by the various State or Territory Governments. The declaration of noxious weeds will vary from state to state and from region to region within a state. In general, most state legislation will say that declared noxious plants cannot be grown, sold or transported or transposed, and removal is required.
- 2. Weeds of National Significance ('WoNS')** - are some of the most significant weeds in Australia. All WoNS have been declared illegal for sale in each state of Australia.
- 3. Environmental weeds** - plants that are or have the potential to impact the natural environment by destroying habitat or over-running indigenous species and altering local biodiversity. Many of our worst environmental weeds are garden escapes.
- 4. Agricultural & Horticultural weeds** - are those plants that have a negative effect on crop or animal production. This may be through the infiltration of weed seed in grain crops, burrs in wool production or weeds which make animals sick or cause death. In the horticultural industry, weeds within cut flower, fruit and vegetable crops can harbour pests and diseases which reduce productivity.

It has been very important to establish a set of consistent criteria which could be adhered to across all regions and states.

A) The Invasive Plants

The Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland, in consultation with its members, State and Local Governments and a wide range of interested stakeholders has developed a list of 30 invasive garden plants. There are several weed lists in existence provided by a variety of environmental and conservation organisations that often include species which are problems only in their local area. As such, including all garden escapes in a national list was considered inappropriate. Therefore, the 'weediness' criteria for inclusion in 'Grow Me Instead' were determined as follows.

1. The plant must be shown to be invasive across more than one area or part of the bioregion.
2. It can be either an Australian native or imported (exotic) species.
3. The plant must be shown to or have potential to damage the environment, human or animal health or create stock or crop losses.
4. The plant must be proven to have naturalised in bushland to the detriment of the natural environment.

This 'Grow Me Instead' list is not definitive for each area or region of Queensland. There may be other problem plants in your locality, most of these being included in lists prepared by your local government or other relevant organisation. In addition to the plants listed in 'Grow Me Instead', you should also be aware of your local problem plants.

B) The Alternatives

Not all of the alternatives would be suitable across the broad range of soils and climates of Queensland. Therefore, consideration of these differences and adaptation to your local area or region will be necessary.

For this booklet to be of benefit in helping you select 'good' garden plants, it should be used as a guide to plant selection. In addition to the listed alternatives, there will be many other plant selections available to you at your local nursery or garden centre. Together with their help, expertise and guidance, you needn't have any fear that your garden will become an environmental hazard in the future.

Selection criteria for the 'non-weedy plants' included:

- Must be recognised as **non-invasive**.
- Must be readily available to the gardening public.
- Must be reliable garden plants.

We have endeavoured to recommend at least one Australian native plant alternative for all of the invasive species listed in the booklet.

The role of the nursery industry

In more recent years, the Nursery & Garden Industry has been environmentally responsible by encouraging the production of non-invasive plants that do not require copious amounts of reticulated water, fertiliser or other chemicals to thrive in the garden.

The Nursery & Garden Industry in Australia instigates accreditation programs among its members, and it continually strives to establish standards of excellence in plant production in order to provide trustworthy products.

The Nursery & Garden Industry provides information not only through publications such as the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet, but also through its education programs. Many educational and self-help programs are also offered by local nursery or garden centres.

Your **local** nursery or garden centre can assist you by:

- Helping with identification of suspected 'weedy' plants;
- Providing information concerning local invasive plants;
- Offering alternatives and environmentally friendly plants;
- Providing information concerning good weed management, disposal of unwanted plant material, further preventing the spread in your garden and neighbourhood.

On a broader scale the Nursery & Garden Industry can assist by:

- Increasing public awareness through education programs;
- Promoting the sale of superior, alternative plants thereby reducing the number of invasive plants grown and sold;
- Working with government, with research organisations, the media and other key stakeholders to help reduce the distribution and sale of undesirable plants.



8) What you can do!

By checking the plants in your garden with the help of the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet you may identify plants you should replace, while at the same time find others you may enjoy growing more!

Your **local** nursery or garden centre plant specialists will have additional suggestions of plants proven to be successful in your area. Plants purchased in another region, no matter how lovely they are, may not always prove hardy in yours. Furthermore, by purchasing plants from another region you may unwittingly introduce another environmental weed!

It is also a good idea to consider your garden setting and to then make a list of the plants to fill your specific house and garden needs. For example, aspects of the house exposed to hot western sun will benefit from a deciduous tree to provide summer shade and will allow penetration of winter sun, while privacy from neighbours can be provided by carefully chosen hedging plants. Or you may simply want to create beds or borders of colourful flowers and dramatic foliage to enhance your home décor. All of these wishes and needs are valid and they will vary between gardeners.

Garden plants provide many useful purposes, and in time they will become an integral part of your environment, chosen to suit the architecture of both your home and your personal lifestyle. Good garden cultivation is your contribution to establishing a special microclimate and will help to protect and preserve the local environment.

In recent times, many new plant varieties have been introduced through modern production methods and the work of plant breeders, resulting in plants which are attractive and hardy but which are non-invasive. These may be plants which are sterile or rarely produce seed. Many new varieties have low water needs or are tolerant of the air pollution found in the urban environment. In this way the Nursery Industry is contributing to the elimination of damaging or invasive species.

Purchasing plants from markets and other sources such as 'car boot sales', as well as plant swapping and trading between friends may also result in inadvertent movement of declared or noxious weeds.

Are you creating a weed problem in your area?

Are your garden plants 'jumping the fence'? Garden escapes are said to be one of the main sources of environmental weeds. Homeowners have a responsibility to protect natural resources.

Here are some simple ways to enjoy gardening without creating problems outside the garden fence.

- Recognise and remove plants known to be 'weedy' and destroy them responsibly, according to local Natural Resource Management Board or council.
- Replace problem plants with non-invasive alternatives, as suggested by the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet or by your local nursery or garden centre. They will help identify any suspect invasive plants.
- When purchasing new plants for the garden read labels to establish good characteristics such as drought tolerance and non-weedy habit.
- Good gardening practices include removal of spent flowers that can set seed within your garden or spread to bushland.
- Do not dump green garden waste in neighbouring or public space as many plants can regenerate to become a nuisance.
- Do not dump spent cut flowers into the garden or on to adjoining property. Florists often use seed heads, vines and other plant parts that may establish in your garden.
- Never tip the water or plants from your aquarium into ponds, rivers or waterways. There are numerous, serious aquatic plants threatening rivers and waterways because of the thoughtless actions of some people.
- There are many good sources of information in regard to weeds and their control. See the back cover for a list.
- Think global – act local. Consider plants local to your area. Your local council or shire will be able to provide a list of indigenous plants for your garden.
- Encourage friends and neighbours to become involved as custodians of their environment by following the same guidelines.



Native plants or imported species?

One of the most commonly asked questions at nurseries and garden centres is whether one should use native or exotic plants in the garden. There has long been discussion about this in gardening circles, and more recently the topic of using only locally indigenous or local area natives has become topical. The primary concern of most horticulturists is that gardeners should know the difference so that they may make informed choices.

Natives are, as the name suggests, those plants that occur naturally within Australia. Quite properly, they should be referred to as Australian native plants. Grevilleas, Eucalypts and Acacias are all examples. Of course, Australia is a big continent, so what is native to one area or region, may be very different to those found in another. Think for example, of native plants from the dry soils of Western Australia and compare them to the tropical rainforest plants native to Queensland – all Australian natives – but very different plants, with different growing requirements.

In recent years, plant breeders have hybridised many or been able to choose better or 'select' forms that have been sourced from plants growing naturally in the wild. Both hybrids and select forms will have improved characteristics to the parent species. It may be they flower more often or earlier in the season, they may produce better fruit, be disease resistant or they may have a longer life span.

Imported or so called 'exotic' plants are those originating elsewhere, not necessarily the 'exotic tropics' as some people may think.

Indigenous plants are plants that grow naturally in your local area. They are naturally occurring plants of the region and can be seen in local parklands, as remnant plants on roadsides or riverbanks and in local bushland.

Some Australian native plants become 'naturalised' or take over in an area where they would not normally occur such as Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) and Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*).

Of concern to some conservationists and indigenous plant enthusiasts is the possibility that some introductions may interbreed with local or indigenous plants, thus impacting on the local gene pool.

Most invasive plants are imported or introduced plants. One needs to be informed about these plant species which are the basis of the 'Grow Me Instead' program. However, it is fact that there are a far greater number of well behaved, imported garden plants that are not invasive.

Working on the known statistic that 27,000 plants have been imported into Australia and some 2,700 of these are listed as environmental weeds, it is estimated that approximately 10% of the imported plants in our gardens are invasive.

In modern horticulture, plants are bred, developed or selected for desirable traits such as hardiness, drought tolerance, long flowering season, larger flowers or fruits, their disease resistance and general appeal.

Of primary importance in selecting plant material for your garden is sourcing accurate information about the plant. We suggest that you ask for advice at your local nursery or garden centre.

