

# Coastal Gardens

A planting guide for the  
Albany, Denmark and  
Walpole Coastal Region

local

water-wise

style

habitat



# Healthy & attractive urban landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for people living in the Walpole to Albany coastal region and beyond. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

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## Using this planting guide

### Getting started

Our gardens are challenged with dry summers, drought, water restrictions, and a changing climate. As a coastal resident you may also have to tackle salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils.

However, there is good news! You *can* have a garden that copes with our tough climate without compromising on style, by using resilient, local native coastal plants.

This guide shows you how to utilise the fantastic variety of native plants available to make a stunning garden. Taking you through step by step, you will learn what plant works best for a given area or need, how to incorporate them in different landscaping styles and how to maintain them.

You will learn about plants to avoid which are known to become serious weeds in natural coastal environments. When buying future plants, you will be prepared to consider natives for the benefits they provide. You may also identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your coastal garden benefits your wallet. It's an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering local coastal plants. Happy gardening!

# Discovering local plants

## What is a local plant?

Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your neighbourhood so they have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'indigenous plants'.

## Why use local plants?

Local plants have a huge range of benefits.

- Low maintenance.
- Drought tolerant.
- Require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies.
- Don't need fertilisers or pesticides.
- Provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards.
- Save you money and time.
- Adaptable for various landscaping styles, producing striking results.
- Native plants flower at different times of the year so you can have a flowering garden all year round.

Local plants are a great option for residents of coastal areas. They have adapted to survive the harsh conditions of sand and salt blasting, prolonged sun exposure, nutrient-deprived soils, and limited water availability. They are the best plants for your neighbourhood and the environment.

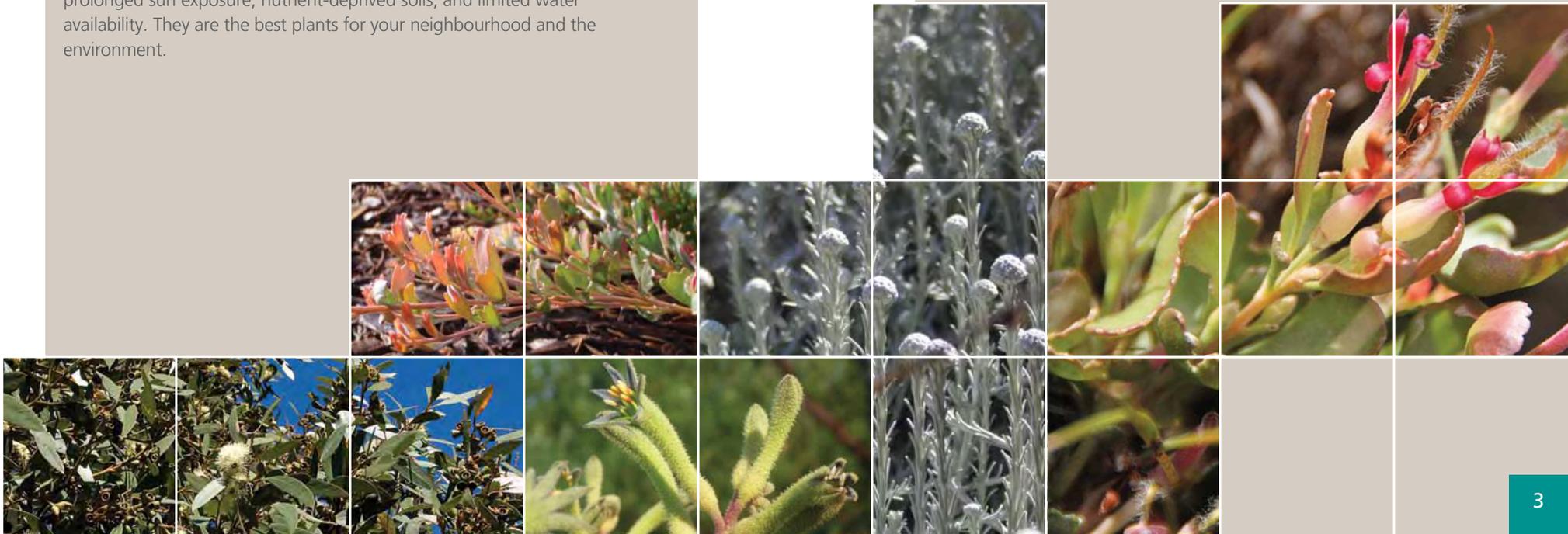
## How to use local plants

Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, to courtyards and pots.

