



*A Guide for Gardeners
in Western Australia*



Nursery & Garden Industry
Western Australia

grow me™



instead



**The Nursery Industry -
Protecting Our Environment**



**Nursery & Garden Industry
Australia**



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This Western Australian 'Grow Me Instead' has been produced by NGIA in conjunction with the Australian Government.



Australian Government
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts
Mail: GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Australian Government Phone: +61 (0)2 6274 1111

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2) Introduction from the Ministers

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 horticulturalists 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



3) 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.

4) What is Grow Me Instead?

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.

5) Establishing the criteria for Grow Me Instead

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 Western Australia, in consultation with its members, State and Federal Governments, and interested environmental groups has developed a list of 27 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 state.
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 Western Australia. 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 Western Australia. 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.

6) 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.



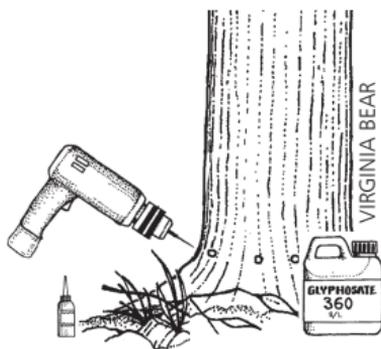
TIPS

- 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



Radiata Pine

Pinus radiata



Photo: Jackie Miles

This large evergreen tree has been widely planted in Australia as a windbreak and timber tree. The Radiata Pine, from California, grows to 50 m high and is prevalent in high quality plantation areas. Winged seeds are contained in woody cones, from which they are released when ripe and easily spread by wind. This can result in widespread dispersal of this species into nearby vegetation.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- It is possible that the cockatoos, who eat the seeds may sometimes carry the cones several kilometres and spread the seeds at great distance from mother plants.
- Self-sown young trees are a very common sight near mature trees. Other pine species may also be as invasive.

Please note: It is desirable to replace these pines with native conifers as exotic conifers do not harbour our native birds and small mammals.

8) The weeds and their alternatives



Common She-oak

Allocasuarina fraseriana



Photo: Gladys Bywaters

This hardy Western Australian native tree grows to about 15 m high. Male and female flowers are produced on separate trees. The male trees' rust-coloured foliage is evident in winter and spring. On female trees, distinctive cones are evident for most of the year. Thrives on most soil types including those of poor fertility.



Black Cypress Pine

Callitris endlicheri



Photo: Jackie Miles

This native Australian conifer develops into an erect tree to 15 m high with spreading branches. It is drought and frost tolerant and useful for windbreaks and timber.



Salt She-oak

Casuarina obesa

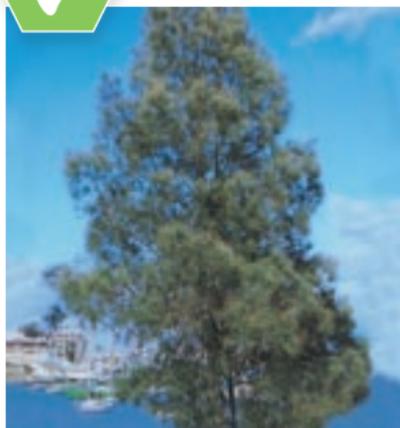


Photo: Norwood Industries

Native to South Western Australia, this erect tree to 10 m high by 4 m wide is widely planted for revegetation purposes on semi saline waterlogged land. There are separate male and female trees. Both male and female flowers appear as tiny reddish fringing filaments throughout the year.



Camphor Laurel

Cinnamomum camphora



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

A large, fast-growing evergreen tree that was introduced into Australia following European settlement. It has a camphor smell to the leaves, fruits and timber. All parts are highly toxic to humans. The species is an invasive woody weed capable of replacing native trees along watercourses and on soil types which formerly supported rainforests.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Infestation and spread of Camphor Laurel is aided by birds dispersing seed. It can also sucker from its roots and often reshoots after cutting and poisoning. Prevalent in disturbed landscapes.



Red Iron Bark

Eucalyptus sideroxylon 'Rosea'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This is a stunning red flowering gum tree growing to 20 m high by 15 m wide. The bark of this tree contrasts well with the foliage which is dark green to grey-blue. It will grow successfully on many sites, including alkaline soils. For best growth, a well-drained site in full-sun is required.



Water Gum

Tristaniopsis laurina



This evergreen Australian native tree has several new improved forms. They grow from 7 to 12 m in height depending on the conditions. The foliage is lush dark green and shiny, with distinctive copper coloured new growth. Water Gums are highly desirable landscape trees with sweetly scented yellow flowers produced in January and early February. This highly ornamental tree is well suited for use in street plantings, parks, reserves, as a garden feature, or as an elegant shade tree.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis anarcardioides



A very hardy native tree growing to a height of about 8 m by 5 m wide. It will perform well in harsh conditions including poor soils, salt, wind exposure and air pollution. It has leathery leaves and produces small creamy-yellow to green-yellow flower clusters on the ends of branches, which are followed by orange-yellow berries. It is an excellent tree for screening and street planting and is also a known host for at least eight species of native butterflies.

Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Other suggested alternatives are the Silver Princess/Gungurru (*Eucalyptus caesia*) and Bullich (*Eucalyptus megacarpa*).



Sweet Pittosporum, Native Daphne

Pittosporum undulatum



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

A native eastern Australian tree that grows 12 m high by 7 m wide. It has coarse grey bark and glossy green elliptical leaves. The small, white, highly fragrant flowers occur in spring and early summer. Flowers are followed by orange-tan berries in autumn, which can persist for several months. It is a hardy and adaptable plant which can withstand extended dry periods once established.

HOW IT SPREADS

- It has become very invasive in home gardens and bushland, colonising moist areas such as gullies and areas of disturbed soil. It grows rapidly and quickly competing with native vegetation. Its berries are attractive to birds and can be carried quite far from the parent plant.

Although these are popular cut flowers, the use of this plant must be discouraged for the home garden. Its spread must be stopped.



Lilly Pilly

Syzygium species and cultivars
Acmena species and cultivars

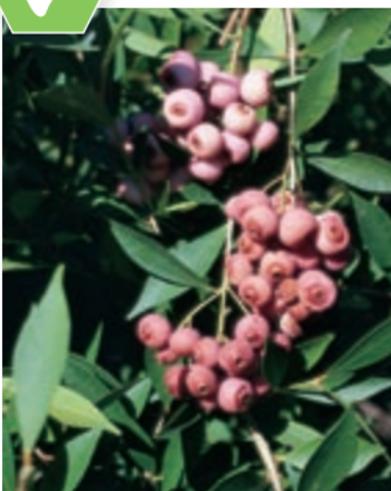


Photo: Macbird Floraprint

The Australian native Lilly Pilly is popular for hedging and topiary. They are evergreen rainforest plants with glossy green leaves. Most cultivars flush with colourful new growth, ranging from brilliant pink to a red-brown. In spring to early summer most Lilly Pillies have fluffy white or greenish flowers followed by long lasting red, purple or white berries. There are many selected cultivars on the market. Ask your local garden centre for the best choice for your garden.