Consult your local council or Natural Resource Management Board if still in doubt!

Australian native plants have greater appeal today than in the past; they generally grow better because of the improvements made in their selection.

Indigenous species should be grown from seed sourced locally to be of best benefit in your locality.

Australian gardens today have become an eclectic mix of both native and imported plants, and can be complimentary to one another. Choosing one or the other is not the question; ultimately it is the gardeners choice!

Any plant should be acceptable to the Australian gardener so long as it is non-invasive and does not require copious amounts of water, fertilisers and other chemicals to survive.



Using herbicides

Many of the weed control techniques suggested on this and the following pages involve the use of herbicides. Herbicides are poisons, and should be handled with the greatest respect. They can be absorbed very easily through the skin, by breathing the vapours, and by ingestion (eating or drinking).

By law, herbicides must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's label. They should be kept well out of the reach of children, preferably secured in a locked cabinet. They should always be stored in the original labelled container.

USE OF HERBICIDE: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Read the label before opening the container and follow the instructions.
- Wear protective clothing: long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, eye protection.
- Always wear waterproof gloves. A respirator is advised when mixing or pouring the liquid.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while using herbicide. Keep children and pets away.
- Wash skin and equipment afterwards. Wash contaminated clothing separately.
- Clean up any spills with large amounts of water; shovel up contaminated soil, dispose of it at the tip.



Bushcare Officers take no risks

Types of herbicide

There are two widely used herbicides licensed for use at home: Glyphosate, sold under various trade names, including Roundup® and Zero® (which have different concentrations), and Triclopyr, sold as Tree, Blackberry and Woody Weed Killer (etc.).

How herbicides work

Glyphosate is a systemic, non-selective herbicide. It inhibits the action of an enzyme, preventing the production of an amino acid essential to plant life and growth. It must be applied to green leaves, or directly to the plant's sapwood, which lies under the bark.

Triclopyr is a selective systemic herbicide for woody and broadleaf plants. It is a growth inhibitor which moves to the plant's roots, stops growth, and eventually leads to the death of the plant. Triclopyr can be applied to green leaves and to bark.

Herbicides, waterways and steep land

Some of the chemicals which are added to herbicides are not safe to use near waterways. They have the potential to seriously affect the quality of aquatic ecosystems. If you need to remove weeds, particularly trees, within 20 m of any kind of watercourse, even a drain that runs only when it is raining, you should seek advice and assistance from your local council's environmental management department or Natural Resource Management Board.

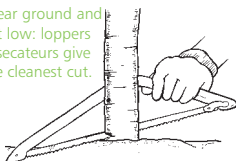
Control of woody weeds

CUT AND PAINT

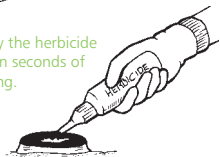
Suitable for small to medium sized woody shrubs up to 10 cm in diameter (or larger if using a chain saw). See below for trees.

- Clear around the base of the plant.
- Cut the stem horizontally as close to the ground as possible, using secateurs, loppers, or a saw. Make sure there is no soil on the cut.
- Apply herbicide to the cut stem immediately. Squeeze, not squirt if using an applicator.
- Ensure there is no runoff of poison.
- Use as little herbicide as possible.

Clear ground and cut low: loppers & secateurs give the cleanest cut.



Apply the herbicide within seconds of cutting.



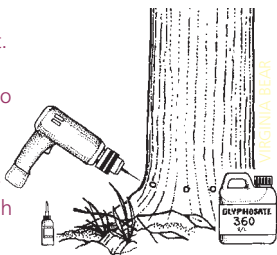
TIPS

- Make cuts horizontal to prevent herbicide from running off the stump. Sharp angled cuts are hazardous.
- Apply herbicide immediately after cutting - within a few seconds, before plant cells close and translocation of herbicide ceases.
- If plants resprout, cut and paint the shoots after sufficient regrowth has occurred.
- Stem scraping can be very effective on certain woody weeds, e.g. Japanese Honeysuckle, Blackberry, vines and rhizomatous plants.

STEM INJECTION

A method for weedy trees and large shrubs

- Use a cordless drill (9 mm bit), hammer and chisel, or brace and bit.
- Below any branches, drill or chisel holes round the base of the tree, into the sapwood, angled down at 45°, and at 5 cm intervals.
- Make the holes about 40 mm deep.
- Within a few seconds of drilling each hole, fill it with herbicide.
- Use this method only when falling branches, as the tree dies, will not be a safety hazard.





HAND REMOVAL OF WEEDS

Suitable for seedlings, herbaceous weeds, many grass species.

- Before starting work, remove and bag seeds and fruit, and place in bin.
- If the weed has a tap root, push a narrow trowel or long knife deep into the ground beside the root. Loosen the soil. Work round the root and then work the plant out gently.
- Many plants which will not regrow from their roots (e.g. many grasses) can be crowned: see diagram to the right. Hold leaves and stems together, and use a knife to cut through all the roots below the 'crown'.
- Plants with bulbs, corms or tubers (e.g. *Watsonia*) may need deep digging to ensure complete removal. Bag bulbs, corms and tubers and send to the tip; do not compost.



crowning

STEM & LEAF WIPING

This method is suitable for plants with bulbs, tubers, corms or rhizomes, e.g. *Watsonia*.

- Remove and bag any seed or fruit.
- Using a weed wiper, start at the base and wipe all the stems and/or leaves with a dilute mix of herbicide.
- If leaves have soil on them, wipers must be regularly washed out.



leaf wiping

Take great care when wiping: do not allow the herbicide to touch your skin or to run off into the soil, or to get on a non-target plant.

There are many control methods which are specific to certain weeds – e.g. large infestations where spraying, or covering to exclude light may be options. Contact your local nursery for up to date techniques.

WHEN TO TREAT WITH HERBICIDE

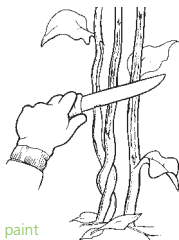
- Apply herbicide when the plant is actively growing.
- Do not apply herbicide when the plant is under stress: extreme heat or cold, drought, waterlogging, or disease.
- Choose early morning or late afternoon in summer.
- Do not apply when wet or windy weather is anticipated.
- Treat deciduous plants in late spring or summer, when in full leaf.

Control of ground covers, vines & scramblers

SCRAPE AND PAINT

This method is suitable for vines and scramblers with woody stems.

- Using a knife, and starting from the base, scrape 20 to 100 cm of leafy stem to expose the sapwood below the bark.
- Within seconds, apply herbicide to the scraped area.



scrape and paint

TIPS

- Do not ringbark the stem: scrape about one third of the diameter.
- Stems larger than 1 cm in diameter can be scraped on both sides.
- Vine curtains can be cut at chest level, then again at about 30 cm. Scrape or cut and paint these stumps.
- Blackberry can be cut back to 1 m if there are plenty of leaves; then scrape and paint the cut stems.
- Pulling vines (especially twiners) out of trees and shrubs may do a lot of damage. They can be left hanging to die.

By Law

Herbicides must be used according to the label, or according to Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permits. If the plant on which you wish to use the herbicide is not named on the label, contact APVMA for permit information (www.apvma.gov.au).

THE DIG OPTION

On previous pages you will find advice on using herbicides to control weedy plants: often this causes minimal disturbance and less germination of seedlings.

However, if you have the energy and want to minimise herbicide use, you can often take the dig option, making absolutely sure that you remove all the parts of the plant from which it can regrow.

TIPS

- Seedlings and small plants may be pulled by hand when the soil is moist.
- Try to stagger weed removal. Large areas of exposed soil are an open invitation to weed invasion and erosion, carrying weed seed into the bush.
- Mulch bare soil, and stabilise it by planting bush-friendly plants into it as soon as possible.



Trees & Shrubs



Indian Sirus

Albizia lebbek



Photo: Christopher Gardiner

Large spreading tree to 20m with bipinnate leaves and often a broad flat crown. In Spring the tree is covered with a spectacular cover of cream 'powder-puff' flowers which are followed by elongated and flattened papery pods that can hang on the tree for several months.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seed is produced in large quantities and has a high rate of germination.
- The seed is dispersed by wind and water.



Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica



Photo: immij floramedia

A small tree, perfect for suburban gardens or as a stunning street tree. In summer it produces vibrant red, pink, white or lilac flowers which have a texture like crepe fabric. The flowering period lasts for up to three months. The autumn leaves colour brilliantly and the tree also has beautiful bark.

10) The invasive plants and their alternatives'



Leopard Tree

Caesalpinia ferrea



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a beautiful tree growing to 12m in height. It has elegant limbs with dappled cream and grey bark forming an erect multi-stemmed trunk. The foliage is graceful and fern like, forming an umbrella shaped crown. It has yellow flowers borne on short erect spikes in late summer to autumn. Whilst sometimes considered evergreen, it can lose much of its foliage during winter.



