



Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland

A Guide for Gardeners in Queensland Wet Tropics



grow me™



instead



**The Nursery Industry -
Protecting Our Environment**



**Nursery & Garden Industry
Australia**



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2) Acknowledgements

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- This Queensland Wet-Tropics Bioregion 'Grow Me Instead' booklet has been produced by NGIQ through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Australian Government NRM Team
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Ph 1 800 552008 (Toll Free)
Web www.nrm.gov.au

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

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

This cooperation between the horticulture and nursery industries, the Australian Government and weed management bodies will help ensure 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

4) Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The purpose of this Grow Me Instead booklet...

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

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

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

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

Invasive plants are defined and grouped as follows.

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

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

A) The Invasive Plants

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

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

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

B) The Alternatives

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

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

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

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

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

The role of the nursery industry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



7) *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.



8) Controlling weeds

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.

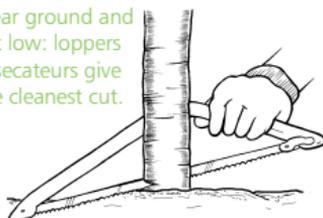
Control of woody weeds

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.



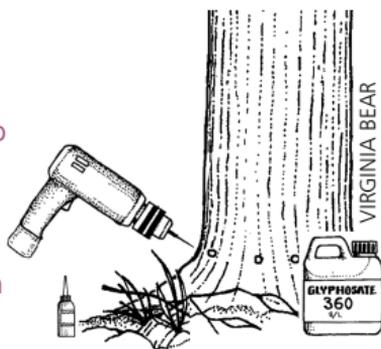
TIPS

- 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



Neem Tree

Azadirachta indica



Photo: Colin Wilson

An introduced exotic evergreen tree growing 10-15m with compound mid green foliage with a spreading rounded crown. Sweet smelling sprays of white flowers appear at the branch tips and are followed by plentiful ovoid fellow fruits. The plant has well recognised insecticidal and medicinal properties.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This tree produces a bounty of yellow fruit which can be spread by fruit eating animals and birds.
- Neem Tree is related to Melia species (Cedars) which also produce bountiful seedlings at their base.



White Cedar

Melia azedarach



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A deciduous Australian native tree that can get to 30m in height. It has large bipinnate glossy green leaves on spreading pendant branches. Flowers are white and mauve and form in large sprays in spring. This tree is fast growing and can be variable in size depending on growing conditions.

9) The invasive plants and their alternatives'



Mackay Cedar

Paraserianthes toona



Photo: Dale Arvidsson

Large Australian native bushy tree growing 10-25m in height. It has beautiful bipinnate leaves to 30cm and is deciduous. Terminal panicles of cream flowers appear in Spring followed by flattened pods.



Lemon Scented Myrtle

Backhousia citriodora



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Medium sized tree to 12m with grey green foliage to 10cm in length. A key feature is crushed leaves are strongly lemon scented. A profusion of white-cream flowers appear in summer. An underused Australian native rainforest tree.

Other superior selections include;

- *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* – Golden Penda
- *Syzygium luehmannii* – Small-leafed Lilly Pilly
- *Millettia pinnata* - Pongamia

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Orchid Tree

Bauhinia monandra



Photo: Amanda McCall

This small, semi-deciduous tree grows 6-10m in height. A short trunk gives rise to vigorous spreading branches which hold large 2-lobed mid-green leaves. The tree is covered in beautiful purplish pink orchid like flowers during the warmer months. Long flattened seed pods follow and they can hang on the tree for several months.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This tree produces an extremely large amount of seed which is moved by wind and water.
- These seeds have a high rate of germination and should not be planted near sensitive natural areas.



Hong Kong Orchid Tree

Bauhinia x blakeana



Photo: Norwood

This wonderful Bauhinia is considered a sterile form. It forms a tall densely foliated tree to 10m. The flowers are large, to 15cm, dark pink to red with purplish streaks and slightly fragrant. A truly spectacular tree when in full bloom autumn through to winter.



Queen Crepe Myrtle

Lagerstroemia speciosa



Photo: Neil Fisher

Taller growing than traditional crepe myrtle with long leathery leaves that turn copper red in Autumn and fall in winter. Absolutely spectacular in flower with large rose pink purple flowers 6-8cm across. This tree should be more widely grown.



Panama Flame Tree

Brownea macrophylla



Photo: Steve Jackson

Lovely tropical tree from central America growing to 10m in height. New foliage emerges light pink but soon hardens to deep glossy green. Spectacular scarlet red orange flowers emerge on the tips as well as the trunk in spring and summer with clusters up to 20cm wide.

Other superior selections include;

- *Lysiphyllum hookeri* – White Bauhinia
- *Stenocarpus sinuatus* – Wheel Of Fire
- *Harpullia pendula* - Tulipwood

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Pink Periwinkle

Catharanthus roseus



Photo: Sheldon Navie

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Pentas

Pentas lanceolata



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Perennial evergreen shrub to 1m with long lance shaped leaves. There are also several dwarf cultivars. They are covered in bright clusters of tiny star shaped flowers in the warmer months. They come in a rainbow of flower colours including white, pink, red and purple.