Native Frangipani

Hymenosporum flavum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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.



Lemon Myrtle

Backhousia citrodora



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This medium-sized shrub or tree to 8 m high is well known for its strong lemon-scented lush green leaves. With a low-branching habit its juvenile foliage is a reddish colour and its new shoots and leaves are often hairy on the underside. The very attractive bell shaped white flowers with protruding white stamens are numerous and produced in long-stalked clusters. This attractive, easily maintained and highly recommended plant may also be used as a container plant for indoors.



Lemon Scented Gum, Spotted Gum

Corymbia citriodora

formerly known as *Eucalyptus citriodora*



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This is a large ornamental gum tree to 10 m with a pinkish cream spotted trunk, lemon scented leaves and cream flowers which appear in summer–autumn. Kings Park in Perth has a famous avenue of these trees which were planted in 1938. Unfortunately, this well known gum tree has become a serious weed invading Banksia woodland and killing the forest understorey.

In southern Western Australia from Perth to Busselton, it has become naturalised in Banksia and Tuart woodlands.

Spotted gum is spread by seed. It's also considered dangerous if planted in parks and gardens as it can drop large limbs.



Coral Gum

Eucalyptus torquata



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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.



Fuchsia Gum

Eucalyptus forrestiana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This distinctive gum tree has beautiful flowers and decorative fuchsia-like gum nuts that are harvested and used in floral arrangements. It will grow from 3–7 m high by 3–5 m wide as a large shrub or small tree depending on the local growing conditions. It is an ideal specimen for home gardens and attracts native birds. This species is also frost and drought tolerant and will grow on limestone soils.



Red Ironbark, Mugga Ironbark

Eucalyptus sideroxylon 'Rosea'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This is a stunning red flowering gum tree growing to 20 m high by 15 m wide. The bark of this tree contrasts well with the foliage which is dark green to grey-blue. It will grow successfully on many sites, including alkaline soils. For best growth, a well-drained site in full-sun is required.

Other suggested alternatives are the Silver Princess/Gungurru (*Eucalyptus caesia*), Bullich (*Eucalyptus megacarpa*) and Drummond's Gum (*Eucalyptus drummondii*).



Coastal Tea-tree, Victorian Tea-tree, Australian Myrtle

Leptospermum laevigatum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A tall bushy shrub or small tree to 6 m from coastal south-eastern Australia. It is tolerant of salt spray and has been widely used as a windbreak, hedging plant and for soil erosion control. It is widely naturalised outside its natural range where it competes with native vegetation and consequently, has spread rapidly into bushland and along road verges. It has abundant white flowers 15-20 mm across that develop into woody capsules which open at maturity to shed large numbers of seeds.



Silver Tea-tree

Leptospermum sericeum



Photo: ANBG

A dense, spreading shrub native to Western Australia that grows to 2 m high by 1.5 m wide. Its leaves are silvery grey in colour and its flowers are pink, about 2 cm in diameter, and seen mainly in spring. It is frost hardy, resistant to salt spray and thrives in full-sun.



Cross-leaved Honey-myrtle

Melaleuca decussata



This is an open, rounded large shrub to 3.5 m high. In late spring, mauve flowers develop in small, cylindrical spikes on short, lateral branches or at the base of leafy branches. Flowers may also sporadically appear during summer. It prefers full-sun and can tolerate dry and coastal condition.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Honey-myrtle

Melaleuca nesophila



A large shrub to small tree native to Western Australia. Globular heads of mauve-purple flowers appear in large clusters in late spring and through summer. A spectacular plant when in flower. It is very hardy in most soils and aspects and is frost hardy.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Sallow, Sydney Wattle

Acacia longifolia ssp. longifolia



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This species grows to 4 m high with a distinctive grey bark and mid green lanceolate leaves. This wattle is native to NSW and Victoria and flowers in late winter with masses of golden-yellow blooms.



Flinders Ranges Wattle

Acacia iteaphylla



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This wattle is endemic to the Flinders Ranges of South Australia and has become invasive outside of this region. It is regarded as an environmental weed throughout much of Western Australia.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- The seeds are carried by ants, small mammals and humans and are very long lived in the soil. They have a high rate of germination especially after a bush fire or soil disturbance.

Please note: It is preferable to grow local species that occur naturally in your region. Visit your local garden centre or native plant nursery to seek advice about other recommended alternatives.



Melaleuca 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 and open sunny position and regular pruning to maintain shape and to encourage new growth.



Raspberry Jam Wattle, Fine Leaf Jam

Acacia acuminata



Photo: WM McDonald

Most unlike Raspberry Jam in appearance, this wattle has spikes of golden-yellow blooms along its stems from July to October. Varies in habit from a large shrub to a small tree, it will grow from 2 – 10 m high by 3 – 5 m wide depending on the local soil and growing conditions. It tolerates gravelly, sandy and clay soils, and is lime and moderately salt tolerant. Prefers semi-shade to full-sun.



Grevilleas

Grevillea species and cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

There are a number of highly recommended hybrid grevilleas that will develop into small trees. Masses of spring and summer flowers, including pink and white 'Pink Surprise', or 'Pink Flush', or cream 'Moonlight' and orange/gold 'Honey gem' provide nectar for native birds. Grevilleas are fast-growing and require light pruning after flowering to encourage dense growth. They can be planted as either a screen or feature specimen and require well drained soils. Ask your local garden centre for advice about the best Grevillea for your garden.



European and African Olives

Olea europaea ssp. cuspidata



Photo: Jackie Miles

Hardy, long-lived, evergreen, small to medium trees which produce green or black fruits. African Olives produce small spherical black fruits which are only edible by birds. Conversely European olives produce green and black oval shaped fruits which are harvested for the production of olive oil and table fruit. Unpicked fruit can be spread by wildlife and the resulting seedlings are extremely invasive. Feral olives impact on native vegetation over large areas of Western Australia.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Unviable production trees left to grow wild produce fruit which is not managed.
- Fruit is spread by birds and small animals.

If you have fruiting olive trees and are not harvesting the fruit then have them removed.



Olive Leaved Grevillea

Grevillea olivacea



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This vigorous West Australian native shrub will grow to 3.5 m high by 2 m wide. It is a dense screening shrub with grey-green leaves with bird attracting red, orange or yellow flowers from June to October. It prefers a well-drained soil and has a very low water requirement once established. Frost tolerant and suitable in coastal conditions.



Red Robin Photinia

Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A dense evergreen shrub to 5 m high by 5 m wide. New leaves are bright red, showy and mature to dark green. An ideal hedging plant that responds well to pruning. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade and is drought, frost and wind tolerant once established.