As you will discover throughout this guide, there is a local coastal plant for most garden situations. Plants featured include striking ground-covers, low shrubs, structured sedges and grasses, flowering creepers and climbers, bird-attracting shrubs and screening trees.

This guide also shows you which local species to use for particular effects, and makes friendlier recommendations for replacing plants known to become invasive coastal weeds.

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 26–27.



# Garden escapees

## Are you harbouring known villains?



Weeds are plants growing where they aren't wanted, and they aren't just dandelions and thistles! Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural environments.

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment.
- Can reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna.
- Can alter soil conditions.
- Clog up waterways and effect water quality entering estuaries.
- Harbour pest animals such as foxes, feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife.
- Can alter coastal dune shape.
- Garden escapees are very costly to control and take resources away from other important issues.

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates, such as the Mediterranean and South Africa. Thriving in similar conditions, they out-compete local natives as they don't have the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment.

You might not realise you're harbouring garden escapees, or might not know they 'jump the fence' to become problems. Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally and deliberately:

- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc).
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings (including lawn clippings) can grow even several months later.
- Sometimes people deliberately plant exotic garden plants in our natural coastal environments.
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly on the coast.

## How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

## You can help!

Have a good look through this guide to check which common garden plants are nasties in the coastal environment. You might like to remove any you have and replace them with the indigenous plants suggested. Take this guide with you when you are making new plant purchases and don't buy plants which are known to be a problem.

Here are some other easy things you can do.

- Use local native species in your garden.
- Dispose of your garden waste responsibly.
- Check with your local council before you plant into natural coastal environments .
- Join a local Coastcare group to learn more about our coast and lend a hand! Call South Coast Natural Resource Management on 9845 8537 or go to [www.southcoastnrm.com.au](http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au) for information on how to get involved.



# Trees & tall shrubs

## DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



**Eastern State Wattles** e.g. *Acacia longifolia*,  
*A. pycnantha*, *A. iteaphylla*  
(NSW, Vic, SA, Qld)  
Flowers: winter/late spring  
Reproduces: seed pods, these are spread  
by birds, water and ants



**Eastern State Gum Trees**  
e.g. *Eucalyptus grandis*, *E. robusta*,  
*E. saligna*.  
(NSW, Vic)  
Flowers: autumn to winter  
Reproduces: seed



**Coast Teatree, Victorian Tea-tree**  
*Leptospermum laevigatum*  
(NSW, Vic)  
Flowers: winter to spring  
Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)



**Bleeding Heart Tree**  
*Homalanthus novo-guineensis*  
(Tropical)  
Flowers: spring  
Reproduces: fruits in blue capsules



**Sweet Pittosporum**  
*Pittosporum undulatum*  
(NSW, Vic)  
Flowers: spring  
Reproduces: orange fruit, these are spread by birds and water



**Taylorina, African Scurfpea**  
*Psoralea pinnata*  
(South Africa)  
Flowers: spring/early summer  
Reproduces: seed

## GROW ME instead



**Coastal Wattle** *Acacia cyclops*  
Dense shrub to 4m. Yellow ball shaped flowers during spring and summer.  
Conspicuous seed pods and seeds which provide food for local birds and  
insects. Stabilizes sand dunes and exposed soils.



**Woolly Bush** *Adenanthos sericeus*  
Shrub growing to 5m. Foliage a soft grey-green.  
Flowers red/orange during most of the year.  
Good bird attractor and screening plant.