Arctic Snow

Wrightia antidysenterica 'Arctic Snow'



Photo: Colleen Way

Beautiful compact evergreen perennial shrub growing up to 1.5m. It has glossy green leaves and is covered in 2.5cm white star shaped flowers throughout the warmer months. A relatively new release well worth trying.



Vitex

Vitex rotundifolia



Photo: Tim West

Fantastic Australian native growing to about 1m in height. It has rounded greyish purple leaves and terminal spikes of white-pale purple flowers. This plant is also tolerant of salt spray.

Other superior selections include;

- *Ixora* species and cultivars - Ixoras
- *Orthosiphon aristatus* – Cat's Whiskers

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Brazilian Cherry

Eugenia uniflora



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Evergreen tropical tree to 8m with dark green glossy leaves and reddish new growth. Small scented white flowers in Spring are followed by sweet ribbed orange-red fruit about 2cm in size. The fruit is used in cooking in some cultures.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The fruit is extremely popular with birds which enable wide distribution in natural bushland.
- Seeds can also be spread by water and other small mammals.



Cedar Bay Cherry

Eugenia reinwardtiana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Rounded medium shrub growing 2-5m with dark green leaves, pretty white flowers and small shiny red edible fruit to 2cm. The plant is slow growing at first and the fruit are considered to be very tasty.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Lilly Pilly

Acmena smithii



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Evergreen rainforest tree reaching 8-10m in cultivation. It has beautiful foliage often with red new growth. It has fluffy white flowers in spring followed by white to pink berries. There are many new cultivars offering a range of growth habits and foliage types.

Other superior selections include;

- *Melicope rubra* – Little Euodia
- *Syzygium luehmannii* – Small-leafed Lilly Pilly

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Parrot's Beak Heliconia

Heliconia psittacorum



Photo: Peter Shanahan

This tropical plant from central America has large green leaves with a red edge. It usually remains around 1.2m but can become taller. It flowers all year and sets seed which aid in its distribution and it quickly colonises areas with adequate moisture.

This old style non hybrid *Heliconia* should be removed and appropriately disposed of.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This *Heliconia* produces viable seed which is spread by wind and water.
- This plant is also spread by pieces of rhizome which quickly regenerate.



Hybrid Heliconia

Heliconia chartacea 'Sexy Pink'



Photo: Utopia Palms and Cycads

Beautiful hybrid *Heliconia* growing to 1.8m with pastel pink, cream and green hanging flowers. The foliage takes on a 'shredded' look.



Cape York Lily

Curcuma australasica



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

An Australian native clumping plant growing to .75m. Leaves are long, light green and spade like. The summer flowers are yellow with the pink bracts forming a wonderful contrast. Although the plant does 'die down' through the winter months it is an excellent native ginger for the tropics.



Caribbean Heliconia

Heliconia caribea 'Red'



Photo: Utopia Palms and Cycads

This beautiful Heliconia is from the Caribbean Islands and grows to 2.5m in height. It has dark green glossy banana-like leaves with spectacular inflorescence that can be over 1m in length with brilliant red spathes.

Other superior selections include;

- *Alpinia modesta* – Narrow Leaf Ginger
- *Heliconia chartacea* 'Super Sexy' – Hybrid Heliconia

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mock Orange

Murraya paniculata (seedling grown form)



Photo: Sheldon Navie

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

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Mock Orange

Murraya paniculata (cutting grown form)



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Native Mock Orange

Murraya ovatifoliolata



Photo: Glenn Leiper

This Australian native grows to a height of 1-1.5m. Naturally occurring in the drier rainforests of northern Queensland, it has rounded foliage and is slower growing than the exotic *Murraya paniculata*. Although this selection can be a little more difficult to find, for those who wish to try a native alternative it is well worth trying.

Other superior selections include;

- *Pavetta australiensis* - Pavetta
- *Syzygium* 'Cascade' - Cascade Lilly Pilly

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mickey Mouse Plant

Ochna serrulata



Photo: Sheldon Navie

An open shrub growing 2-3m in height. Leaves are mid green, glossy, finely toothed with wavy margins. Spring flowers are butter yellow and mildly perfumed. The flowers are followed by 8mm long black berries held on a fleshy red receptacle.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The fruit are very attractive to birds and once eaten are distributed widely into natural bushland.
- Seeds germinate readily in sun or shade and are persistent and difficult to eradicate.



Native Fuchsia

Graptophyllum excelsum



Photo: Norwood

An Australian native that can reach 6-8m but is often less in cultivation. It has dark green glossy leaves and abundant rich red tubular flowers in summer. This fantastic plant should be more widely used.