Swan Hill Olive

Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'



Photo: SA DWLBC

This fruitless olive grows to 6 m high by 6 m wide. It was discovered growing in an orchard near Swan Hill Victoria. Grows best in full-sun and freely-drained soils. A highly recommended ornamental tree.



English Broom

Cytisus scoparius



Photo: Lorna Rose

This shrub to 4 m high is a declared noxious weed in SA, WA, and parts of NSW, VIC and Tasmania. It has bright yellow pea-type flowers that persist over summer. English broom is a native of western Europe and has now spread across many temperate areas of the world. It is also a threat to environmental, forestry and grazing land in higher rainfall areas of Australia.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Each flower produces a pod of five to eight seeds. The summer ripened seeds explode from the pod as a scattering mechanism.
- Seed is carried by livestock, humans and the movement of soil or by floodwaters.
- The seeds are viable for a long time contributing to succeeding generations of plants.
- Avoid growing the Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) or Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) for the same reasons.
- This plant can arrive in your garden as an uninvited guest.
- Please resist the temptation to let it remain and dig it out!



Grevillea 'Fire Sprite'

Grevillea 'Fire Sprite'



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

A fast growing shrub to 4 m high with deeply lobed, bright green leaves. Burnt red and orange/green bird attracting flowers appear in abundance from June to October, with scattered flowers throughout the remainder of the year. Fast growing and hardy in moist well drained soils in full-sun. Pruning maintains denseness and encourages flowering.



Glowing Wattle

Acacia celastrifolia



Photo: Corinne Hampel

This is one of the most beautiful wattles with golden yellow ball-shaped flowers appearing from July to October. This Western Australian species will grow 2–4 m high by 1.5–2 m wide. It requires well-drained soil in a full-sun position. Suitable for coastal planting if sheltered from strong winds. Light pruning is recommended to maintain a compact shape.



Coral Plant

Russelia equisetiformis 'Tangerine Falls'



Photo: Tops Nursery

This small evergreen shrub to 1.5 m high is grown for its showy pendant clusters of orange tubular flowers. These appear in abundance from spring to late autumn along its wiry rush like stems. Its pendulous habit makes it an ideal specimen for hanging baskets, decorative tubs and spilling over a wall. Ideal in full-sun to part-shade.



Madagascar Buddleja

Buddleja madagascariensis

(Synonymous with *Nicodemia madagascariensis*)



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This tough, scrambling, vigorous shrub from 3–5 m high was commonly planted as a quick growing privacy plant and has subsequently become naturalized in disturbed sites.

Arching stems carry sprays of small, fragrant yellow, orange or salmon-coloured, flowers in spring and summer.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Seeds are spread by wind and water.
- Dumping of garden refuse that may easily take root.
- This plant grows readily in damp areas to create shady thickets crowding out natural species and destroying habitat.

Discourage the use of this plant in gardens and choose from others that will prove more environmentally friendly.



Buddleja 'Spring Promise'

Buddleja 'Spring Promise'



Photo: Paradise Plants

Buddlejas are usually summer flowering shrubs and considered too vigorous for the average garden, however, Buddleja 'Spring Promise' is a smaller non-invasive hybrid. It has masses of long slender stems of white delicately scented flowers that appear from the middle of winter through to spring. This species can be grown in full-sun or part-shade. It grows quickly and will tolerate relatively dry conditions when established.



Lasiandra

Tibouchina urvilleana 'Alstonville'



Photo: Lorna Rose

A sturdy evergreen shrub to 6 m high by 4 m wide, with large showy, purple-violet flowers in autumn. An ideal feature or privacy plant. There are numerous selected varieties available which offer variable flower colours and height. Ask at your local garden centre for the best local varieties.



Conebush, Leucadendron

Leucadendron species and cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

These hardy evergreen plants are native to South Africa. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants during winter and spring. The clusters of small flowers are surrounded by colourful showy bracts in yellow, cream, green or dark red shades. They are valued as cut flowers because of their long vase-life, long stems and striking appearance. They thrive in a well-drained position in full-sun.



Polygala

Polygala myrtifolia



Photo: SA DWLBC

This South African shrub to 2 m high is widely naturalised across southern Australia and has become invasive in coastal areas. These shrubs are most readily recognised by their mauve-purple, pea-shaped flowers produced throughout most of the year, predominantly during spring. Flowers develop two-celled flattened seed capsules that ripen from green to papery brown. Whilst the plainer form with greenish lower petals is frequently observed as weedy, the showier cultivar 'Grandiflora' with larger flowers and purple lower petals has also been observed readily spreading from plantings.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Seeds are spread by water, birds, ants, dumped garden waste, and even equipment used at the beach, such as surfboards and towels.
- The seeds are long lived and can germinate in heavy shade. Germination usually takes place in autumn, but it can happen at any time providing sufficient moisture is available.



Polygala Dazzler

Polygala dalmaisiana 'Dazzler'



Photo: Greenhills Propagation Nursery

This less invasive form of Polygala is an ideal alternative. It is a delightful compact small shrub that grows 1.5 m high by 1 m wide with striking purple pea flowers for most of the year. Grows best in full-sun to part-shade in a well drained position.



Geraldton Wax

Chamelaucium uncinatum cultivars



Photo: John Virtue

These small to medium sized native shrubs from Western Australia reach 1.5–2 m high with linear, narrow highly aromatic leaves up to 4 cm long. Small flowers occur profusely in spring through to summer and darken as they age. A highly recommended cut flower, they can be picked in bud or at the full flowering stage. Numerous colour forms are available including; white 'Alba'; purple 'Purple Pride'; red to white 'My Sweet Sixteen', and the double flowering pink 'Raspberry Ripple'.



Spotted Emu Bush

Eremophila maculata



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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 suggested alternatives are Native Hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*), Hebe species and Honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophila* 'Little Nessie').



Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A clump-forming plant with deep green strappy leaves. Used as a border plant to stabilize low banks and planted by farmers around properties as a fire retardant.

They are known to invade roadsides, bushland and waterways. Agapanthus are grown for their hardiness and striking blue, blue-purple and white flower heads on 1 m stems. Flowers appear in November and December.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Often spread by dumping of garden waste into bushland and public space where they may take root and thrive.
- Each flower head can hold dozens of seeds which are spread by wind, water and soil.

TIP: Removing spent flower heads immediately after flowering can avoid seed spread.

Ask at your local garden centre for advice about the many superior and non-invasive varieties of Agapanthus.



Dwarf White Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox 'Snowstorm'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This dwarf Agapanthus grows to 40 cm high. With an almost complete absence of seed, it's considered non-invasive. During early summer it produces masses of compact, white tubular flowers. It is ideal as a low border plant, in cottage gardens or as a hardy container plant. An excellent cut flower. There are several other sterile or low-fertility hybrids available including; 'Black Pantha' and 'Peter Pan'. Ask your garden centre for advice about the best Agapanthus for your garden.