**Scarlet Banksia** *Banksia coccinea*  
Small tree to shrub growing to 6m. Flowering occurs over a long period,  
typically winter to summer. Colour ranges from red to orange, with the  
developing buds also an attractive feature. Source of food for cockatoos,  
nectar feeding birds and mammals. Coastal sand and swamp margins.



**Bull Banksia** *Banksia grandis (coastal form)*  
Tree or large shrub to 10m. Large and prominent flowers  
during spring to summer which provide a source of food  
for cockatoos, nectar feeding birds and mammals. Large  
leaves and mature seed cones an attractive feature.



**Local Eucalypts**  
**Ridged-fruited Mallee** *Eucalyptus angulosa* to 5m; **Spearwood Mallee**  
*E. doratoxylon* to 6m; **Long-flowered Marlock** *E. macrandra* to 8m;  
**Bell-fruited Mallee** *E. preissiana* sprawling showy mallee to 3m.  
All attract nectar feeding birds and mammals, have attractive fruits  
and are ideal for coastal situations.



**Moonah** *Melaleuca preissiana*  
Shrub to small tree to 9m. Flowers are yellow,  
cream or white during spring and summer. Ideally  
suited to sandy soils and swamps. Attracts nectar  
feeding birds and mammals.

# Medium shrubs

## DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



**Mirror Bush** *Coprosma repens*  
(New Zealand)  
Flowers: spring/early summer  
Reproduces: seed inside fleshy orange-red berries on female plants



**Polygala or Butterfly Bush** *Polygala myrtifolia*  
(South Africa)  
Flowers: spring/early summer  
Reproduces: seed, long lived



**Teneriffe Daisy** *Argyranthemum frutescens ssp. foeniculaceum*  
(Canary Islands)  
Flowers: spring  
Reproduces: seed



**Native Rosemary** *Westringia fruticosa*  
(NSW)  
Flowers: most of the year  
Reproduces: seed

## GROW ME instead



**Sticky Tailflower** *Anthocersis viscosa*  
Open shrub to 3m. Flowers are white to cream and are an attractive feature as well as the large glossy leaves. The flowers and leaves are also strongly scented. Suits soils associated with granite outcrops.



**Showy Dryandra** *Banksia formosa*  
Erect shrub to 3m with showy yellow/orange flowers. Grows in a wide variety of soil types and is great for attracting nectar feeding birds and mammals. Flowering through winter to early summer. Good for cut flowers.



**Golden Cascade** *Bossiaea linophylla*  
Open shrub to 3m with a weeping habit and fine foliage. Flowers are pea shaped and yellow/red in colour. Will tolerate part shade and suits sandy to granite soils.



**Painted Lady** *Gompholobium scabrum*  
Spreading shrub to 3m. Flowers deep pink to purple in showy clusters during spring and early summer. Suits sandy soils. Can be difficult to propagate.



**Tree Hovea** *Hovea elliptica*  
Slender erect shrub to 3m. Pea shaped flowers ranging from blue to purple with white markings. Grows in part shade and on a variety of soil types. Flowering mainly in spring.

## GROW ME instead



**Cut Leaf Hibbertia** *Hibbertia cuneiformis*  
Erect to sprawling shrub to 3m. Bright yellow flowers occurring over a long period. Tolerates a wide variety of soil types. Produces distinctive small orange fruits which provide food for native animals.



**Coast Daisy Bush** *Olearia axillaris*  
Shrub to 3m. Leaves dark blue-green above, white below. White, daisy-like flowers occur along stems in summer and autumn. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, foliage contrast. Full-sun to semi-shade.

# Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

## DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



**Agapanthus**  
*Agapanthus praecox*  
 (South Africa)  
 Flowers: spring to summer  
 Reproduces: seed, rhizomes in soil



**Arum Lily**  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica*  
 (South Africa)  
 Flowers: winter  
 Reproduces: seed, spread by birds



**Correa, Native Fuchsia**  
*Correa* spp. and cultivars  
 (NSW)  
 Flowers: most of the year  
 Reproduces: seed



**Gazania**  
*Gazania* spp.  
 (South Africa)  
 Flowers: mainly spring to autumn  
 Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



**Seaside Daisy**  
*Erigeron karvinskianus*  
 (Mexico, South America)  
 Flowers: most of the year  
 Reproduces: wind borne seed

## GROW ME instead



**Basket Flower *Adenanthos obovatus***  
 Erect shrub to 1.5m with red/orange flowers borne along spreading stems. Flowering during winter to late spring. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Great for attracting nectar feeding birds and mammals.



**Coastal Jug flower *Adenanthos cuneatus***  
 Erect or spreading shrub to 2m. Flowers red/orange, typically hidden within attractive foliage. Great for attracting nectar feeding birds and mammals.



**Coastal Pigface *Carpobrotus virescens***  
 Prostrate succulent perennial herb. Flowering during spring and summer with large pale purple, pink or white flowers. Tolerates coastal conditions and can be trained over walls and sloping banks, in either full sun or part shade.



**Common Beaked Triggerplant *Stylidium adnatum***  
 Erect perennial shrub up to 0.5m. Pale pink to white 'Triggerplant' flowers on showy stems with attractive fine foliage. Suits sandy soils and a variety of shade levels. Flowering during late spring to summer.



***Hibbertia grossulariifolia***  
 Prostrate shrub to 1.2m wide. Flowers are bright yellow which contrast with the distinct foliage and stems. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Suitable for container growing or hanging pots.



**Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata***  
 Prostrate runner to 2m. Leaves pale green, bright red pea-flowers winter to summer. Eye-catching flowers, use as an attractive ground cover or plant in small to large garden pots (looks great in a feature urn). Light shade preferred.

# Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

## GROW ME instead



### Myrtle *Hypocalymma strictum*

Shrub up to 1.5m. Flowers purple to white borne on erect stems amongst fine foliage. Flowers produced during most of the year. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions.



### Rose Coneflower *Isopogon formosus*

Shrub to 2m. Flowers pink to purple in showy displays. Robust, distinctive foliage of divided leaflets. Flowering during winter to spring. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions.



### Lemon-scented Darwinia *Darwinia citriodora*

Erect shrub up to 1.5m. Flowers yellow, green to red within leaf like bracts. Distinctive arrangement of leaves on the stems which have a pleasant fragrance. Flowering winter to early summer. Attracts nectar feeding birds.



### Royal Robe *Scaevola striata*

Prostrate perennial herb to 0.5m wide. Large blue to purple flowers are held above lush green, serrated foliage. Flowering winter to early summer. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Suitable for container growing or hanging pots.



### Cushion Bush *Leucophyta brownii*

Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage, pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, colour contrast. Plant responds well to regular pruning. Full-sun.



### Southern Cross *Xanthosia rotundifolia*

Spreading shrub to 1m wide. Flowers white, arranged in distinctive 'cross-like' arrangements, held above dark green foliage. Attractive pink buds prior to flowering which occur throughout the year. Can be trained over walls and sloping banks in full sun or part shade.



### Pink Rice Flower *Pimelea ferruginea*

Erect dense shrub to 1.5m. Flowers pale to deep pink in showy clusters along stems. Suits coastal dunes and rocky headlands. Flowering spring to summer.



### Tall Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos flavidus*

Perennial herb with large strap-like foliage to 2m. Flowers yellow to green which are held high above the foliage. Responds well to pruning and suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Attracts nectar feeding birds.



### Prostrate Banksia *Banksia gardneri*

Prostrate shrub with serrated leaves to 300mm long. Stems growing underground and flower spikes occurring along stems. Flowers red to pink. Grows in a variety of soil types and conditions.



### Tremandra *Tremandra stelligera*

Erect or spreading shrub to 1m. Flowers blue to purple scattered along the spreading stems. Readily grows amongst existing vegetation and suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Flowering throughout the year.