Ixoras

Ixora species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Many new selections of this ever popular garden favourite are now available. There are cultivars with a range of growth habits, from low border shrubs to 0.5m through to taller selections growing 1-2m in height. With a wide range of flower colours, including pink, orange, yellow and even white, there is sure to be one to suit every situation.



Arctic Snow

Wrightia antidysenterica 'Arctic Snow'



Photo: Colleen Way

Beautiful compact evergreen perennial shrub growing up to 1.5m. It has glossy green leaves and is covered in 2.5cm white star shaped flowers throughout the warmer months. A relatively new release well worth trying.

Other superior selections include;

- *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Ocean Pearl' – Gardenia
- *Melaleuca* 'Rose Opal' (Syn. *Callistemon* 'Rose Opal') - Bottlebrush

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Golden Bamboo

Phyllostachys aurea

Black Bamboo

Phyllostachys nigra



Photo: Bamboo Downunder

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

HOW THEY SPREAD

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



Timor Black Bamboo

Bambusa lako



Photo: Barry Naylor

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



Indian Mast Tree

Polyalthia longifolia var. *pendula*



Photo: Norwood

A beautiful tree from tropical Asia with tall straight trunk to 15m and striking conical-columnar habit. The leaves are long, glossy and green and held in downward facing fashion forming a curtain like screen. This is an excellent choice when a tall narrow screen is desired.



Tiger Grass

Thysanolaena latifolia
Syn. *Thysanolaena maxima*



Photo: Barry Naylor

Fantastic clumping perennial grass that forms an impenetrable screen. Growing to a height of 3.5m with arching stems and narrow leaves this is an excellent substitute for running bamboo as it is a clump forming plant.

Other superior selections include;

- *Bambusa ventricosa* – Buddha's Belly Bamboo
- *Bambusa textilis* var. *gracilis* – Slender Weavers Bamboo
- *Bambusa vulgaris* 'Wamin' – Giant Buddha's Belly Bamboo

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Yellow Guava

Psidium guajava



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Evergreen tropical tree growing to 9m in height. Leaves are 15cm long and leathery with downy undersides and form a thick canopy. Clusters of white flowers are formed in Spring and are followed by large (10cm) yellow pear shaped fruit. The fruit is edible and often used to make jams.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Birds ingest the seeds while feasting on the fleshy fruit enabling wide distribution
- These seeds are also moved by water



Native Guava

Eupomatia laurina



Photo: Andrew Ford

Lovely small tree growing 3-5m with glossy green leaves that turn reddish bronze in the winter. Pale heavily scented flowers are followed by 25mm urn shaped fruit that are green at first becoming brown through the winter.



Cedar Bay Cherry

Eugenia reinwardtiana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Rounded medium shrub growing 2-5m with dark green leaves, pretty white flowers and small shiny red edible fruit to 2cm. The plant is slow growing at first and the fruit are considered to be very tasty.



Jaboticaba

Myrciaria cauliflora



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Slow growing at first this small tree can reach 6-10 in height. Small white flowers are borne in clusters directly along the stems. Deep purple, thick skinned fruit appear later that resemble grapes, having a similar translucent pulp.

Other superior selections include;

- *Pouteria campechiana* - Ross Sapote
- *Solanum betaceum* - Tamarillo
- *Psidium* hybrids – Grafted Guava Cultivars

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Sanchezia

Sanchezia parvibracteata



Photo: Bob Jago

This shade tolerant shrub grows to 5m. It has smooth squarish stems and large dark green leaves that can get to 20cm in length. The leaves have dominant yellow mid-rib and lateral veins. It bears spikes of tubular yellow and red flowers with dominant stamens.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This plant reproduces vegetatively, with even a small piece of stem able to start a new plant.
- The plant is also prone to sending up suckers.



Medinilla

Medinilla magnifica



Photo: Norwood

Erect rainforest shrub growing to 2m in height. It has interesting foliage with leaves that are long, glossy dark green and often have dominant veins or ribs. It bears superb panicles of tiny pink flowers backed by pink bracts making a very showy display.



Croton

Codiaeum variegatum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

There is now an abundance of new cultivars of this garden favourite. Providing year round colour with a wide array of leaf shapes and growth habits this plant is equally at home in full sun or semi shaded position. An absolute must for the sub-tropical garden.



Cordylines

Cordyline fruticosa cultivars
Syn. *Cordyline terminalis*



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

If sub-tropical colour and form is what you are after then this plant is an absolute must. There is an absolute myriad of colours and growth habits available through the many cultivars of this all time favourite. Flowers are less spectacular but for all round colour it is hard to go past these beauties.

Other superior selections include;

- *Graptophyllum ilicifolium* – Holly Fuchsia
- *Graptophyllum pictum* – Caricature Plant

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Cocos Palm

Syagrus romanzoffiana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Alexandra Palm

Archontophoenix alexandrae



Photo: Lorna Rose

Tall slender and graceful palm growing to 15m. Large green fern like fronds with distinctive silver undersides emerge from the straight trunk. It has small cream flowers in clusters followed by an abundance of berries. Spent fronds are shed by this 'self cleaning' palm.