Swamp Lily

Crinum pedunculatum



Photo: Lorna Rose

This Australian native plant has rosettes of broad leaves and clusters of white, highly fragrant flowers on 1 m stems. Flowers appear from November to March. An extremely hardy specimen, it thrives in full-sun or dappled shade. It is mildly frost tolerant and can withstand poor drainage and clay soils.



Blue Flax Lily, Paroo Lily

Dianella species and hybrids



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

There are 15 species of *Dianella* found across Australia. These hardy plants with fine strap-like leaves to 0.6 m high have blue, purple or white star-shaped flowers which appear in spring and summer. Flowers are followed by decorative blue berries containing shiny black seeds. Ask your local garden centre for advice about the best *Dianellas* for your garden.



Arum Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica



Photo: Cynthia Springvloed

This white lily with large spathes is widely used as a cut flower. However, this species will engulf gutters, streams, waterways and wetland bogs and is now considered a widespread environmental weed. The green form called 'Green Goddess' is also invasive and can be found clogging up natural waterways.

During 2007 in Western Australia, *Zantedeschia aethiopica* was listed as a declared weed, making it illegal to introduce, sell, or propagate.

HOW IT SPREADS

- These plants produce prolific amounts of seed that wash down gutters and streams and readily germinate. Birds and small mammals also disperse the seeds through their droppings.
- These plants produce several small rhizomes (roots) that are easily spread in contaminated soil. Any moist soil will be quickly infiltrated.

Although these are popular cut flowers, the use of this plant must be discouraged for the home garden. Its spread must be stopped.



New Zealand Rock Lily

Arthropodium cirrhatum 'Matapouri Bay'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This evergreen clump forming lily produces panicles of creamy-white star-shaped flowers during mid-summer. 'Matapouri Bay' is a selected cultivar of the New Zealand Rock Lily and will grow to 1 m high. It is ideal as a container plant or mass planted along a low wall or border for dramatic effect. Prefers full-sun to part-shade and thrives in a wide range of soils.



Swamp Lily

Crinum pedunculatum



Photo: Lorna Rose

This Australian native plant has rosettes of broad leaves and clusters of white, highly fragrant flowers on 1 m stems. Flowers appear from November to March. An extremely hardy specimen, it thrives in full-sun or dappled shade. It is mildly frost tolerant and can withstand poor drainage and clay soils.



Tasmanian Flax Lily

Dianella tasmanica



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A popular and hardy evergreen perennial plant with arching, strappy foliage up to 1.2 m long. During spring and summer there are masses of nodding, star-shaped, bright blue to purple flowers which are followed by glossy, deep blue berries. It thrives in a sunny to partly shaded positions in a range of soils. Grows well in rockeries, gardens and containers. There are many hybrid *Dianellas* that are worth considering in your garden. Seek advice from your local garden centre.

Other suggested alternatives are the Day Lily (*Hemerocallis* species and hybrids) and *Philodendron* 'Xanadu'.



Topped Lavender, Bush Lavender, Italian Lavender

Lavandula stoechas



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Important note. Lavenders are valuable, reliable, sought after garden shrubs. They remain extremely important crops for the perfume, therapeutic, florist, home garden and craft industries.

Whilst topped lavender has proven invasive, other Lavenders continue to be highly recommended.

TIP: Removing spent flower heads immediately after flowering can avoid seed spread.

An erect or spreading, aromatic shrub with silver-grey foliage growing to 1 m high by 1 m wide. Purple flowers are packed in tight, upright clusters at tips of branches from July to December. Each flower cluster has 4–6 distinctive flags at the top, usually purple but sometimes pink or white. It occurs as a weed of neglected areas, poor pastures and grassy woodland throughout southern Western Australia.



Avonview Lavender

Lavandula stoechas 'Avonview'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This vigorous but compact hybrid selection of lavender provides a brilliant display of deep purple flower spikes and aromatic foliage over many months. It grows 0.8 m high by 0.6 m wide. Ideal for pots, hedging and cottage gardens. It prefers a well-drained soil in full-sun. Responds well to pruning after flowering to maintain shape. Once established it is drought hardy.



French Lavender

Lavandula dentata



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Attractive small evergreen shrub to 1.5 m high by 1.5 m wide. Grown for its aromatic soft grey-green foliage and heads of perfumed mauve-purple flowers and bracts in winter/spring and sporadically throughout the year. Thrives in a sunny, well-drained position and may be lightly pruned at any time. Ideal for pots, hedging and cottage gardens. Excellent cut flowers.



English Lavender

Lavandula angustifolia



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

English Lavender is commonly grown to be used as fresh cut flowers and/or bunches of dried stems, it is also used for pot pourri. There are numerous hybrids available with various hues of colour and fragrance. Summer flowering, it will grow to almost 1 m high by 1.2 m wide. Prefers an open full-sun position. It is frost tolerant and once established drought tolerant. Suitable for hedging, borders, pots and coastal gardens. Ask your local garden centre for advice about the best Lavenders for your garden.



Dietes species

Dietes species

Dietes are spreading, strappy leaved plants native to South Africa. They belong to the Iris family, and produce an abundance of cream or white iris like flowers on long stems for most of the year. They grow extremely well in Australian conditions and have now become invasive in various regions throughout Western Australia.



Spanish Iris

Dietes bicolor



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A clumping plant with long arching leaves and a prominent midrib to 0.9 m long. Lemon, iris like flowers with dark brown basal blotches, appear predominantly in summer.



African Iris

Dietes iridioides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This is a compact plant with arching leaves to 0.5 m long without a prominent midrib. White flowers 3.5 – 5 cm wide with pure white inner petals appear predominantly in spring.



Wild Iris

Dietes grandiflora



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This Iris is generally more robust than *D. iridioides* and has arching leaves from 0.75 – 1 m without a prominent midrib. White iris like flowers appear during spring and summer and are marked with yellow and brown blotches.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Dietes produce numerous seed pods which contain an abundance of seeds. Each seed can remain viable in the soil for an extended period of time and can readily germinate under most conditions.



Liriope 'Evergreen Giant'

Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

An evergreen, clump-forming perennial with grass-like, arching, linear leaves to 0.6 m long. Purple flowers appear on tall spikes from summer well into autumn. It can be used as an edging plant, specimen plant or mass planted in garden beds. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade and requires minimal care once established.



Fine Leaf Lomandra

Lomandra longifolia 'Tanika'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A small tufted clumping plant with narrow strap-like green leaves to 60 cm. A yellow flower spike appears from the leaf base in the early growing season and persists for many weeks. This species is extremely hardy and is tolerant of climatic extremes and most soil conditions. Ideal in mass plantings, this species grows well in full-sun and moderate to heavy shaded positions. Once established, this species can survive long periods without irrigation.



Morning Iris, Morning Flag

Orthrosanthus multiflorus



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A hardy evergreen native to 0.5 m. Stunning iris-like blue/mauve flowers appear above the strap like foliage across the warmer months. It can be used as a border plant or mass planted for a splash of colour. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade.