White Bauhinia

Lysiphyllum hookeri



Photo: Ann McHugh

Medium shrub to small growing tree, variable in height growing 5-8m. It has lobed Bauhinia type silvery grey leaves resembling butterflies. It loses most of the foliage just before beautiful white orchid like flowers appear in spring to summer. Juvenile plants can be susceptible to frost. For a more frost resistant option, try *Lysiphyllum carronii* 'Red Bauhinia'.

Other superior selections include;

- *Brachychiton discolor* – Lace Bark
- *Flindersia collina* – Leopard Ash

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Pink Periwinkle

Catharanthus roseus



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Shrubby perennial growing to 60cm with dark green smooth edged foliage. Masses of rose pink flowers with dark red centre cover the plant throughout the warmer months. The plant produces an abundance of seeds which germinate readily. Can tolerate a wide range of growing conditions.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seeds can be spread by water (and wind over short distances). The seedlings can germinate along edges of gardens and even cracks in concrete.
- The plant can also be spread through the dumping of garden waste.



Cut Leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida and cultivars



Photo: immij floramedia

These delightful Australian perennials come in a range of colours such as yellow, pink, mauve, pale and deep blue and appear from late winter to autumn. With their delicate flowers and soft feathery foliage, cut leaf daisies are surprisingly hardy and are an excellent feature in a water-wise garden. They thrive in full-sun and will tolerate frost.



Golden Everlasting Daisy

Xerochrysum bracteatum



Photo: immij floramedia

This Australian annual or short-lived perennial, varies in habit from prostrate to a shrubby plant of about 1 m in height. The leaves are grey-green in colour and the deep golden flower heads are borne from spring through to late winter. The individual flowers are formed into a large cluster surrounded by large papery bracts. The Golden Everlasting Daisy has been cultivated for many years and a number of improved forms have been selected for cultivation.



Pigface

Lampranthus species



Photo: immij floramedia

A spectacular array of flower colours including vivid orange, yellow, pink and red cover this hardy succulent plant in the warmer months. It has a variable growth habit, from small rounded shrubs to creeping ground covers.

Other superior selections include;

- *Hardenbergia violacea* cultivars – Native Sarsaparillas
- *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* – Yellow Buttons

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Cadaghi

Corymbia torelliana

(formerly *Eucalyptus torelliana*)



Photo: Sheldon Navie

This Australian native from the rainforest fringes of far north Queensland has become invasive outside its original range. Growing to a height of 30m it has rounded foliage and a smooth green trunk with grey scaly bark at the base. Flowers in masses of scented cream balls held in terminal clusters.

HOW IT SPREADS

- A profusion of seeds are spread by wind from rounded woody capsules.
- The large number of ornamental plantings has created a large 'seed bank' that enables this plant to invade natural bushland.
- Seeds and gum are spread by native bees.



Chinchilla White Gum

Eucalyptus argophloia



Photo: Norwood Industries

This is a very hardy tree is usually seen around 30-40 metres in height. The tree has a straight trunk for half its height, the smooth bark sheds in strips producing a mottled yellow, pink, red, blue and grey appearance. It produces white flowers grouped in clusters during winter. This is an extremely hardy tree which will tolerate poor soils, frost and low rainfall.



Lemon Scented Gum

Corymbia citriodora
(formerly *Eucalyptus citriodora*)



Photo: immij floramedia

An evergreen tree growing to a height of 40m. It has long dark green foliage that is strongly lemon scented. Dense flower heads of cream white blossoms appear in winter. Fast growing specimen tree.



Kurrajong

Brachychiton populneus



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a dense bushy tree usually seen around 10-12 metres in height. It has a thick trunk and a dense canopy of dark green leaves. In summer it bears large clusters of greenish cream bell shaped flowers that have a pink-purple-reddish tinge on the inside of the petals. It makes an excellent shade tree, and like most other *Brachychiton*, it can lose much of its foliage during winter. Tolerant of frost and dry conditions.

Other superior selections include;

- *Corymbia tessellaris* Syn. – Moreton Bay Ash
Eucalyptus tessellaris
- *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* 'Rosea' – Red Ironbark

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mountain Ash

Fraxinus griffithii



Photo: Norwood

A once popular evergreen garden or street tree growing to a height of 8m. The leaves are glossy green and the bark is light grey in colour. The tree produces abundant creamy white flowers followed by masses of winged seeds that germinate readily.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The abundant seeds are spread by wind and water.
- These seeds have a high rate of germination and the tree quickly colonises native bushland



Snow In Summer

Melaleuca linariifolia



Photo: Norwood

A medium growing Australian native tree often reaches 10m in height. Prefers a site with good moisture and makes a very effective screen. The highlight is when the plant comes into flower late spring to summer. It is covered in masses of white fluffy flowers in cylindrical spikes. This tree makes a truly spectacular addition to any garden.



Wilga

Geijera parvifolia



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

A large shrub to small dry land tree usually growing 8 to 10 metres in height. It has long narrow green leaves forming a beautiful weeping habit. It bears panicles of small white flowers in spring followed by small green berries that mature to black seeds. This tree is native to inland Australia and is very hardy.



Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica



Photo: immij floramedia

A small tree, perfect for suburban gardens or as a stunning street tree. In summer it produces vibrant red, pink, white or lilac flowers which have a texture like crepe fabric. The flowering period lasts for up to three months. The autumn leaves colour brilliantly and the tree also has beautiful bark.

Other superior selections include;

- *Flindersia australis* – Crow's Ash
- *Geijera salicifolia* – Scrub Wilga

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Golden Rain Trees

Koelreuteria elegans subsp. *formosana*
Koelreuteria paniculata



Photo: Sheldon Navie

These fast growing trees have mid-green ferny compound foliage. The trunk is grey and clean. In late Summer the tree is covered in panicles of clear yellow flowers. the flowers sometimes go un-noticed, but not the pink, papery bladder-like pods that form afterwards. Seed is produced in abundance with many new plants emerging adjacent to the original each season.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Seed is both abundant and easily dispersed, either by wind or water.
- These seeds have a high rate of germination enabling fast establishment of colonies in natural bushland.



Broad-leaved Bottle Tree

Brachychiton australis



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

This is a very hardy medium tree usually seen around 5-8 metres in height. It has a broadly conical shape, clean green grey trunk and broad green foliage. When it loses all or the majority of its foliage in winter it then bears clusters of greenish yellow flowers in early spring. Handles dry conditions once established.



Coral Gum

Eucalyptus torquata



Photo: immij floramedia

Native to inland areas and south west Western Australia, this gum tree can reach up to 10 m high in ideal conditions. The unique flowers and buds are used in floral arrangements. It is a recommended street tree because of its smaller size and pendulous habit providing welcome summer shade. It is frost resistant, prefers good drainage and full-sun, and will tolerate dry conditions. Also suitable for large pots or tubs.



Kurrajong

Brachychiton populneus



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a dense bushy tree usually seen around 10-12 metres in height. It has a thick trunk and a dense canopy of dark green leaves. In summer it bears large clusters of greenish cream bell shaped flowers that have a pink-purple-reddish tinge on the inside of the petals. It makes an excellent shade tree, and like most other Brachychiton, it can lose much of its foliage during winter. Tolerant of frost and dry conditions.

Other superior selections include;

- *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. *oxycarpa* – Desert Ash
- *Peltophorum pterocarpum* – Yellow Flame Tree

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Lions Tail

Leonotis leonurus



Photo: Sheldon Navie

A striking shrubby perennial growing to 2m. Tall straight stems bear lance shaped leaves that are aromatic. In Summer, clusters of bright orange tubular flowers are borne in knobby whirls along the stems and at the tips.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Seed is moved by gravity, road materials and water enabling dense colonisation of natural areas.
- These seeds can also move in mud and soil attached to vehicles, road machinery and slashers.



Emu Bush

Eremophila glabra



Photo: Gary Dinham

A pretty, compact and low-growing shrub to 1m by 1m wide. It has grey foliage and attractive red flowers. Its foliage colour forms an excellent contrast, especially when it is mass planted as a border along pathways with taller, green plants behind. It does best in full-sun to light shade positions and will tolerate frost and drought conditions.



Dwarf Bottlebrush

Melaleuca 'Little John'

Syn. *Callistemon 'Little John'*



Photo: immij floramedia

Low growing bottlebrush easily kept to 1m although when not pruned, in ideal conditions it might reach 3m in height. Interesting grey green foliage and short upright red brushes in spring and autumn make this an excellent garden plant.



Spotted Emu Bush

Eremophila maculata



Photo: immij floramedia

This compact, dense shrub grows 0.9–2.4 m high by 0.9–3.0 m wide. Tubular flowers appear in the leaf axis from winter through to spring. Flower colour is variable and may be pink, mauve, red, orange or yellow, often with a pale, spotted throat. It grows well in full-sun or part-shade and is mildly frost tolerant. It makes a great screening or hedge plant and responds well to hard pruning. Bird attracting.