### Purple Flag *Patersonia occidentalis* (or Yellow *P. umbrosa*)

Tufted perennial herb to 1m. Forms small tussocks with strap-like foliage and short-lived but showy purple flowers on long flowering stems which are held aloft. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions. Flowers during spring.



### Snake Bush *Hemiandra pungens*

Spreading ground cover to 2m wide. Flowers are mauve and are scattered above the dense foliage. Can be trained over walls and sloping banks, in either full sun or part shade. Flowering occurs throughout the year.

# Grasses, sedges & bulbs

## DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



**Dietes, Wild Iris** *Dietes* spp.  
(South Africa)  
Flowers: spring to early summer  
Reproduces: seed pods



**Fountain Grass**  
*Pennisetum pennisetum*  
(East Africa & Middle East)  
Flowers: summer to autumn  
Reproduces: wind borne seed



**Freesia, Ixia and garden bulb species**  
*Freesia* and *Ixia* spp.  
(South Africa)  
Flowers: spring  
Reproduces: seed and corms in movement of soil

## GROW ME instead



**Blueberry Lily** *Dianella revoluta*  
Tufted perennial herb to 1m. Flowers are blue to purple/violet and are borne on slender stems high above the strap-like basal leaves. Flowering spring to late summer, then developing distinctive bright purple berries which are a food source for native birds. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions.



**Blue Grass Lily** *Agrostocrinum scabrum* or *A. hirsutum*  
Slender tufted perennial herb to 0.5m. Flowers blue to mauve which are borne on slender stems above fine strap-like leaves. Flowering spring to early summer. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions.



**Coast Sword Sedge** *Lepidosperma gladiatum* and *L. squamatum*  
Tufted, robust perennial sedge. Flowers are borne on stems above the strap-like leaves. The larger species *L. gladiatum* grows to 2m wide and generally occurs in damper areas while *L. squamatum* is smaller, growing to 1m wide. Both species have brown coloured flowers arranged in distinctive, drooping heads and tolerate a wide range of soil types and conditions.



**Coast Tussock Grass** *Poa poiformis*  
Perennial clumping grass to 1m. Flowers brown to yellow held on long stems held above long spreading blue/green leaves. Ideal for small or large group plantings in rockeries, borders or pot plants. Well suited to coastal conditions and full sun positions.

## GROW ME instead



**Anarthria scabra**  
Robust sedge-like plant to 1m. Male (light brown) and female (bright yellow/red) flowers are borne on separate plants. Flowering winter to early summer. Ideal for borders and low screening situations. Suits a wide range of soil types and conditions.



**Velvet Rush** *Meeboldina scariosa*  
Perennial rush to 1m. Golden brown to red flowers borne on slender stems, with male and female flowers on separate plants. Forms spreading, colonizing root systems, will tolerate areas subjected to water logging, great for stabilizing wetland banks and winter-wet areas.



**Knotted Club Rush** *Ficinia nodosa*  
Evergreen clumping plant to 1m. Flowers are brown and clustered in ball-shaped heads at the end of slender stems. Can be used as group plantings around wetlands, ponds or coastal dune areas. Tolerates salt spray, full sun or semi-shade. Attracts butterflies.

# Climbers

## DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



**Bridal Creeper, Bridal Veil** *Asparagus* spp.  
(South Africa)  
Flowers: winter  
Reproduces: red berries late winter/early spring, also spreading underground root system (rhizomes)



**English Ivy** *Hedera helix*  
(Europe)  
Flowers: summer  
Reproduces: berries, these are spread by birds and water



**Snake vine**  
*Hibbertia scandens*  
(NSW, Qld)  
Flowers: spring to summer  
Reproduces: orange-red fruit, these are spread by birds and water

## GROW ME instead



**Australian Bluebells** *Billardiera fusiformis*  
Sturdy climber or twining shrub. Flowers blue to white, drooping amongst dense foliage and stems, produced during most of the year. Ideal for coastal conditions and the screening of walls, fences or lattices



**Coral Vine** *Kennedia coccinea*  
Twining or trailing shrub with pink, orange or red flowers in dense clusters. Flowering spring to early summer. Tolerates a wide range of soil types. Can be trained over walls and sloping banks, in either full sun or part shade.