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.



English Ivy

Hedera helix



Photo: Lorna Rose

A widely planted ornamental, this species was unsuspectingly used to cover brick walls, sheds or was used as a ground cover beneath trees. It is extremely hardy and can survive in full-sun to shade. Easily distinguished by its dark green lobed leaves. Without pruning control, it smothers everything, debilitates trees and sets large quantities of seed.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Tenacious and invasive aerial roots cling to trees smothering the bark. Trailing stems will easily take root and spread along the ground. When the plant is allowed to mature to the shrubby adult form, the small umbels of white flowers are followed by a prolific amount of blue-black berries which are quickly spread by birds. Aerial roots may destroy mortar joints on walls.
- Clippings easily take root when dumped on unused ground or in bushland areas.

Other suggested alternatives to look for are Creeping Boobiala (*Myoporum parvifolium*), Dusky Coral Pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*) and Bower of Beauty (*Pandorea jasminoides*).



Chinese Star Jasmine

Trachelospermum jasminoides



Photo: Lorna Rose

This evergreen twining climber from China has dark, glossy foliage and masses of small, highly fragrant starry-white flowers which appear in summer. Initially it can be slow-growing, however it becomes vigorous with age. Variegated leaf forms 'Tricolor' and 'Variegatum' are also available. Often also used as an effective ground cover for large or small landscapes.



Grevillea

Grevillea species and cultivars



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Among the highly recommended varieties are 'Royal Mantle', 'Bronze Rambler', 'Bedspread' and 'Gin Gin Gem'.

All are fast-growing ground cover plants ideal for mass planting and covering of large areas. The red toothbrush flowers occur in spring and autumn. These species grow to about 0.3 m high by 2 m across and are frost tolerant. Grown as 'living mulch', they will trail over banks or walls and attract nectar-feeding birds. Mass planting is highly recommended.



Native Wisteria

Hardenbergia comptoniana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A hardy, vigorous, evergreen, native climber that produces profuse small, pea shape flowers in July, August and September. Flowers tend to be purple, however lilac-pink and white varieties are also available. Great for training over fences and suitable in semi-shaded positions.



Grafted Black Passionfruit

Passiflora edulis (grafted forms)



Photo: Habitat Plants

It is very common for the grafted forms of edible black passionfruit to sucker from the rootstock. The vines will quickly establish, subsequently producing huge quantities of blue-black fruits.



Banana Passionfruit

Passiflora mollissima

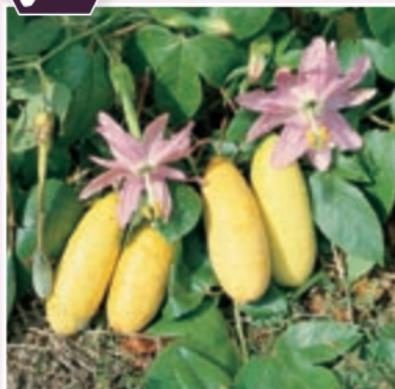


Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A rampant climber more popular for its large pink flowers than its oblong, yellow fruit. It can spread to 20 m smothering anything in its way. It produces little edible pulp, considered less tasty than the pulp of the black passionfruit.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Birds and bats eat the fruit and spread the seeds to fertile areas where they germinate readily.
- Stem fragments can easily strike upon contact with soil and cause further infestation.
- The vines will smother native vegetation.



Black Passionfruit

Passiflora edulis (seedling forms)



Photo: Fir0002

Seedling grown black passionfruit produce perfectly acceptable fruits and does not have the suckering problems of the grafted forms. Fruits may be consumed by birds and may spread into nearby areas. To prevent this, don't grow it unless you intend to eat the fruit.



Native Sarsaparilla

Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Wanderer'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint:

This is a vigorous, popular and generally hardy Australian native plant that grows to about 1 m high by 1 m wide. The pea-shape flowers appear in late winter and early spring and are violet in colour. It can be used as a ground cover and will climb on a support. It prefers an open sunny position. Pink and white flowering cultivars are also available.



Native Clematis

Clematis aristata and *Clematis microphylla*



Photo: Lorna Rose

These are the best known of the Australian native Clematis.

In summer/autumn, they produce a profuse amount of creamy-white flowers followed by small decorative fruits. Best in dappled shade for summer protection, they display well on fences, lattice or rough walls.



Fishbone Fern

Nephrolepis cordifolia



Photo: Anthony Kachenko

The look of this fern resembles the backbone of a fish, hence its name. A vigorous fern that spreads by spores or a dense rhizome network. It will dominate any shady area it is introduced into and is often found in old established gardens in moist conditions. It is very important to remove the underground rhizomes to effectively eliminate regrowth.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The spores of this fern can travel great distance by water, wind and contaminated soil where they readily germinate.
- Often spread by dumping of garden refuse.
- It can also spread vegetatively from its underground rhizomes.



Rasp Fern

Doodia aspera

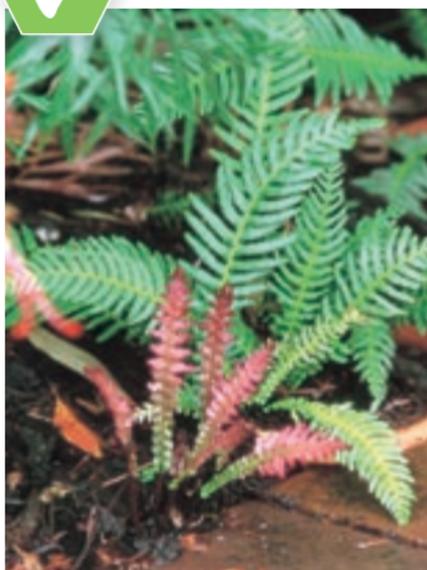


Photo: Lorna Rose

This hardy Australian native fern can reach 35 cm in height. It is well adapted to both sun and shade positions in the garden and produces short creeping rhizomes. New fronds appear pinkish-red and mature to green with age. Thrives best in organic moist soils.



Gristle Fern

Blechnum cartilagineum



Photo: Norwood Industries

This hardy tufted Australian fern can reach 1 m in height. Fronds appear pink when young and mature to pale green. This fern prefers a sheltered position in organic moist soils.



Hen and Chicken Fern

Asplenium bulbiferum



Photo: Lorna Rose

This popular fern is commonly available and is suitable for indoor or atrium plantings or in a shaded moist position in the garden. It can also be successfully grown in a hanging basket. Fronds are dark green and can reach 1.2 m. The little plantlets produced on the fern fronds are a remarkable feature.



Asparagus Ferns

Asparagus scandens, *Asparagus densiflorus*
Asparagus plumosus



Photo: John Virtue

Multi-branched prostrate and/or climbing herbs from the lily family that form a dense underground mat of rhizomatous roots. The fern-like branches grow to 0.6 m high and up to 2 m wide with a covering of small sharp spines. These natives from South Africa have small white-pink clusters of flowers in late summer which ripen to bright red, orange or black fruits.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- By dumping of garden waste. The seeds are readily dispersed by birds and small mammals.