Foxtail Palm

Wodyetia bifurcata



Photo: Norwood

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



Carpentaria Palm

Carpentaria acuminata



Photo: Norwood

Tall slender and graceful palm growing to 20m. Light grey trunk with prominent rings. Long deep green fronds to 3.5m form a dense thick crown. Inflorescences form below the crown shaft with white flowers later forming deep red berries.

Other superior selections include;

- *Ptychosperma elegans* – Solitaire Palm
- *Livistona decipiens* – Cabbage Tree Palm
- *Roystonea regia* – Cuban Royal Palm

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Java Plum

Syzygium cumini



Photo: Julie Roach

Evergreen Asian rainforest tree with thick canopy of large dark green leaves. Fluffy cream white flowers are borne in axillary clusters in Spring. Purple-black berries follow that are 2cm long and plentiful. There is a single brown seed in each fruit.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seeds are both plentiful and loved by birds and flying foxes which aid the wide distribution of this invasive tree.
- The seed can be moved by water and the tree can even survive in standing water making it a serious threat to natural ecosystems.



Roly Poly Satinash

Waterhousea unipunctata



Photo: Barry Naylor

This attractive Australian native tree can reach 15m but is often smaller in garden situations. It has extremely beautiful foliage with wavy margins and bright red-pink new growth which seem to be on the plant all year.



Johnson River Satinash

Syzygium erythrocalyx



Photo: Norwood

Rainforest tree that will reach 15m. It has extremely large glossy green leaves that can reach 30cm in length. New leaves are pink in colour. The flowers are borne on the trunk and branches and they are red with white stamens. It has very large dark red pear shaped fruit to 80mm.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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

Other superior selections include;

- *Waterhousea floribunda* – Weeping Lilly Pilly
- *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* – Golden Penda

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Japanese Sunflower

Tithonia diversifolia



Photo: Sheldon Navie

A large perennial shrub grows to 4m. The large leaves are oblong and hairy with lobed margins. The large vivid yellow flowers resemble oversized daisies and appear in Summer and Autumn.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seed is dispersed by a range of animals, wind and water.
- Seed is also carried on clothing, on agricultural equipment and other vehicles.



Dwarf Golden Penda

Xanthostemon chrysanthus 'Fairhill Gold'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Compact growing form of the popular Australian native tree growing to 3m in cultivation. It naturally forms a dense screen of dark green glossy foliage and is covered with a profusion of large yellow flower heads in Spring and Autumn. This tree is bird attracting and is effective as either a specimen or screen tree



Ixoras

Ixora species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Many new selections of this ever popular garden favourite are now available. There are cultivars with a range of growth habits, from low border shrubs to 0.5m through to taller selections growing 1-2m in height. With a wide range of flower colours, including pink, orange, yellow and even white, there is sure to be one to suit every situation.



Golden Thyralis

Galphimia glauca



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Evergreen shrub with twiggy habit can reach 2m but is best kept pruned to form a neat 1m shrub. It has reddish stems and oblong green foliage. It is covered in clusters of yellow flowers in spring through until autumn. This is an 'old favourite' but a solid garden performer.

Other superior selections include;

- *Xerochrysum bracteata* – Everlasting Daisy
- *Holmskioldia sanguinea* 'Mandarin Sunrise' – Chinese Hat Plant
- *Hypericum patulum* var. *henryi* – St John's Wort

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Moses In The Cradle

Tradescantia spathacea



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Evergreen clumping plant to 0.5m. Fleshy lance shaped leaves to 30cm emerge from a short trunk. The leaves are glossy and green with distinctly purple undersides. There are small white flowers in boat shaped structure and seeds in a papery capsule.

Note: The 'Dwarf' form is not considered an invasive threat.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The plant produces seed which will germinate in favourable conditions.
- The plant will reproduce from pieces of stem and is spread through the dumping of garden waste.



Dwarf Variegated Rhoeo

Tradescantia spathacea 'Dwarf Variegated'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This evergreen tropical plant has rosettes of succulent dark greenish purple leaves, bearing striking pink and white stripes. Forming low growing clumps 30-50cm this plant makes an excellent foliage contrast and is a must for the tropical garden.



Blue Ginger

Dichorisandra thrysiflora



Photo: Norwood

Perennial ginger type plant with glossy dark green leaves up to 30cm in length emerging from upright stems. Brilliant blue flowers appear in terminal clusters during autumn.



Bromeliad

Neoregelia species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Tough foliated tropical plant with a wide array of foliage colours including green to maroon and even variegated with green and yellow stripes. Growth habits and flower colour also vary, including blue and white. While they appreciate protection from direct sunlight they need adequate light to maintain colour.