Other superior selections include;

- *Spiraea cantonensis* – White May Bush
- *Hakea purpurea* – Purple Hakea

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Leucaena

Leucaena leucocephala



Photo: Weed Society of Queensland Inc

Fast growing small tree native to Central and South America growing to 6 metres in height. It has ferny grey green wattle like foliage and round creamy yellow flowers. Seed pods are held in conspicuous dense clusters and the seeds are plentiful and scatter widely when ripe.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Seeds are plentiful and spread widely from clusters of 15cm pods when ripe.
- Seeds are dispersed by wind and water, in animal manures and on agricultural machinery.



Mudgee Wattle

Acacia spectabilis



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

This Australian native plant varies between a large shrub and small tree, normally growing between 4 and 6 metres in height. It has green ferny bi-pinnate foliage resembling that of the Leopard Tree. The flowers are simply stunning and produced in late winter and into spring. They are globular shaped, bright yellow, honey scented and found on long racemes. It is extremely hardy, will grow in a range of soil types and will tolerate moderate frost and drought conditions.



Revolution Green

Melaleuca bracteata 'Revolution Green'

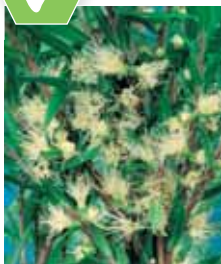


Photo: Norwood Industries

This beautiful Australian native shrub to 4 m high by 2 m wide has rich dark green foliage. In spring the creamy-white brushes attract native birds. This superior form of *Melaleuca bracteata* is recommended as a screen, windbreak or as a feature specimen. It requires little attention and will thrive in most soil conditions. Prefers an open sunny position and regular pruning to maintain shape and to encourage new growth.



Western Silver Wattle

Acacia decora



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

This Australian native shrub is variable in height, ranging between 1.5 and 4 metres in height depending on soil conditions. The narrow phyllodes (flattened leaves) are blue green in colour. The flowers are spectacular and produced in late winter and into spring. They are globular shaped, bright yellow, honey scented and found on long terminal racemes as well as in clusters in the leaf axils. It is extremely hardy, will grow in a range of soil types and will tolerate moderate frost and drought conditions.

Other superior selections include;

- *Melaleuca bracteata* 'Revolution Gold' – Revolution Gold
- *Grevillea whiteana* – Mundubbera Grevillea

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mock Orange

Murraya paniculata (seedling grown form)



Photo: Sheldon Navie

This compact rounded shrub with glossy green foliage grows to a height of 3-5m. The plant produces highly perfumed white flowers in terminal clusters in Spring, through to Autumn. The flowers are followed by small oval bright orange red berries which are highly attractive to birds.

This very popular garden plant has several forms. The seedling grown form, popular in the 1970's, is to be avoided as it is invasive. Gardens in older suburbs are likely to have this undesirable form and removal is recommended

HOW IT SPREADS

- The orange-red berries are highly desirable to birds whose droppings ensure this plant is widespread in bushland. Large colonies and thickets are created smothering natural vegetation and affecting ecosystems.
- Do not purchase *Murraya* from non-reputable suppliers as they are likely to be seedling grown forms.



Mock Orange

Murraya paniculata (cutting grown form)



Photo: immij floramedia

Professional nursery growers and retailers now promote the use of a superior cutting grown selection which produces few or no berries. The growth habit is more naturally compact than the inferior and invasive seedling form. Ask your professional retailer for this cutting grown cultivar.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: immij floramedia

This superb Australian native rainforest plant has glossy green foliage, a profusion of fluffy white flowers and small colourful berries. There are many different cultivars of this plant with a wide range of growth habits, foliage types and berry colours. Many make highly desirable hedges and screens. 'Elite', 'Bush Christmas' and 'Hinterland Gold' are some three of many suitable selections.



Bignonia Emu Bush/Big Poly

Eremophila bignoniiflora x *polyclada*



Photo: immij floramedia

This spectacular Australian native shrub handles a range of harsh conditions. Preferring a sunny site with good drainage it can reach up to 4 metres in height. The flowers are a lovely blend of antique cream and mauve and have spotted throats. It flowers continuously throughout the warmer months. It will tolerate some frost and drought and this hardy plant is quite stunning.

Other superior selections include;

- *Gardenia magnifica* – Double Gardenia
- *Abelia grandiflora* – Glossy Abelia

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Golden Bamboo

Phyllostachys aurea

Black Bamboo

Phyllostachys nigra



Photo: Bamboo Downunder

Growing to a height of 6m, with long slender canes and dense graceful foliage. These types of bamboo have a spreading habit and send their rhizomes (roots) underground, often sprouting some distance from the original plant.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Both of these 'running bamboos' send their invasive rhizomes considerable distances from the original plant.
- They are incredibly difficult to control and are a serious invasive threat.



Timor Black Bamboo

Bambusa lako



Photo: Barry Naylor

A most popular choice for those wanting a black stemmed bamboo. This clumping variety has dark brown to black canes with green to light brown stripes. It is quite tall reaching 12-15m in height.



Bottlebrush

Melaleuca 'Kings Park Special'

Syn. *Callistemon* 'Kings Park Special'



Photo: immij floramedia

A small bushy Australian native tree to 5 m high with attractive weeping branches and grey-green leaves. Deep red bottlebrush flowers are grouped together in bunches and produce a spectacular display. There are many other Bottle Brushes to choose from which produce bright red flowers and attract and feed native honeyeaters. Ask at your local garden centre for the best cultivars for your garden.



Gulf Stream Sacred Bamboo

Nandina 'Gulf Stream'



Photo: Norwood Industries

This is a very hardy bamboo like plant that grows approximately 1.2 metres in height. It has several branches growing from the base with colourful green and red tinged foliage throughout most of the year, which turns bright red during the coldest months. It has small white flowers followed by reddish berries. This is a compact grower and is quite hardy once established.

Other superior selections include;

- *Bambusa textilis* var. *gracilis* – Slender Weavers Bamboo
- *Thysanolaena latifolia* Syn. – Tiger Grass
Thysanolaena maxima

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Plumbago

Plumbago auriculata



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a fast growing shrub from South Africa, which grows to 2 metres in height. It can reach greater heights if supported amongst other plants but can also be pruned into a hedge. It has masses of sky blue flowers in dense clusters in the warmer months. It is prone to producing masses of suckers.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Small branches can re-establish a new plant as the suckering portion only need a few small roots to quickly take hold in new surroundings.
- Be careful how branches of this plant are disposed of in dumped garden waste.



Coastal Rosemary

Westringia 'Wynyabbie Gem'



Photo: immij floramedia

This bushy Australian native shrub has masses of small, mauve flowers along the stems for most of the year. It grows to 2 m high by 2 m wide. It prefers full-sun for best flowering and tolerates most soils. It can be used as a low hedge and is suitable for growing in containers. Responds well to regular pruning to maintain compact shape. Frost, salt and drought tolerant.



Texas Sage

Leucophyllum 'Lilac Elegance'



Photo: Harts Nursery

This beautiful evergreen shrub has contrasting silver grey foliage and can grow to 2 metres in height. Throughout the warmer months the plant is covered in purple to pink tubular flowers that contrast against the foliage making a wonderful display. Native to southern parts of USA it has low water requirements, makes a great hedge or screen or simple garden plant.



Blue Salvia

Salvia 'Blue Mound'



Photo: Plant Growers Australia Pty Ltd

This beautiful hybrid perennial Salvia has soft grey green foliage and grows to 75cm in height. Flowers are profuse and bright deep blue and cover the bush from spring to autumn. It is quite hardy, tolerates some frost and endures dry conditions once established. Prune back after each flowering to encourage a new flush of foliage and flowers.

- *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* – Rice Flower
- *Eremophila maculata* - Emu Bush

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Golden-leaved Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia' and other grafted varieties.



Photo: immij floramedia

This deciduous, spreading tree has dense, drooping clusters of fragrant, pea-like, white flowers appearing in spring. The trunk has rigid and furrowed bark, the luxuriant leaves are golden yellow when young and turn orange yellow in Autumn

HOW IT SPREADS

- They are prone to suckering. This happens because the variety is grafted on to a vigorous understock, *R. pseudoacacia*, also known as the False Acacia. The False Acacia will grow to 20m (60') and is native to the United States. It is a deciduous tree with green compound leaves and sharp thorns and it is now naturalised in many parts of Europe, Asia and Australia.
- If its roots are damaged (for example by a mower or whipper snipper or by digging) or if the roots hit an obstacle, such as a clay soil, they will produce suckers. This characteristic is retained when the tree is used as an understock.
- The hard-coated seed may also be spread longer distances in soil or water or occasionally by animals.