Asparagus species are highly invasive environmental weeds however some species are still in nursery production.

These 'ferns' overtake natural species by developing dense thickets that deprive other plants of light and nutrients as well as destroying habitat. The most effective means of removal is to dig out the growth crown which lies just below the soil surface.



Grevilleas

Grevillea species and cultivars



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Among the highly recommended varieties are 'Royal Mantle', 'Bronze Rambler', 'Bedspread' and 'Gin Gin Gem'.

All are fast-growing ground cover plants ideal for mass planting and covering of large areas. The red toothbrush flowers occur in spring and autumn. These species grow to about 0.3 m high by 2 m across and are frost tolerant. Grown as 'living mulch', they will trail over banks or walls and attract nectar-feeding birds. Mass planting is highly recommended.



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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.



Chinese Star Jasmine

Trachelospermum jasminoides



Photo: Lorna Rose

This evergreen twining climber from China has dark, glossy foliage and masses of small, highly fragrant starry-white flowers which appear in summer. Initially it can be slow-growing, however becomes vigorous with age. Variegated leaf forms 'Tricolor' and 'Variegatum' are available.

Other suggested alternatives are Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*), Dusky Coral Pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*) and Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*).



Gazania

Gazania species especially rigens and linearis



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Older varieties are considered very invasive, particularly in residential areas near coastal and mallee environments where they will spread along roadsides from seeds blown from nearby gardens and dumped garden waste.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Produce abundant seeds that are spread by wind and water.
- Spread by dumping of garden waste.
- Also spread by runners which prevent native ground cover plants from growing.

Avoid any seed grown plants!

Please note: It is safe to grow the new sterile Gazania hybrids listed opposite. They have been specially bred as non-invasive and are relatively drought tolerant with improved growth habit, foliage, flower colour and size without viable seed set.



Fan Flower

Scaevola species and cultivars



There are approximately 72 Australian species of *Scaevola*, of which 40 occur naturally in Western Australia. This ground cover plant produces a prolific number of mauve, purple or white flowers. *Scaevola aemula* is the most popular in cultivation, with relatively large flowers. *Scaevola albida* has smaller flowers and is a fast-growing, dense ground cover that grows 0.2–0.3 m high by 1.5–2 m wide. Resistant to salt spray, it is a perfect coastal plant. Most species require good drainage and thrive in full-sun.

Photos: Ramm Botanicals



Gazanias - sterile varieties

Look for these wonderful, hardy, sterile Gazania hybrids at your local garden centre. They thrive in coastal conditions and can be grown as an annual in frost prone areas. Deadhead frequently to encourage flower production.



Montezuma

has distinctively striped, large flowers in earthy tones of orange and brown. Also has high pest and disease tolerance.



Sunset Jane

has large, honey coloured, fully double blooms over grey-green foliage. It can withstand dry conditions and is suitable for coastal plantings.



Sahara

has large, fully double yellow flowers and silver grey foliage.



Sun about

has double, bright yellow flowers.



Avalon

this single flowered variety with bright yellow flowers spreads well.

Photos: Ramm Botanicals

Other recommended suggestions are the Cut leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*) and Paper leaf Daisy (*Bracteantha bracteata*).



Seaside Daisy

Erigeron karvinskianus



Photo: SA DWLBC

This is a low spreading ground cover that will scramble over rocks or uneven ground. It is a perennial with lax stems and narrow hairy leaves. It produces a mass of small open faced daisy type flowers most of the year, particularly during summer. It can be invasive if not controlled and grows in moist disturbed areas. It also has escaped into coastal dunes and other exposed disturbed sites.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Produces masses of seeds which are dispersed by wind and water.
- Dumping of garden waste that may easily take root.
- Plants can be spread by layering.

This plant grows readily in damp areas to create shady thickets crowding native species and destroying habitat. Remove these plants from gardens and choose superior species that will prove more environmentally friendly.



Cut Leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida and cultivars

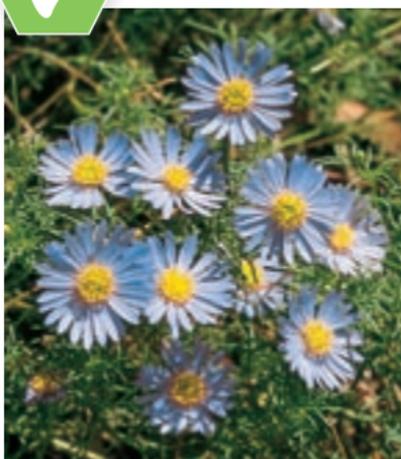


Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



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. Ask at your local garden centre for the best varieties for your garden

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Scaevola, Fan Flower

Scaevola species and cultivars



There are approximately 72 Australian species of Scaevola, of which 40 occur naturally in Western Australia. This ground cover plant produces a prolific number of mauve, purple or white flowers. *Scaevola aemula* is the most popular in cultivation, with relatively large flowers. *Scaevola albida* has smaller flowers and is a fast-growing, dense ground cover that grows 0.2–0.3 m high by 1.5–2 m wide. Resistant to salt spray, it is a perfect coastal plant. Most species require good drainage and thrive in full-sun.

Photos: Ramm Botanicals



Periwinkle

Vinca major



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This spreading perennial ground cover to 50 cm was widely cultivated because of its dense green foliage and small blue flowers. It has spread and successfully established in moist and damp areas such as wet gullies and creek banks. It forms dense mats suppressing all other plants. A variegated form may also be invasive.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Although it does not produce seed in Australia, it spreads by runners and by fragments carried in water or in relocated soil.
- The spread of this plant has been aided by gardeners who have spread cuttings into the bush.



Convolvulus

Convolvulus sabatius



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

An attractive evergreen perennial with a spreading prostrate habit. Blue to violet funnel form flowers appear in late spring to autumn. This species is suitable as a ground cover or spill-over plant in rockeries and is also ideal for large containers or hanging baskets. Reaching a height of about 20 cm, it will spread to 2 m wide. Prefers a moist well-drained site and is frost tolerant.