Other superior selections include;

- *Chlorophytum amaniense* 'Fireflash' - Fire Flash
- *Tradescantia spathacea* 'Dwarf' – Dwarf Rhoeo

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mulato Tree

Triplaris species



Photo: Philip Cameron

This large deciduous tropical tree can reach a height of 30m. It has large mid green leaves on large hollow branches. There are male and female trees of this plant. The male produces clusters of long white flower spikes but the female produces spectacular pink-red flowers that make the plant popular. Inside the small nut like fruit are many thousands of brown winged seeds.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This tree produces an abundance of seed that is spread by wind and water.
- These seeds have a high rate of germination which makes this a serious invasive threat.



Queensland Tree Waratah

Alloxylon flammeum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This beautiful tree is an absolute sight in full bloom. From the north Queensland rainforest, it will grow 10-15m in height. It has irregular dark green lobed leaves but it at flowering time this tree truly shines. In the warmer months it is covered in orange-red waratah type flowers that attract bees and birds to their rich nectar.



Wheel Of Fire

Stenocarpus sinuatus



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Handsome yet slow growing Australian rainforest tree growing to 20m but most often half that in cultivation. Glossy green foliage up to 30cm in length forming a dense crown. A truly spectacular plant when in flower; covered with 8cm orange red flowers resembling spokes of a wheel.



Flame Tree

Brachychiton acerifolius



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Another spectacular tree with lobed mid green leaves reaching 15m in height. In flower they are almost leafless, allowing the sprays of scarlet red bell shaped flowers to dominate the view, and they can be seen from some distance around. There are many grafted specimens now, producing a vast array of flower shapes and colours.

Other superior selections include;

- *Lagerstroemia speciosa* – Queen's Crepe Myrtle
- *Lophanthera lactescens* – Golden Chain

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Climbing and Ground Cover Plants

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



Golden Trumpet Vine

Allamanda cathartica



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This vigorous fast growing climber can reach 5m or more in height, especially with the assistance of adjacent trees. The woody cane like stems hold whirls of dark green glossy foliage that produces a milky latex sap when cut. In the warmer months it bears large, golden yellow trumpet flowers.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This plant can regenerate from dumped garden waste and invade rainforest and forest fringes.
- This plant should not be planted near sensitive natural areas.



Garlic Vine

Mansoa alliacea



Photo: Norwood:

While the glossy green foliage that covers this vigorous climber-rambler provides an effective groundcover there is little doubt the spectacular clusters of large mauve-purple flowers are its greatest asset.



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Roaring Meg

Tecomanthe species 'Roaring Meg'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Vigorous twining Australian native climber with dark green glossy foliage. It has the most spectacular reddish magenta bell shaped flowers that occur in sprays several times a year. This plant can be hard to locate but is underused and well worth trying in your garden.

Other superior selections include;

- *Petrea volubilis* – Purple Wreath
- *Mandevilla 'Sundial'* - Yellow Mandevilla

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Purple Joyweed

Alternanthera brasiliana

Syn. *Alternanthera dentata*



Photo: Sheldon Navie

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Burgundy Caricature Plant

Graptophyllum pictum



Photo: Barry Naylor

While naturally growing to 1.5m this colourful tropical plant can be pruned to a neat hedge of 0.5-1.0m. This cultivar has burgundy, cream and green leaves and is very showy. It has terminal clusters of tubular reddish pink flowers but is mainly used for its vibrant foliage.



Croton

Codiaeum variegatum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

There is now an abundance of new cultivars of this garden favourite. Providing year round colour with a wide array of leaf shapes and growth habits this plant is equally at home in full sun or semi shaded position. An absolute must for the sub-tropical garden.



Ixoras

Ixora species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Many new selections of this ever popular garden favourite are now available. There are cultivars with a range of growth habits, from low border shrubs to 0.5m through to taller selections growing 1-2m in height. With a wide range of flower colours, including pink, orange, yellow and even white, there is sure to be one to suit every situation.

Other superior selections include;

- *Acalypha wilkesiana* 'Firestorm'
- *Melaleuca* 'Great Balls of Fire'
(Syn. *Callistemon* 'Great Balls of Fire')
- *Arachis pintoi* – Ground Peanut

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

This scrambling or climbing shrub can grow up to 8m high. It has glossy dark green leaves and fragrant nectar filled white flowers that age to yellow. Summer flowers are followed by small shiny black berries in Autumn.

HOW IT SPREADS

- The seeds are dispersed by water and birds. The stems take root where they touch the ground.
- The plant is also often dumped on roadsides and bushland edges.
- Whilst once a common garden plant, this Honeysuckle is now a seriously invasive plant in many moist native bushland areas.



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Wonga Wonga Vine

Pandorea pandorana



Photo: Lorna Rose

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



Snake Vine

Hibbertia scandens



Photo: Lorna Rose

Slender twining climber or trailing groundcover plant. It has dark green leaves and plentiful large buttercup yellow flowers in the warmer months. This plant is drought and frost resistant and tolerant of salt spray.