Golden Honey-myrtle

Melaleuca bracteata 'Revolution Gold'



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a beautiful, golden-foliaged, Australian native shrub to 4 m by 2 m wide. Its golden foliage provides year round colour in gardens. An ideal screening shrub or feature specimen. In spring the creamy-yellow brushes are bird attracting. It requires little attention and will grow in a wide range of soils and garden conditions. Prefers an open sunny position and regular pruning to maintain shape and to encourage new growth.



Native Frangipani

Hymenosporum flavum



A fast-growing, evergreen tree to 9 m with glossy, rich green, oval leaves. In spring this Australian native plant bears terminal clusters of very fragrant, tubular, cream flowers that age to a golden yellow. Ideal for small and large gardens, parks and road sides. Flowers best when grown in the open, but will tolerate some shade. Protect young seedlings from frost. This tree will benefit from watering during extended dry periods.

Photo: immij floramedia



Sandra Gordon Grevillea

Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon'



This beautiful Australian native shrub prefers a sunny site with good drainage; it will grow 3-5 metres high and wide. The foliage is green to silver grey and the flowers, which appear all year, are bright yellow brushes. It responds well to a moderate pruning to keep a more compact shape and is bird attracting. It will tolerate light frosts and dry conditions once established.

Photo: immij floramedia

- *Geijera parviflora* – Wilga/Native Willow
- *Auranticarpa rhombifolium* Syn – Diamond Pittosporum
Pittosporum rhombifolium

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Cocos Palm

Syagrus romanzoffiana



Photo: Lorna Rose

This fast growing palm with smooth grey trunk can reach 20m in height. It has a crown of arching fronds with plume like dark green leaves. This palm does not 'self clean' and retains spent fronds against the trunk for many months. Flowers are inconspicuous however the fruit are bright orange-red and 25mm in diameter.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Birds, bats, rats and flying foxes are drawn to the attractive fruit and assist in seed dispersal.
- Garden dumping is also responsible for the wider distribution of this plant.



Carnarvon Fan Palm

Livistona nitida



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

This tall stately fan palm will grow to 30 metres in height but is normally shorter in cultivated situations. Native to the region around Carnarvon Gorge and Isla Gorge it will grow in variable soil conditions and is drought and frost tolerant. It has bright green deeply divided leaves that droop down completing an open and rounded crown.



Foxtail Palm

Wodyetia bifurcata



Photo: Norwood

Spectacular palm from North Queensland and worldwide best seller. Large 2.5m long plumose fronds of dark green emerge from the slightly bottle shaped clean trunk. The fruit are reddish orange, plentiful and large (6cm). This is a self cleaning palm that sheds old foliage.



Cabbage Palm

Livistona australis



Photo: Lorna Rose

This native palm has fan-shaped leaves and generally a smooth trunk. It is native throughout coastal areas and into East Gippsland. Remnant trees, sometimes as much as 30 metres high, can often be seen in gullies in cleared paddocks on the coast.

Other superior selections include;

- *Livistona drudei* – Cabbage Tree Palm
- *Livistona decora* – Weeping Cabbage Tree Palm

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Cotton Palm

Washingtonia robusta



Photo: Norwood Industries

This tall growing palm is native to Mexico. It can reach 15-20 metres in height and has large fan like fronds with remnant threads of foliage that appear like 'cotton' hanging from between frond segments. It is not self cleaning and holds old fronds on the trunk which must be removed manually.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This palm is not native to Australia and the berries are distributed by wildlife, particularly birds, and large stands are becoming more common.
- The plant must not be planted near environmentally sensitive areas as it will escape and invade adjacent natural systems.



Carnarvon Fan Palm

Livistona nitida



Photo: Craig Eddie – Boobook Images

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Cabbage Palm

Livistona australis

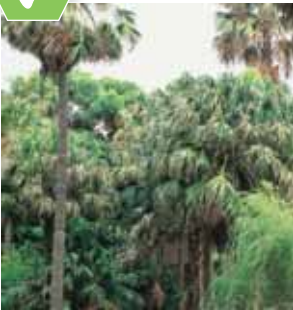


Photo: Lorna Rose

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Other superior selections include;

- *Livistona drudei* – Cabbage Tree Palm
- *Livistona decora* – Weeping Cabbage Tree Palm

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Climbing and Ground Cover Plants

This very useful group of plants was often used to cover unsightly objects and provide green barriers. Unfortunately we now know that the attributes that make them useful can also provide them with a means to grow outside their given area and invade nearby bushland. There are many alternative less invasive plants available. Please consider from the list opposite or ask your local garden centre for other alternatives.



Purple Joyweed

Alternanthera brasiliana

Syn. *Alternanthera dentata*



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Popular hedging plant used for its contrasting dark purple foliage, forming a thick 0.3-0.6m bush. When left unpruned the plant can climb by leaning on the branches of adjacent shrubs and reach over 1m. It can also produce small 'off-white' flowers.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The plant reproduces easily from small stem pieces discarded through the dumping of garden waste.
- The seeds are also thought to assist in the spread of this plant, even germinating in cracks in concrete.



Dwarf Snow In Summer

Melaleuca linariifolia 'Claret Tops'



Photo: immij floramedia

A lower growing cultivar of the original 'Snow In Summer' this plant can reach over 2m if left untrimmed. For the best effect keep it well pruned to a height of 0.75- 1.25m. The spectacular maroon red new growth will appear soon after and remain for many weeks.



Prostrate Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

A low growing or prostrate form of Rosemary to 0.4 m high with a mass of lilac-blue flowers from late summer, right through winter and into spring. An aromatic culinary herb and one of the most beautiful and useful ground-covers. It is perfect for mass planting on retaining walls and in garden beds, or as a specimen in a pot. Hardy, water wise and very well suited to coastal plantings.



Emu Bushes

Eremophila species



Photo: immij floramedia

These beautiful Australian native shrubs and groundcovers handle a range of harsh conditions. Preferring a sunny site with good drainage they come in a range of foliage shades from green to grey and even silver. The flowers also vary widely, including yellow, orange, red, pink and blue. Most tolerate some frost and drought and this hardy plant is a real winner. Ask your local retailer for the best local selections.

Other superior selections include;

- *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Radicans' – Dwarf Gardenia
- *Anigozanthos* spp. – Kangaroo Paws

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Coral Bells

Barleria repens



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Vigorous spreading groundcover growing 60-70cm high and 1m wide. Small rounded soft glossy leaves on stems which easily take root where they touch the ground. Flowers are tubular and fuchsia to coral pink and cover the plant in the warmer months. Seeds are formed and are propelled explosively from club shaped capsules.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The stems easily root when they make contact with the soil. Be careful when disposing of garden waste.
- These seeds are released by the explosive nature of the opening of the seed capsule and have a high rate of germination.



Bottlebrush

Melaleuca pearsonii 'Rocky Rambler'

Syn. *Callistemon pearsonii* 'Rocky Rambler'



Photo: immij floramedia

This rambling Bottlebrush has spiny grey green foliage and is extremely hardy. It is covered in small gold tipped brushes in the warmer months. It produces a spectacular display and this plant should be more widely used.



Spotted Emu Bush

Eremophila maculata



Photo: immij floramedia

This compact, dense shrub grows 0.9–2.4 m high by 0.9–3.0 m wide. Tubular flowers appear in the leaf axis from winter through to spring. Flower colour is variable and may be pink, mauve, red, orange or yellow, often with a pale, spotted throat. It grows well in full-sun or part-shade and is mildly frost tolerant. It makes a great screening or hedge plant and responds well to hard pruning. Bird attracting.



Robyn Gordon Grevillea

Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'



Photo: immij floramedia

This beautiful Australian native shrub is considered the best hybrid Grevillea. It prefers a sunny site with good drainage; it will grow 1.5 metres high and wide. The foliage is olive green to grey and the flowers, which appear all year, are cylindrical soft red brushes. It responds well to a moderate pruning to keep a more compact shape and is bird attracting. It will tolerate light frosts and dry conditions once established.

- *Eremophila glabra carnosa* – Emu Bush
- *Myoporum boninense* subsp. *australe* – Coastal Boobialla

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Creeping Inch Plant

Callisia repens



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Small dense ground cover with fleshy creeping stems that are heavily branched and set root at each node. Foliage is thick, green and with a purplish tinge and undersides. Flowers are white with papery bracts produced in the warmer months. Seed is produced and held in oblong capsules.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seeds are dispersed by wind and water.
- The plant easily re-grows from small stem pieces through the dumping of garden waste.



Dwarf Native Sarsarparilla

Hardenbergia violacea 'Mini Ha Ha'



Photo: Norwood Industries

This dense low growing groundcover has thick mid-green foliage, growing 30-50cm high and up to 1 metre wide. In late winter and into spring the plant is covered in spikes of vivid deep violet pea shaped flowers. Whilst this is a hardy groundcover, it will need some protection from heavier frosts. It will tolerate dry conditions but does best with some soil moisture.