**Berry Saltbush** *Rhagodia baccata*  
Spreading shrub, to 2m high, opportunistic climber. Flowers cream yellow green, with distinctive red berry attractive to birds. Suitable for wide range of soil types.



**Native Wisteria** *Hardenbergia comptoniana*  
Twining shrub or climber. Showy clusters of drooping purple pea flowers. Flowering winter to spring. Tolerates a wide range of soil types, great for screening walls, fences or lattices. Can be pruned.



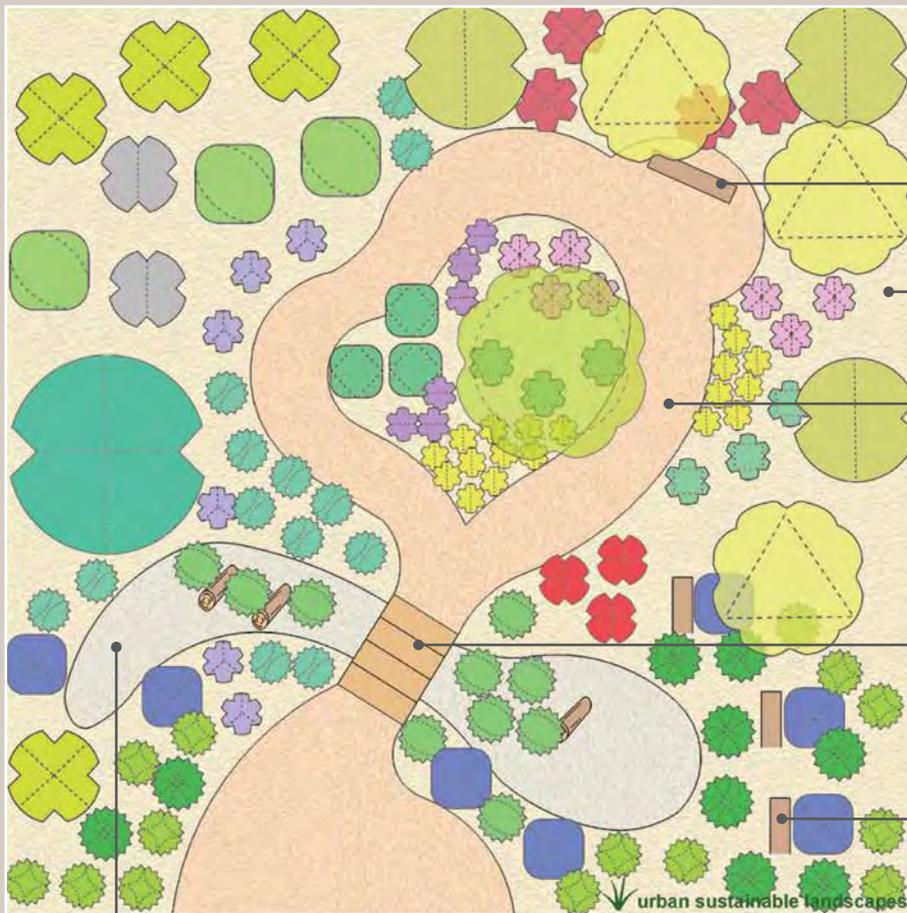
**Red Billardiera** *Marianthus erubescens*  
Twining shrub or climber with bright red flowers arranged in clusters. Flowering winter to early summer.



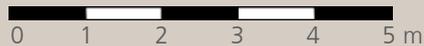
**White-flowered Billardiera** *Billardiera floribunda*  
Twining or trailing shrub with large white flowers arranged in clusters. Large deep green leaves contrast with the reddish stems. Flowers during summer.