Other superior selections include;

- *Mansoa alliacea* – Garlic Vine
- *Trachelospermum jasminoides* – Star Jasmine

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Fishbone Fern

Nephrolepis cordifolia

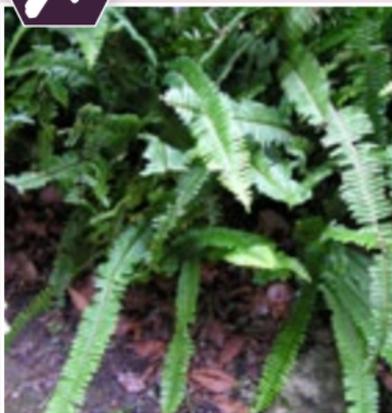


Photo: Anthony Kachenko

Generally regarded as an Australian native, this fern has become invasive outside its original range. Extremely tough fern spreading rapidly by underground rhizomes with erect slightly arched fishbone shaped fronds to 75cm. Tolerates dry conditions but prefers a warm position with moist soil.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Spores can be carried by either wind or water.
- Dumping of garden waste is a common method of spreading this plant. It only takes a small piece of this plant to regenerate, so ensure complete and effective disposal.



Rasp Fern

Doodia aspera



Photo: Barry Naylor

Fantastic native fern with attractive foliage, new fronds being bright pinkish red. Forms a great groundcover but prefers some protection from full sun. It is surprisingly drought tolerant and generally quite hardy.



Gristle Fern

Blechnum cartilagineum



Photo: Norwood

Extremely hardy native fern tolerant of both frost and drought conditions. It prefers some protection from the full sun, foliage is mid green but new fronds are pink, providing an attractive contrast.



Rough Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum hispidulum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Glossy green fan shaped fronds emerge from dark brown stems to 30cm high forming a tuft. New foliage is pink. This fern prefers a moist situation and protection from full sun for best results.

Other superior selections include;

- *Asplenium australasicum* – Bird's Nest Fern
- *Rumohra adiantiformis* – Leather Fern

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Arrowhead Vine

Syngonium podophyllum



Photo: Sheldon Navie

A robust climbing vine with arrowhead shaped leaves when young that mature into deeply lobed glossy leaflets that can be up to 30cm in length. The vine stems root into either the ground where they touch or even the bark of supporting trees.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This plant is spread through dumping of garden waste.
- The plant can reproduce from very small pieces of stem.



Australian Wax Plant

Hoya australis var. australis



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

An evergreen vine that can grow to a height of 3m but happy to remain as a groundcover without something nearby to climb on. It has thick fleshy dark green leaves and it has spectacular white-pink star flowers on compact heads in winter and spring.



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Xanadu

Philodendron 'Xanadu'



Photo: Barry Naylor

One of the world's truly great landscape plants. With its glossy dark green deeply lobed foliage it provides a lush tropical effect. It creates a neat clump 1m x 1m, is suitable for mass planting and is at its best in full sun or a semi shaded position.

Other superior selections include;

- *Aristolochia acuminata* - Native Dutchman's Pipe
- *Trachelospermum jasminoides* – Star Jasmine

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Black-eyed Susan

Thunbergia alata



Photo: Lorna Rose

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Roaring Meg

Tecomanthe species 'Roaring Meg'



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Vigorous twining Australian native climber with dark green glossy foliage. It has the most spectacular reddish magenta bell shaped flowers that occur in sprays several times a year. This plant can be hard to locate but is underused and well worth trying in your garden.



Wonga Wonga Vine

Pandorea pandorana



Photo: Lorna Rose

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

Other superior selections include;

- *Trachelospermum jasminoides* – Star Jasmine
- *Hibbertia scandens* – Snake Vine
- *Bauhinia corymbosa* – Climbing Bauhinia

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Wandering Jew

Tradescantia fluminensis



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Vigorous trailing evergreen perennial forming a dense mat up to 50cm thick. Succulent brittle stems with tightly held glossy green foliage. Small white flowers are produced intermittently throughout the year. This plant is highly invasive.



Silver Inch Plant

Tradescantia zebrina



Photo: Sheldon Navie

As above but with purple foliage that has distinct silver stripes running along each leaf. Very invasive.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- These plants are spread vegetatively through dumping of garden waste, water movement and mowing.
- Reproduction can occur from the smallest piece of stem so effective disposal is paramount.



Native Violet

Viola hederacea



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Bower of Beauty

Pandorea jasminoides



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Snake Vine

Hibbertia scandens



Photo: Lorna Rose

Slender twining climber or trailing groundcover plant. It has dark green leaves and plentiful large buttercup yellow flowers in the warmer months. This plant is drought and frost resistant and tolerant of salt spray.