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium



Photo: immij floramedia

This evergreen, hardy Australian native forms a dense, weed suppressing ground cover that will easily cover one square metre. This species thrives if grown in freely-drained soil and full-sun. The flowers are white or pink and occur from winter to summer. Sweet fleshy fruits provide food for native birds.



Native Violet

Viola hederacea



Photo: immij floramedia

Rounded glossy leaves form a thick mat of foliage to 15cm high. Beautiful lilac and white violet flowers form on short stalks and cover the plant in the warmer months. This plant performs best with some protection from full sun.

Other superior selections include;

- *Myoporum boninense* subsp. *australe* – Coastal Boobialla
- *Pelargonium* spp – Geraniums

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Red Trumpet Vine

Campsis radicans



Photo: Norwood Industries

A vigorous climber grown for its spectacular orange red trumpet shaped flowers borne in late summer to autumn. This plant can grow up to 10m with the aid of support. This plant can be trained into a neat garden shrub but if left unchecked can cling to adjacent trees by way of small aerial rootlets; becoming a rampant pest.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The plant has small aerial roots and clings to almost anything. Small pieces of the plant will easily root in the warmer months so appropriate disposal of garden waste is important.
- The plant must not be planted near environmentally sensitive areas as it will escape and invade adjacent natural systems.



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: immij floramedia

Vigorous climber to spreading shrub with dark green glossy pinnate leaves. Flowers are borne in terminal clusters in the warmer months and are pink with a dark carmine throat. There are several cultivars including 'Lady Di' that has cream flowers



Wonga Wonga Vine

Pandorea pandorana



Photo: Lorna Rose

Vigorous Australian native twining or scrambling plant. Flowers are tubular and creamy-white with purple or brownish markings and appear in spring and summer. Several new cultivars have been developed including 'Snowbells' with pure white flowers and 'Golden Showers' with yellow-bronze flowers.



Bougainvillea, Paper Flower

Bougainvillea glabra 'Magnifica'



Photo: immij floramedia

This summer flowering climber can be grown as a climber up a wall or trellis or grow as a mounding ground-cover. The most attractive purple flowers (actually bracts or modified leaves) are borne on mass. This plant performs best in full-sun and requires well-drained soil. There are many improved hybrids available for you to choose from – whites, pinks, yellows and even some variegated forms. Dwarf varieties are also available.

Other superior selections include;

- *Wisteria sinensis* – Wisteria
- *Vitis vinifera* – Ornamental Grape

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mayne's Pest

Glandularia aristigera Syn.

Verbena aristigera



Photo: Craig Hunter

This sprawling herbaceous perennial is native to South America. It grows to a height of 50cm and has variable flowers from dark purple through blue and mauve and occasionally white. It is most often seen in purely prostrate form but can also grow with a weak sprawling habit.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The plant produces viable seed and quickly spreads after initial establishment.
- The plant must not be planted near environmentally sensitive areas as it will escape and invade adjacent natural systems.



Cut Leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida and cultivars



Photo: immij floramedia

These delightful Australian perennials come in a range of colours such as yellow, pink, mauve, pale and deep blue and appear from late winter to autumn. With their delicate flowers and soft feathery foliage, cut leaf daisies are surprisingly hardy and are an excellent feature in a water-wise garden. They thrive in full-sun and will tolerate frost.



Creeping Boobiella

Myoporum parvifolium



Photo: immij floramedia

This evergreen, hardy Australian native forms a dense, weed suppressing ground cover that will easily cover one square metre. This species thrives if grown in freely-drained soil and full-sun. The flowers are white or pink and occur from winter to summer. Sweet fleshy fruits provide food for native birds.



Silver Emu Bush

Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet'



Photo: immij floramedia

This dense low growing Emu Bush has striking silver grey foliage growing 30cm high and up to 1.5 metres wide. In the warmer months the plant is covered in bright yellow tubular flowers which are rich in nectar. The plant has good frost tolerance and drought hardiness. This is a fantastic plant for any dry land garden.

- *Grevillea 'Bronze Rambler'* – Bronze Rambler
- *Grevillea 'Royal Mantle'* – Royal Mantle

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Lippia / Condamine Couch

Phyla canescens and *Phyla nodiflora*



Photo: immij floramedia

This vigorous prostrate ground cover plant forms a dense mat of foliage. It bears pink-lilac flowers throughout the year. It has been used as effective erosion control and even as a lawn substitute. There is conjecture regarding the natural range of these plants. *P. nodiflora* is considered native to tropical and sub-tropical Australia, yet some local authorities consider it a naturalised invader. For the purposes of Grow Me Instead we would like gardeners to consider other non-invasive options. If gardeners need an effective groundcover there are many other non-invasive plants that you can choose.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The plant reproduces easily from small pieces of stem
- Effective disposal of garden waste will reduce the spread of this plant



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium



Photo: immij floramedia

This evergreen, hardy Australian native forms a dense, weed suppressing ground cover that will easily cover one square metre. This species thrives if grown in freely-drained soil and full-sun. The flowers are white or pink and occur from winter to summer. Sweet fleshy fruits provide food for native birds.



Blue Saucer Flower

Convolvulus sabatius



Photo: immij floramedia

An attractive evergreen perennial with a spreading prostrate habit. Leaves are green, soft in texture with funnel form flowers in blue to violet appearing in late spring to autumn. Suitable as a ground cover, spill-over plant in rockeries and is ideal in large containers or hanging baskets. Reaching a height of about 20 cm, it will spread to 2 metres wide. Prefers a moist well-drained site and is frost tolerant.



Silver Emu Bush

Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet'



Photo: immij floramedia

This dense low growing Emu Bush has striking silver grey foliage growing 30cm high and up to 1.5 metres wide. In the warmer months the plant is covered in bright yellow tubular flowers which are rich in nectar. The plant has good frost tolerance and drought hardiness. This is a fantastic plant for any dry land garden.

Other superior selections include;

- *Dichondra repens* – Kidney Weed
- *Eremophila* Groundcover species – Emu Bush

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mexican Petunia

Ruellia tweediana



Photo: Graig Hunter

This herbaceous perennial that can grow to 1 metre in height, but it is more often seen in somewhat shorter thickets. It has long slender green leaves and bears pretty tubular blue flowers followed by green cigar shaped fruit. It produces a monoculture once established, usually along waterways.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Small pieces of the plant, both stem and roots, will easily establish in the warmer months so appropriate disposal of garden waste is important.
- The plant must not be planted near environmentally sensitive areas as it will escape and invade adjacent natural systems.



Simpson Desert Emu Bush

Eremophila macdonnellii



Photo: immij floramedia

This spectacular Australian native shrub handles a range of harsh conditions. Preferring a sunny site with good drainage the beautiful silver foliage makes a wonderful contrast in any garden. The flowers are vivid blue and stand out against the silver foliage. It will tolerate some frost and drought and this hardy plant is stunning.



Blue Salvia

Salvia 'Blue Mound'



Photo: Plant Growers Australia Pty Ltd

This beautiful hybrid perennial Salvia has soft grey green foliage and grows to 75cm in height. Flowers are profuse and bright deep blue and cover the bush from spring to autumn. It is quite hardy, tolerates some frost and endures dry conditions once established. Prune back after each flowering to encourage a new flush of foliage and flowers.



Blue Sapphire / Blue Eyes

Evolvulus glomeratus Syn. *Evolvulus pilosus*



Photo: immij floramedia

This dense low growing groundcover has striking grey foliage, growing 30cm high and up to 1 metre wide. In the warmer months the plant is covered in bright sapphire blue flowers. Whilst this is a hardy groundcover, it will need some protection from frost. It will tolerate dry conditions but does best with some soil moisture.

- *Eremophila nivea* – Silky Eremophila
- *Hardenbergia violacea* – Native Sarsaparilla

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Black-eyed Susan

Thunbergia alata



Photo: Lorna Rose

Vigorous herbaceous perennial climber that can reach 3-4m. Deep green triangular leaves to 7cm form a thick cover. Flowers are borne in warmer months on single stalks, varying from fellow to bright orange, with a dark black throat. These are followed by small hairy seed capsule holding a few small seeds.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Whilst the plant does produce seeds the major source of spread is through the dumping of garden waste.
- The plant also spreads by virtue of its vigorous vegetative habit.



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: immij floramedia

Vigorous climber to spreading shrub with dark green glossy pinnate leaves. Flowers are borne in terminal clusters in the warmer months and are pink with a dark carmine throat. There are several cultivars including 'Lady Di' that has cream flowers.



Carolina Jasmine

Gelsemium sempervirens



Photo: immij floramedia

This evergreen hardy climber is usually seen around 3 metres in height, but with support of other shrubs it can grow taller. During the spring flowering period it is covered with a multitude of fragrant bright yellow flowers which can continue on through until autumn. The dark green foliage provides a lovely backdrop for the flowers. This vine can be trained to cover fences, walls or pergolas.