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium



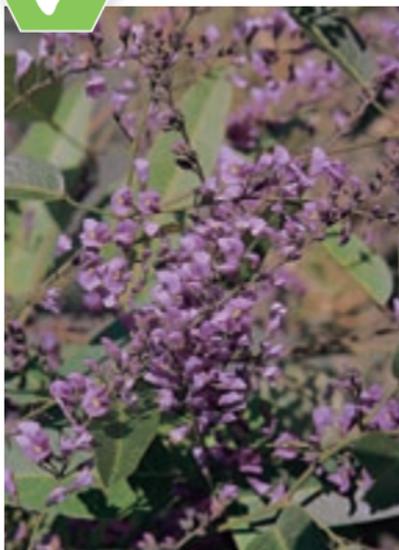
This evergreen, hardy Australian native forms a dense, weed suppressing ground cover that will easily cover one square metre. This species thrives if grown in freely-drained soil and full-sun. The flowers are white or pink and occur from winter to summer. Sweet fleshy fruits provide food for native birds.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Happy Duo Hardenbergia, Native Sarsaparella

Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Duo'



Hardenbergias are vigorous, popular and generally hardy Australian native plants that grow to about 1 m high by 1 m wide. This selected form has pea-shape purple and lavender-suffused white flowers that appear in late winter and early spring. It can be used as a ground cover and will also climb on a support. It prefers an open sunny position and can tolerate light to moderate frosts.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Other alternative suggestions are the Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans* 'Caitlins Giant') and Prostrate Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostratus').



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.



Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster species

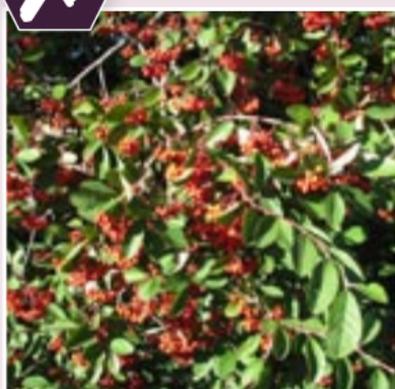


Photo: Delwyn Thomas

These common shrubs grow from prostrate to 4 m and were commonly used as hedging plants due to their vigorous nature. They produce clusters of white flowers during spring and summer followed by red berries which hang on the branches for months after flowering. These plants have become widespread weeds in bushland and farming land. Prostrate forms sold as ground covers or rockery plants do not appear to be invasive.



Firethorn

Pyracantha species

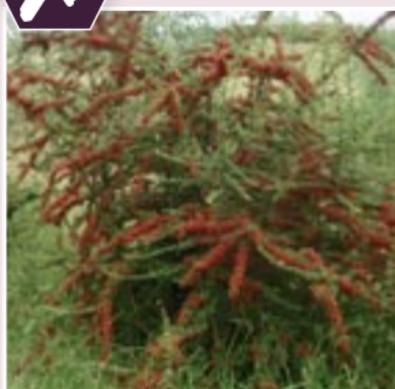


Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Vigorous evergreen shrubs to 4 m high that produce prolific clusters of white flowers followed by red, orange or yellow berries. These species were commonly planted as hedges. Pyracantha and Cotoneaster species are often confused with each other. Cotoneaster species are similar but lack thorns.

Other alternative suggestions are the New Zealand Christmas Bush (*Metrosideros excelsa*), Port Wine Magnolia (*Michelia figo*) and Lauristinus (*Viburnum tinus*).



Flowering Crabapples

Malus hybrids and cultivars



Photo: Fleming's Nurseries

Decorative, deciduous, highly ornamental, medium size trees grown for their prolific spring blossom and persistent, showy red crab apples in autumn and winter. Colours range from white to deep cerise and reddish-purple. They are often used as feature trees, in avenue plantings and will provide wonderful summer shade in a small to medium size garden.



Bottlebrush

Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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.



Sasanqua Camellias

Camellia sasanqua and cultivars



Photo: Lorna Rose

These hardy, evergreen shrubs are available in a wide range of heights, colours and forms. Single and double blooms in light to deep pinks, white, red and many bi-colours are available. Choose from sun hardy or shade tolerant varieties. They are frost and drought tolerant once established and are suitable as a container, hedging or specimen plant. Seek advice at your local garden centre for the best Camellias for your garden.



Bulbous Plants

There are a number of bulbous plants that have become invasive, largely as a result of dumped garden waste. Some of these plants are behaving aggressively whilst others are adventitiously taking advantage of the growing conditions to naturalise.

Many bulbs are highly invasive in Western Australia especially on the South Coast in the Mediterranean climate. Some of the most invasive include Bulbil Watsonia (*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*) and Tall Watsonia (*Watsonia borbonica*). Freesia (*Freesia alba* x *leichtlinii*) and Pink Gladiolus (*Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*) have also become serious weeds of urban bushland, coastal heath and Banksia woodlands.



Bulbil Watsonia

Watsonia meriana var. *bulbillifera*

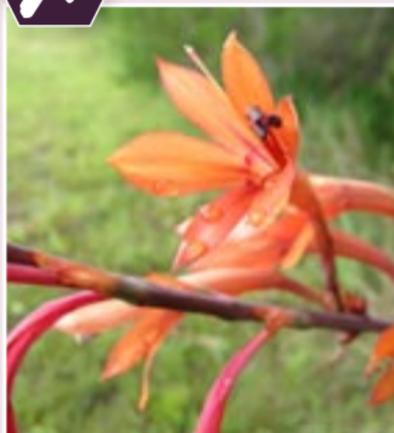


Photo: Ros Shepherd

Watsonia is native to South Africa and has been cultivated in Australia for more than 150 years. It has become a serious weed in moist regions where it colonises creek banks, remnant forest and roadsides. It is a sun-loving herbaceous perennial to 2 m which holds its orange flowers on a tall spike above the foliage. It was introduced as an ornamental and was popular because of its hardiness and bright flowers.

HOW IT SPREADS

- *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera* does not produce seed but spreads by cormels (bulbs) that develop along the flowering stem. These cormels are spread by water.



Morning Iris, Morning Flag

Orthrosanthus multiflorus



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A hardy evergreen native to 0.5 m. Stunning iris-like blue/mauve flowers appear above the strap like foliage across the warmer months. It can be used as a border plant or mass planted for a splash of colour. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade.



Bearded Iris

Iris germanica



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Available in a range of heights and colours, Bearded Iris are easy to establish and relatively low maintenance. The flowers are produced on short spikes and appear above the silver/grey strap like leaves. Iris are produced from rhizomes and are relatively drought tolerant once established.



Day Lilies

Hemerocallis species and hybrids



Photo: Lorna Rose

Day Lilies are either evergreen or deciduous with generous clumps of strap like leaves and tall flower stems with double or single flowers. The spectacular flowers are showy yet short lived and vary in colour, including cream, yellow, pink, orange and burgundy. Early, mid or late flowering hybrids are also available. Ask your local garden centre for advice about the best Day Lilies for your garden.



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.



Hottentot Fig

Carpobrotus edulis



Photo: Cradoc Nursery

A robust, fleshy perennial plant with prostrate stems up to 1 m long. The leaves act as water storage organs enabling the plant to survive hot dry summers. Flowers are light purple appearing through spring/summer and seeds are small and edible. It is widespread in coastal areas, on rocky headlands and sand dunes.