Other superior selections include;

- *Palisota elizabethae*
- *Ajuga australis* – Native Bugle

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Berried Plants

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



Shoe-button Ardisia

Ardisia elliptica



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Evergreen shrub growing to 4m in height with elongated oval leaves that are leathery and hairless. Young foliage is reddish but matures to mid-green. Clusters of white-pink flowers form at the branch tips. Fruit is green at first but matures through red and finally to a dark purplish black and contain a single seed.



Coral Berry

Ardisia crenata



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Compact thick shrub growing to 1m with dark green thick glossy leaves with attractive wavy margins. Lateral sprays of small white-pink flowers emerge in warmer months followed by abundant green berries that mature to bright red in Autumn and Winter.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- Birds are attracted to the plentiful berries and distribute them widely.
- Other fruit eating animals also ingest the berries and aid in dispersal.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Cedar Bay Cherry

Eugenia reinwardtiana



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Rounded medium shrub growing 2-5m with dark green leaves, pretty white flowers and small shiny red edible fruit to 2cm. The plant is slow growing at first and the fruit are considered to be very tasty.



Native Gardenia

Atractocarpus fitzalanii

Syn. *Randia fitzalanii*



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Beautiful small tree growing to 8m. Large glossy green leaves form on naturally well shaped branches. Bears terminal clusters of fragrant white flowers which are followed by greenish brown berries. This tree should be more widely used in the Sub-Tropics.

Other superior selections include;

- *Pleomele angustifolium* – Native Dracaena
- *Larsenaikia jardinei* – Shiny Leaved Larsenaikia
- *Rhaphiolepis indica* 'Intermedia' – Indian Hawthorn

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Prickly Duranta

Duranta erecta



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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

Note: This plant is also considered poisonous.



Lilly Pillies

Syzygium australe cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Holly Fuchsia

Graptophyllum ilicifolium



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Fantastic Australian native plant with interesting glossy holly like leaves reaching 2m in height. It has beautiful pink tubular flowers in the warmer months. This plant performs at its best with some protection from midday sun.



Port Wine Magnolia

Magnolia 'Coco'

Syn. *Michelia 'Coco'*



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

New cultivar of the ever popular Port Wine Magnolia performs well in the tropics. It has glossy green leaves and a bushy habit growing to 3m. It has fragrant white and maroon flowers in spring that smell like port wine!

Other superior selections include;

- *Graptophyllum pictum* – Caricature Plant
- *Ixora* species and cultivars – Ixoras

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Grasses

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



Swamp Foxtail or Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides



Photo: André Karwath

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

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Purple Fountain Grass

Pennisetum advena 'Rubrum'



Photo: Colourwise Nursery

This sterile hybrid is a showy and popular perennial ornamental grass. It grows rapidly forming dense clumps of burgundy coloured foliage up to 1.5m in height. Arching purple pink flower spikes appear above the foliage in summer.



Mat Rushes

Lomandra species and cultivars



Photo: Barry Naylor

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



Flax Lilies

Dianella species and cultivars



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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

Other superior selections include;

- *Themeda triandra* – Kangaroo Grass
- *Cymbopogon ambiguus* – Native Lemon Grass

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Bulbous Plants

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

Many bulbous plants are becoming invasive in Queensland, with Glory Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) and Taiwan Lily (*Lilium formosanum*) amongst the worst. Seek sound advice before planting bulbs and similar plants. Whilst most have spectacular flowers consideration must be given to assessing their invasive potential.



Canna Lily

Canna indica



Photo: Sheldon Navie

This once popular water loving plant grows from knotted underground rhizomes to a height of 1-1.5m. Densely packed purple tinged green leaves emerge from the base with flower stalks holding small red flowers rising above the foliage throughout the warmer months. The small smooth black seeds are held in a spined capsule and germinate readily.

HOW IT SPREADS

- This old fashioned *Canna* produces seed which when spread enable colonisation of natural areas.
- The dumping of garden waste containing rhizome or seed aids in the spread of this invasive plant.



Cunjevoi

Alocasia brisbanensis



Photo: Paul Donatiu

Large green elephant ear leaves emerge from a thick base to a height of 1.5m. Greenish white spathiphyllum style flowers appear on stalks in the warmer months followed by red berries.

Please note: all parts of this plant are considered poisonous if ingested.



Elephant Ears

Alocasia macrorrhizos 'New Guinea Gold'



Photo: Barry Naylor

Large elephant ear leaves emerge on long stems to 1.8m. It is often variegated, with speckles of yellow on the leaves. It has bright yellow blooms in summer. This plant needs some protection from the sun and ample moisture.



Mat Rushes

Lomandra species and cultivars



Photo: Barry Naylor

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

Other superior selections include;

- *Canna indica* 'Hybrids' – Hybrid Canna Lilies
- *Cordyline fruticosa* (Syn. *Cordyline terminalis*) – Cordylines
- *Curcuma australasica* – Cape York Lily

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Kahili Ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum



Photo: Sheldon Navie

Bright green leaves clasp 2m tall stems that emerge from underground rhizomes. The plant bears beautiful fragrant yellow and red flowers in dense spikes in late Summer-early Autumn. Red berries follow which hold black seeds that germinate freely.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Many related Ginger like plants reproduce by rhizome spread only. This Ginger produces abundant seeds that are spread by birds and water.
- It quickly colonises the edge of rainforest and woodlands displacing native species.