Bougainvillea, Paper Flower

Bougainvillea glabra 'Magnifica'



Photo: immij floramedia

This summer flowering climber can be grown as a climber up a wall or trellis or grow as a mounding ground-cover. The most attractive purple flowers (actually bracts or modified leaves) are borne on mass. This plant performs best in full-sun and requires well-drained soil. There are many improved hybrids available for you to choose from – whites, pinks, yellows and even some variegated forms. Dwarf varieties are also available.

- *Pandorea pandorana* – Wonga Wonga Vine
- *Wisteria sinensis* – Wisteria

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Berried Plants

Gardeners often choose trees and shrubs with showy persistent berries for winter colour in their gardens when flowers are scarce. Unfortunately these berries often attract birds and small mammals that unwittingly aid the spread of these unwanted plants into bushland and open spaces.



Prickly Duranta

Duranta erecta



Photo: immij floramedia

A dense shrub usually growing to 4-5m with pendulous branches bearing blue, white or purple flowers, followed by orange berries.

This very popular garden plant has had a renaissance in popularity with the introduction of several new forms in recent years. Whilst many are kept well pruned into effective hedges, particularly in local government areas and commercial premises others are left unkempt and form berries.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The berries are highly attractive to birds. If a plant is allowed to form berries, birds ingest them and distribute the plants widely in native bushland, creating thickets and upsetting the ecosystem.
- Do not allow existing plants to form berries. Either prune immediately after flowering or remove the plant entirely if regular maintenance is not practical.

Note: This plant is also considered poisonous.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: immij floramedia

This superb Australian native rainforest plant has glossy green foliage, a profusion of fluffy white flowers and small colourful berries. There are many different cultivars of this plant with a wide range of growth habits, foliage types and berry colours. Many make highly desirable hedges and screens. 'Elite', 'Bush Christmas', 'Aussie Boomer' and 'Hinterland Gold' are three of many suitable selections.



Native Fuchsia

Graptophyllum excelsum



Photo: Norwood

An Australian native that can reach 6-8m but is often easily kept to 1.5m in cultivation. It has dark green glossy leaves and abundant rich red tubular flowers in summer. The flowers are attractive to nectar feeding birds. This fantastic plant should be more widely used, making an excellent specimen or effective hedge.



Dwarf Bottlebrush

Melaleuca 'Little John'

Syn. *Callistemon 'Little John'*



Photo: immij floramedia

Low growing bottlebrush easily kept to 1m although when not pruned, in ideal conditions it might reach 3m in height. Interesting grey green foliage and short upright red brushes in spring and autumn make this an excellent garden plant.

Other superior selections include;

- *Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'* – Robyn Gordon Grevillea
- *Auranticarpa rhombifolium* Syn. – Diamond Pittosporum
Pittosporum rhombifolium

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Grasses

Mainly chosen because of their various architecturally interesting forms and drought hardiness, yet many of them are considered invasive. Mislabelling with incorrect species names has been an occasional problem. To reduce further spread of invasive grasses, seek professional advice at your local garden centre, read all labels carefully and avoid purchasing from any other source. There are many native grasses commercially available from your local garden centre providing a safe alternative.



Swamp Foxtail or Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides



Photo: André Karwath

A perennial grass with narrow mid to dark green leaves forming a dense clump 60 to 90cm in height. Attractive flower spikes appear above the foliage in the warmer months, showing yellow, green and the distinctive purple colours.

This plants 'Australian native' origin is questioned by many and the natural range of the plant has been confused by extensive use in urban landscape plantings in recent years.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seeds are not plentiful and viability is low however as there is conjecture regarding the distribution of this plant in Asia and Australia it is recommended we promote sterile hybrids or other well established native grasses



Mat Rushes

Lomandra species



Photo: Barry Naylor

This widely used accent plant has thick arching green foliage that emerges from a central crown. Suitable near waters edge or boggy areas but able to tolerate dry conditions as well, this is a most versatile alternative. Many new cultivars are now available with a range of foliage colours and growth habits.



Kangaroo Grass

Themeda australis Syn. *Themeda australis*



Photo: immij floramedia

An Australian native grass that has glaucous blue grey leaves and forms a dense mat like tuft. During warmer months the leaves turn maroon adding an interesting contrast. In summer, wiry flower spikes laden with seed often lay down on top of the foliage. This plant is effective as a weed suppressant or for erosion control.



Flax Lilies

Dianella species



Photo: immij floramedia

An excellent Australian native selection with mid-dark green arching foliage and sprays of blue flowers followed by bright blue berries. There has been a proliferation of Dianella cultivars with a wide range of foliage colours and growth habits in recent years. Ask your retailer for the most reliable local selections.

Other superior selections include;

- *Restio tetraphyllus* – Tassel Cord Rush
- *Carex* spp – Sedges

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Succulent Plants

These have become very popular due to their drought hardy status and architectural appeal. Most succulents are non-invasive, however there are a number of succulents that can rapidly spread from dislodged plant parts, leaves or by seed. Be sure to read the plant label carefully and ask for advice about the non-invasive succulents at your local garden centre.



Century Plant

Agave americana



Photo: Photo: Doug Bickerton, SA
Department for Environment & Heritage

Perennial succulent with thick grey green sword shaped leaves in rosettes growing to 2m high and often forming clumps that are several metres wide. The leaves have teeth along the margins and a very sharp spine at the tip. Yellow flowers form on a large spike which can rise over 5m in height.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This plant forms thick clusters as the main plant 'suckers' to produce many new plants.
- Plants that are in dumped garden waste readily take root and colonise natural areas.



Spineless Agave

Agave attenuata



Photo: immij floramedia

This spineless Agave has a thick stem and can reach 1.5m in height. A rosette of thick yet softly textured blue green leaves forms at the crown. Small 'pups' develop to the side of established stems allowing the plant to form thick clumps. This vegetative spread makes them somewhat easier to manage.



Mat Rushes

Lomandra longifolia species and cultivars



Photo: Barry Naylor

This widely used accent plant has thick arching green foliage that emerges from a central crown. Suitable near waters edge or boggy areas but able to tolerate dry conditions as well, this is a most versatile alternative. Many new cultivars are now available.



Flax Lilies

Dianella species



Photo: immij floramedia

Excellent Australian native selection with mid-dark green arching foliage and sprays of blue flowers followed by bright blue berries. There has been a proliferation of *Dianella* cultivars with a wide range of foliage colours and growth habits in recent years. Ask your retailer for the most reliable local selections.

Other superior selections include;

- *Helichrysum angustifolium* Syn. – Curry Bush
Helichrysum litoreum
- *Xanthorrhoea* spp. – Grasstrees

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Peruvian Apple Cactus

Cereus hildmannianus subsp. *uruguayanus*



Photo: Craig Hunter

This tall growing cactus from South America can reach up to 5 metres in height. It has thick grey green column like stems, branching from the base and stiff dark grey spines. In summer, it bears large white flowers with reddish brown colouring on the outside, followed by yellow fruits.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This plant easily regenerates from seed, which is plentiful on established plants.
- Be careful how branches and off-cuts of this plant are disposed of in dumped garden waste.



Gymea Lily, Spear Lily

Doryanthes excelsa



Photo: immij floramedia

Australian native perennial lily with rosettes of large sword-shaped 1 to 2 m long mid-green leaves. In spring and summer they have spectacular large, compact heads of nectar-filled, blood-red flowers atop tall, thick stems to 5 m high. A very hardy garden plant for most climates. Grows best in full-sun to part-shade. The flowers and leaves are both highly sought after for flower arranging.



Spineless Agave

Agave attenuata



Photo: immij floramedia

This spineless Agave has a thick stem and can reach 1.5m in height. A rosette of thick yet softly textured blue green leaves forms at the crown. Small 'pups' develop to the side of established stems allowing the plant to form thick clumps. This vegetative spread makes them somewhat easier to manage.



Grass Tree

Xanthorrhoea australis



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a robust and hardy clumping plant that initially grows 1-1.5 metre in height before finally starting to extend above a thick trunk. It is slow growing but incredibly resilient. It has narrow grey-green grass like leaves that arch out from a central base. After many years a flower spike emerges with sweet smelling cream-white flowers. Ensure you source this plant from reputable suppliers as it is a protected plant in many jurisdictions.

Other superior selections include;

- *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* – Grass Tree

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mother In Law's Tongue

Sansevieria trifasciata



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Dense clumping plant with succulent sword-like foliage to 1m in height. Mottled upright grey green leaves with occasional pale cream flowers on spikes in Spring. Effective spreading habit, preferring moist and shaded areas.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Often spread through the dumping of garden waste, this plant is difficult to eradicate once established.
- The variegated form of Sansevieria is a popular indoor plant. This use is acceptable; however it should not be planted in the garden or disposed of in dumped garden waste.