# Natural cottage garden design

A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round. These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add bird-baths, hollow logs, and nesting boxes to attract and support local wildlife.



Swale with 14mm quartzite gravel and habitat logs



Bench

Mulch

White wash sustainable pebble

Flat sleepers set in gravel to give boardwalk appearance

Recycled hardwood timber post, upright 2m high

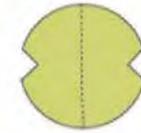
## Trees & tall shrubs



Ridged-Fruited Mallee



Bull Banksia



Woolly Bush

## Medium Shrubs



Coast Daisy Bush



Sticky Tailflower

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Cushion Bush



Basket Flower



Common Beaked Triggerplant



Purple Flag



Royal Robe



Rose Coneflower



Prostrate Banksia



Tall Kangaroo Paw



Myrtle

## Grasses, sedges & bulbs



Blueberry Lily



Coast Sword Sedge



Knotted Club Rush



Blue Grass Lily



Coast Tussock Grass

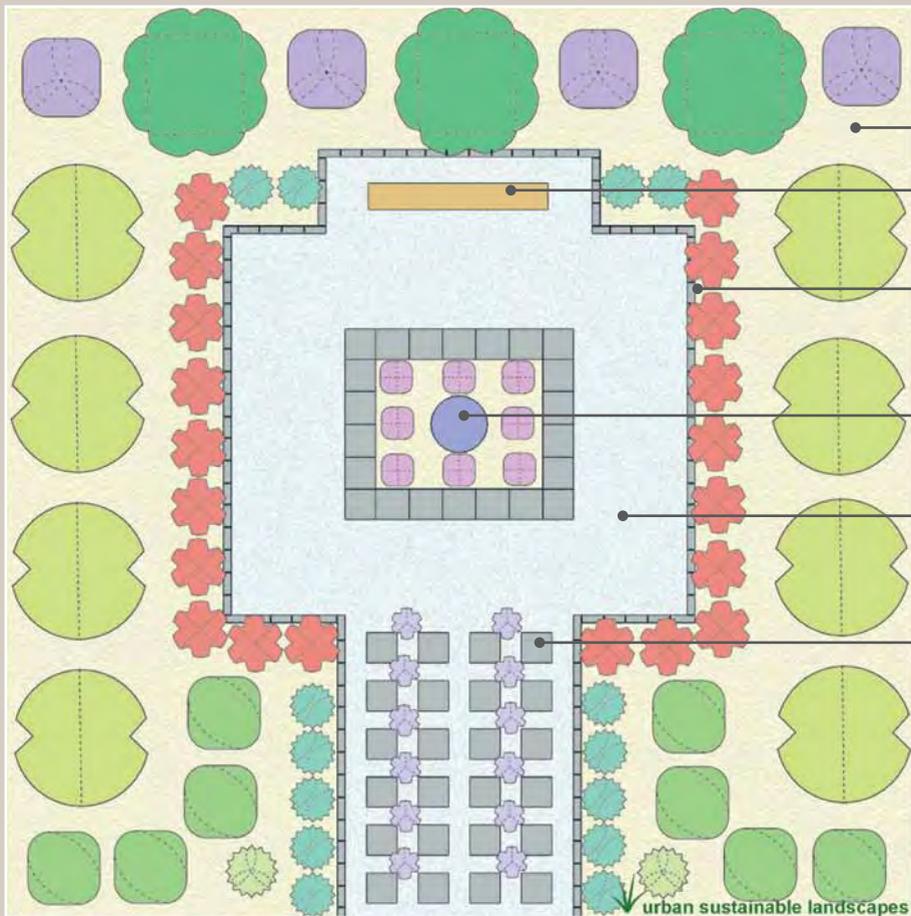
## Climbers



Australian Bluebells

# Formal garden design

A number of local coastal plants can be grown into clipped hedges or shapes to form the basis of the formal garden. Sedges and grasses can be used in mass plantings and accent borders. Use local climbers or trailing plants in a feature urn, terrace or retaining wall. To achieve a formal garden style, emphasise symmetry and borders and use gravel or sustainable pebbles to create and highlight landscaping features.