Native Ginger

Alpinia caerulea



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Excellent native plant with mid green leaves on erect stems that emerge from the central rhizome. The plant has beautiful white and red 'ginger type' flowers in clusters on the tips of branches. There is a selection with purple undersides to the leaves which makes a superb foliage contrast.



Cape York Lily

Curcuma australasica



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

An Australian native clumping plant growing to .75m. Leaves are long, light green and spade like. The summer flowers are yellow with the pink bracts forming a wonderful contrast. Although the plant does 'die down' through the winter months it is an excellent native plant for the tropics.



Native Crepe Ginger

Costus potierae



Photo: Yuruga Nursery

Clumping ginger with upright canes and interesting green and white foliage. It has a red flower cone which produces white flowers with gold markings in summer. This plant prefers a shady position for best results. It is rare and endangered and should be used more widely.

Other superior selections include;

- *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora* – Blue Ginger
- *Cordyline fruticosa* (Syn. *Cordyline terminalis*) - Cordylines
- *Alpinia caerulea* 'Purpurea' – Red-backed Native Ginger

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Succulent Plants

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



Century Plant

Agave americana



Photo: Doug Bickerton, SA Department for Environment & Heritage

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Spineless Agave

Agave attenuata



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Bromeliad

Aechmea species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

Extremely tough and hardy Bromeliad that makes an ideal specimen plant. It has reddish yellow foliage and is able to tolerate almost direct sunlight. It can reach 1.5m-2.0m in height. Striking flower spike with gold flowers with huge red bracts which last for many months.



Swamp Lily

Crinum pedunculatum



Photo: Lorna Rose

Robust clumping plant with thick leathery leaves which will grow in heavy water laden soils, saline situations and even the seashore. In spring and summer it produces several stout flowering stems with large clusters of thinly petalled white lily type flowers.

Other superior selections include;

- *Zamia furfuracea* – Cardboard Palm
- *Encephalartos ferox* – Zululand Cycad

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Mother In Law's Tongue

Sansevieria trifasciata



Photo: Sheldon Navie

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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Cast Iron Plant

Aspidistra elatior



Photo: Barry Naylor

Thick ribbed deep green leaves emerge on short stalks from woody underground rhizomes. Leaves stand to around 60cm but often arch down. There are small bell shaped flowers that vary from white to dark purple that emerge at ground level. This is an extremely tough plant.



Flax Lilies

Dianella species



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Cardwell Lily

Proiphys amboinensis

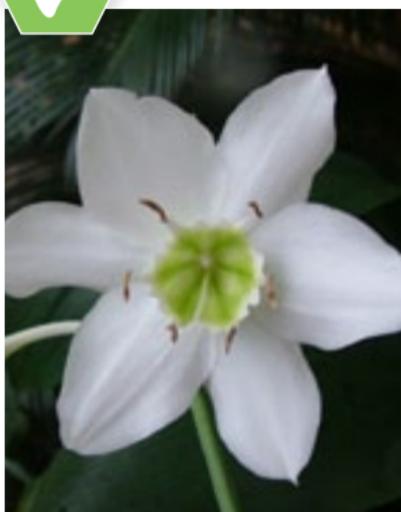


Photo: Sheldon Navie

Beautiful Australian native bulbous plant with large rounded deeply veined leaves emerging on a 45cm petiole. The 5cm wide fragrant white flowers emerge on a tall flower spike in umbel like clusters of 15-20 flowers. A wonderful yet underused plant in the tropics.

Other superior selections include;

- *Billbergia brasiliensis* – Bromeliad
- *Liriope 'Stripey White'* – Stripey White
- *Microsorium punctatum* – Calves Tongue Fern

Ask your local retailer for more superior selections



Aquatic Plants

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



Yellow Water Lily

Nymphaea mexicana



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

HOW IT SPREADS

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



Native Water Lily

Nymphaea violacea



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

Photo: Blue Lotus Farm



Hybrid Water Lily

Nymphaea hybrids



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

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



Wavy Marshwort

Nymphoides crenata



Photo: Glenfield Wholesale Nursery

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

Note: When choosing water plants it is essential to seek advice from local experts. A plant that is suitable for one situation may be disastrous in another.



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11) 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 -

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

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

4. Australian Government -

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

5. Weeds Australia via the Australian Weeds Committee -

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

6. Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) -

PO Box 345 Salisbury Qld 4107 Australia

Ph. +61 7 32777900

Fax. + 61 7 32777109

email: info@ngiq.asn.au

web: www.ngiq.asn.au

7. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia -

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



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