Bird of Paradise

Strelitzia reginae



Photo: immij floramedia

Glossy grey green paddle shaped foliage forming a dense clump 1.5m x 1.5m. Spectacular orange and blue flowers shaped like a birds head form on erect stems in warmer months. It is worth trying to obtain *Strelitzia juncea* for its rush like cylindrical foliage emerging without a leaf blade.



Spanish Iris

Dietes bicolor



Photo: immij floramedia

Accent plant with thin strappy foliage forming a thick clump. It has cream yellow flowers with brown markings held on spikes above the foliage throughout the year. It will germinate from its own seed in ideal conditions.



Flax Lilies

Dianella species



Photo: immij floramedia

Excellent Australian native selection with mid-dark green arching foliage and sprays of blue flowers followed by bright blue berries. There has been a proliferation of *Dianella* cultivars with a wide range of foliage colours and growth habits in recent years. Ask your retailer for the most reliable local selections.

Other superior selections include;

- *Lomandra species* – Mat Rushes
- *Crinum pedunculatum* – Swamp Lily

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Carrion Plant

Stapelia gigantea



Photo: Craig Hunter

This low growing perennial succulent from southern Africa rarely grows much more than 20cm high. The botanic name of '*Gigantea*' refers to the huge flowers which can get to 30cm in size. It is often grown for this novelty value.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Small pieces of the plant will easily root in the warmer months so appropriate disposal of garden waste is important.
- The plant also produces viable seed and the plant often appears as a dense cluster of short stubs.



Bird of Paradise

Strelitzia reginae



Photo: immij floramedia

Glossy grey green paddle shaped foliage forming a dense clump 1.5m x 1.5m. Spectacular orange and blue flowers shaped like a birds head form on erect stems in warmer months. It is worth trying to obtain *Strelitzia juncea* for its rush like cylindrical foliage emerging without a leaf blade.



Costal Pig Face

Carpobrotus glaucescens



Photo: Sustainable Landscapes Project

Common on coastal dunes, this prostrate plant which spreads to 2 m has thick, succulent leaves up to 10 cm long. The flowers are daisy-like and usually have mauve to purple petals and white centre. The fruits and leaves are edible. It is an attractive plant for a well-drained soil in full to partial sun. It is well suited to exposed, coastal locations.



Pig Face

Lampranthus species



Photo: immij floramedia

A spectacular array of flower colours including vivid orange, yellow, pink and red cover this hardy succulent plant in the warmer months. It has a variable growth habit, from small rounded shrubs to creeping ground covers.

Other superior selections include;

- *Crinum flaccidum* – Darling Lily
- *Eremophila* 'Yanna Road' – Emu Bush

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Aquatic Plants

In recent years aquatic plants have become a major invader. The cost of removal and control runs into many millions of dollars. These aquatic plants include Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*). There are many alternative plants which are more suitable for home aquariums and garden ponds.



Umbrella Sedge

Cyperus involucratus



Photo: Sheldon Navie

This water loving Sedge grows at waters edge or in boggy ground to a height of 1m. It has three cornered hollow stalks which are crowned by a whorl of leaf like bracts. In Summer short flower spikes appear from the centre of the whirl with greenish flowers.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Rhizomes and seeds are spread by water
- The plant can reproduce from stem pieces, which are carried in flood water or spread through the dumping of garden waste.



Knobby Club Rush

Ficinia nodosa Syn. *Isolepis nodosa*



Photo: immij floramedia

Excellent Australian native plant suitable for pond margins, boggy areas and saline conditions. It has arching dark green stems and can reach 1.5m in height. It forms brown globular flower heads throughout the year. Extremely tough and hardy, a fantastic choice.



Mat Rushes

Lomandra longifolia species and cultivars



Photo: Barry Naylor

This widely used accent plant has thick arching green foliage that emerges from a central crown. Suitable near waters edge or boggy areas but able to tolerate dry conditions as well, this is a most versatile alternative. Many new cultivars are now available.



Slender Mat Rush

Lomandra hystrix



Photo: immij floramedia

This is a robust and hardy clumping plant that grows 1-1.5 metres in height. It has smooth green leaves that arch out from a central fleshy base. It has branched inflorescence in spring and summer with creamy yellow-white flowers and the bracts having sharp spines in between. Berries are bright green at first and mature as the female flower stalk pales off in colour.

Other superior selections include;

- *Juncus usitatus* – Native Rush
- *Schoenoplectus validus* – Soft Rush

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Parrot Feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum

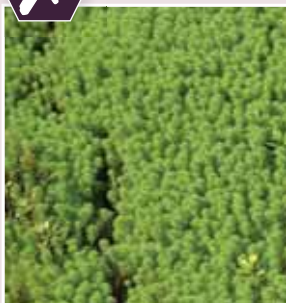


Photo: Terry Inkson

A feathery leaved, perennial aquatic plant with stems that grow up to 2m in length. The tips of the stems frequently protrude up to 30cm from the water. Seeds that are produced in Australia are infertile as only female plants are recorded here.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Parrot feather reproduces by fragments of stem breaking from the parent plant and is moved by water currents.
- Once also commonly found in home aquaria as the plant was once sold as an attractive fish tank plant. Inappropriate disposal of aquatic plants leads to choking of waterways, excluding all native flora and fauna.



Hybrid Water Lily

Nymphaea hybrids



Photo: immij floramedia

There is a wide array of hybrid Water lilies available providing many different flower colours. These hybrids are bred for their flower colour and size and many are not considered an invasive threat.



Native Water Milfoil

Myriophyllum gracile



Photo: Nita Lester

Strong growing aquatic or semi-aquatic native milfoil, with stems growing 10-20cm in height. The alternate leaves are heavily toothed, particularly the lowermost with the uppermost being less so. The plant is an important food source for Waterfowl. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate some shade.



Banded Nardoo

Marsilea mutica



Photo: Norwood

This aquatic fern has interesting foliage resembling a four leafed clover. The long rhizomes trail under the surface with the leaves floating on the surface. This plant provides an excellent cover for fish and other aquatic life as well as suppressing algal growth.

Other superior selections include;

- *Myriophyllum papillosum* 'Red Dragonfly' – Red Dragonfly
- *Myriophyllum crispatum* – Upright Water Milfoil

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Yellow Water Lily

Nymphaea mexicana



Underwater tuber-like rhizomes send out rounded leaves that float on the surface. This exotic and invasive Water Lily produces bright yellow flowers. The plant needs a constant supply of water and quickly chokes dams, ponds or other still or slow moving bodies of water.

HOW IT SPREADS

- New plants are produced at the end of stolons and can become detached and float away to establish elsewhere.
- Plants are exchanged amongst friends and people who do not recognise the invasiveness of this species.



Native Water Lily

Nymphaea violacea



A floating perennial herb growing from a rhizome in the mud at the base of ponds. Leaves are broadly egg-shaped to circular with a split at the base to the point of the stalk attachment. The flowers are borne on long stalks up to 30cm above the water surface. They come in a range of colours including violet, blue and white.

Photo: Blue Lotus Farm



Hybrid Water Lily

Nymphaea hybrids



Photo: immij floramedia

There is a wide array of hybrid Water lilies available providing many different flower colours. These hybrids are bred for their flower colour and size and many are not considered an invasive threat.



Wavy Marshwort

Nymphoides crenata



Photo: Glenfield Wholesale Nursery

Slight bronzed green waterlily like leaves with heavily crested edges and purplish-brown speckles. This is a robust native water plant and has dainty fringed yellow flowers.

- *Nymphaea gigantea* – Giant Water Lily
- *Nymphaea indica* – Native Water Lily

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



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12) Further information and additional resources

1. Your local nursery or garden centre -

Most employ trained nursery professionals or qualified horticulturists who are knowledgeable in regard to all aspects of plant selection.

2. Your local council or shire -

Have information about plants considered invasive in your local area and some good indigenous alternatives.

3. State Government -

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries have useful information about invasive plants.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au for more information.

4. Australian Government -

Weeds in Australia Website. An excellent website with a good range of information, references, lists, databases and pictures and other resources. Visit www.weeds.gov.au for more information.

5. Weeds Australia via the Australian Weeds Committee -

A national website resource created by the Australian Weeds Committee to promote access to key weed policies, regulations, current issues, national initiatives, research, extension, training and personnel. Visit www.weeds.org.au for more information.

6. Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) -

PO Box 345 Salisbury Qld 4107 Australia

Ph. +61 7 32777900

Fax. + 61 7 32777109

email: info@ngiq.asn.au

web: www.ngiq.asn.au

7. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia -

The Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is the national peak body for the nursery and garden industries in Australia. Their website provides useful information on invasive plants. Visit www.ngia.com.au and www.lifeisagarden.com.au for more information.

8. South West NRM Ltd -

Provide natural resource management information and advice to local landowners and community members. Visit www.southwestnrm.org.au for more information.

9. Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) -

Provide natural resource management information and advice to local landowners and community members. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.



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