African Carrion Flower

Orbea variegata

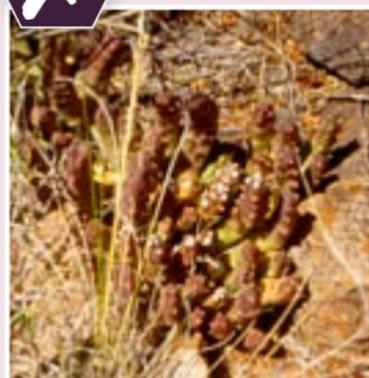


Photo: John Virtue (SA DWLBC)

A grey, prostrate succulent with fleshy, finger-like leaves. The showy white and red flowers have a putrid smell to attract flies for pollination. Fluffy seeds are readily spread by wind. It out competes native ground covers and can even kill large saltbush shrubs, threatening fodder supplies for livestock.



Echeveria glauca

Echeveria glauca



Photo: Glenfield Nursery

A clump forming, frost tolerant succulent plant with attractive bi-coloured yellow orange flowers. This hardy, fast-growing plant is suitable for full-sun to part-shade. Produces reddish flowers in late spring–early summer. Mass plant for an excellent effect in a dry weather garden.



Echeveria setosa

Echeveria setosa



Photo: Glenfield Nursery

A clump forming, evergreen, ground cover succulent with spoon shaped leaves covered in soft grey hairs to 10 cm tall. It produces yellow-orange flowers through the summer months. Plant in pots or along borders in full-sun. Requires minimal watering.



Pigface

Carpobrotus rossii and *Carpobrotus virescens*



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 with white centres. 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.



American Agave, American Aloe, Century Plant

Agave americana



Photo: Doug Bickerton, SA Department for Environment & Heritage

This plant has grey, sharp-tipped, strap-like leaves which form rosettes about 1.8 m wide. Its common name is Century Plant, due to the mistaken belief that it only flowers once every 100 years. In fact, after 10 years, it produces pale yellow flowers on a very tall, branched stem.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Its spread is mainly vegetative with new plants arising from stolons and from dislodged plant fragments.
- Commonly naturalized around old rural homesteads and coastal shacks, it has since spread to form dense, almost impenetrable thickets along roadsides and in coastal vegetation.



Agave, Century Plant

Agave attenuata



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

With an upright habit and heads to 0.9 m wide on stems up to 1.5 m, this plant has high architectural appeal.

Clumping habit when young, this plant is an ideal specimen for pots and a very popular accent plant. Extremely hardy and can withstand extremes in temperature.



Cabbage Tree

Cordyline australis species and cultivars



Photo: Andrew Smith, Warners Nurseries

Cordylines are hardy, erect, palm-like trees from New Zealand. They are easy care, generally unbranched and develop a broad crown of spreading sword-like pointed leaves. Plant in a full-sun or part-shade position and protect from heavy frosts while young. There are many new and improved colourful cultivars now available. For more information visit your local garden centre.



Spineless Yucca, Soft Tipped Yucca

Yucca elephantipes



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A small, evergreen tree and one of the most versatile indoor and outdoor foliage plants. It develops a thick, branching trunk reminiscent of an elephant's foot. Mid-green leaves are leathery and finely toothed. Adaptable to a wide range of climates and conditions, it is drought, salt and frost tolerant. This plant has high architectural appeal.



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.



Fountain Grass

Pennisetum setaceum



Photo: Macprint Floraprint

A tall perennial grass, forming tufts to 1 m high. Arching, thin, leathery leaves 20–30 cm long with prominent veins running lengthways. Flowers are small and occur in pink or purple, bristly, upright spikes at the ends of bamboo-like canes. Fruit are small and dry with long, showy bristles.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Seeds are readily spread by humans, wind, animals and water. It is commonly seen along roadsides, displaces natives and increases fire risk.



Purple Fountain Grass

Pennisetum advena 'Rubrum'



Photo: Colourwise Nursery

This sterile hybrid is a showy and popular ornamental perennial grass. It grows rapidly in dense clumps of burgundy coloured foliage up to 1.5 m high with arching purple-pink flower plumes in summer. The blooms are foxtail-like, are displayed above the foliage and produced in warm weather. A very hardy grass species that can tolerate periods of drought and light frosts.



Blue Flax Lily, Paroo

Dianella species and hybrids



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

There are 15 species of *Dianella* found across Australia. These hardy plants with fine strap-like leaves to 0.6 m high have blue, purple or white star-shaped flowers which appear in spring and summer. Flowers are followed by decorative blue berries containing shiny black seeds. Ask your local garden centre for advice about the best *Dianellas* for your garden.



Fine Leaf Lomandra

Lomandra longifolia 'Tanika'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A small tufted clumping plant with narrow strap-like green leaves to 60 cm. A yellow flower spike appears from the leaf base in the early growing season and persists for many weeks. This species is extremely hardy and is tolerant of climatic extremes and most soil conditions. Ideal in mass plantings, this species grows well in full-sun and moderate to heavy shaded positions. Once established, this species can survive long periods without irrigation.

Additional suggested alternatives include Silkyheads (*Cymbopogon obtectus*) and Foxtail Mulga Grass (*Neurachne alopecuroidea*).



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.



Parrot Feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum



Photo: Terry Inkson

A feathery leaved perennial aquatic plant with stems that grow up to 2 m in length. The tips of the stems frequently protrude from the water up to 30 cm. Seeds are infertile in Australia due to only female plants being recorded here. However, Parrot Feather reproduces by fragments breaking from the parent plant and moved by water currents. This species may also occur in home aquaria and ponds as the plant was once sold as an attractive fish tank plant. This aquatic plant is capable of choking water ways, dangerously excluding all other flora and fauna.

Please note: Do not dump aquatic plants into waterways as they may become invasive.



Native Waterlily

Nymphaea violacea



Photo: Blue Lotus Farm

This floating-leaved, rhizomatous perennial herb grows best in full sun. 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 30 cm above the water surface. They are 7–16 cm in diameter and violet, blue or white in colour.



Common Nardoo

Marsilea drummondii



This is a native aquatic fern that prefers slow moving or still water. The fronds produce leaflets in the shape of four-leaf clovers and generally float on the water's surface. Attractive foliage and vigorous growth make Common Nardoo an excellent water feature.

Photo: Oz Water Gardens



Swamp Lily

Ottelia ovalifolia



Native to all mainland states and grows in slowly flowing fresh water or the still water of ponds, dams and lagoons. The Swamp Lily may form extensive colonies in nutrient-rich water. The open flowers are the most visible and are white with reddish or purple centres and emerge in the warmer months. Blooms appear regularly and last for less than a day.

Photo: Fagg, M - ANBG

All species are recommended for attracting frogs into the garden.



9) Further information and additional resources

There are many areas of information regarding invasive plants and it can become overwhelming! Here are some useful sources of information to help you learn more about invasive plants.

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 -

Department of Agriculture and Food has useful information about invasive plants. Visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/weeds.htm 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 Western Australia (NGIWA) -

PO Box 589

WELSHPOOL DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6986

Ph. +61 8 9358 4811 Fax. +61 8 9358 4822

email: reception@ngiwa.com.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.



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