- Mulch
- Bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Birdbath feature
- 14mm dolomite gravel
- 500mm x 500mm charcoal pavers

## Trees & tall shrubs



Woolly Bush

## Medium Shrubs



Showy Dryandra

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Purple Flag



Lemon-scented Darwinia



Basket Flower



Royal Robe



Coastal Pigface

## Grasses, sedges & bulbs



Coast Sword Sedge

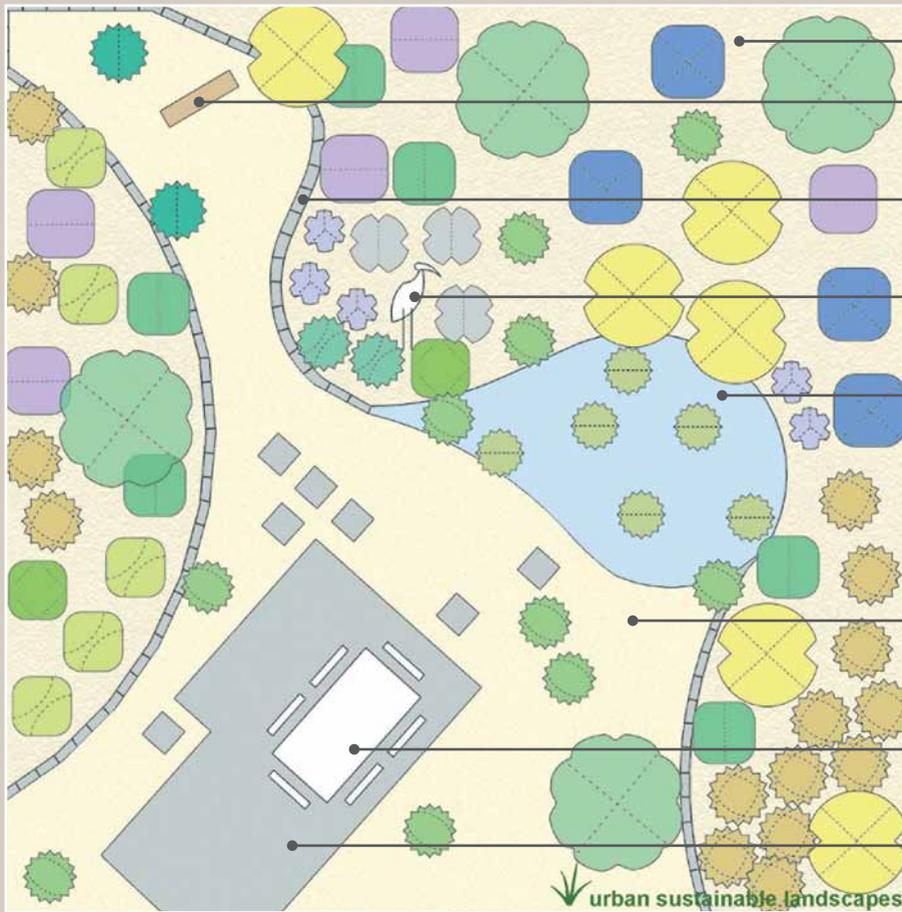


Blueberry Lily



# Japanese style garden design

Local coastal plants are well suited to the minimalist style and reflective feeling of Japanese gardens. Aim to create a garden that mimics the natural balance and flow of nature. Clumps of local grasses can be used to compliment raked gravel areas. Incorporate natural elements such as plants with a graceful habit, water features, stepping stones and gravel areas to achieve your Japanese-style garden.



- Mulch
- Recycled wooden bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Feature sculpture
- Clay or plastic lined wet/dry stormwater fed pond coated with quartzite gravel at a maximum of 200mm depth
- 14mm quartzite gravel
- Table & chairs
- 400mm x 400mm charcoal pavers

## Medium Shrubs



## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



## Grasses, sedges & bulbs

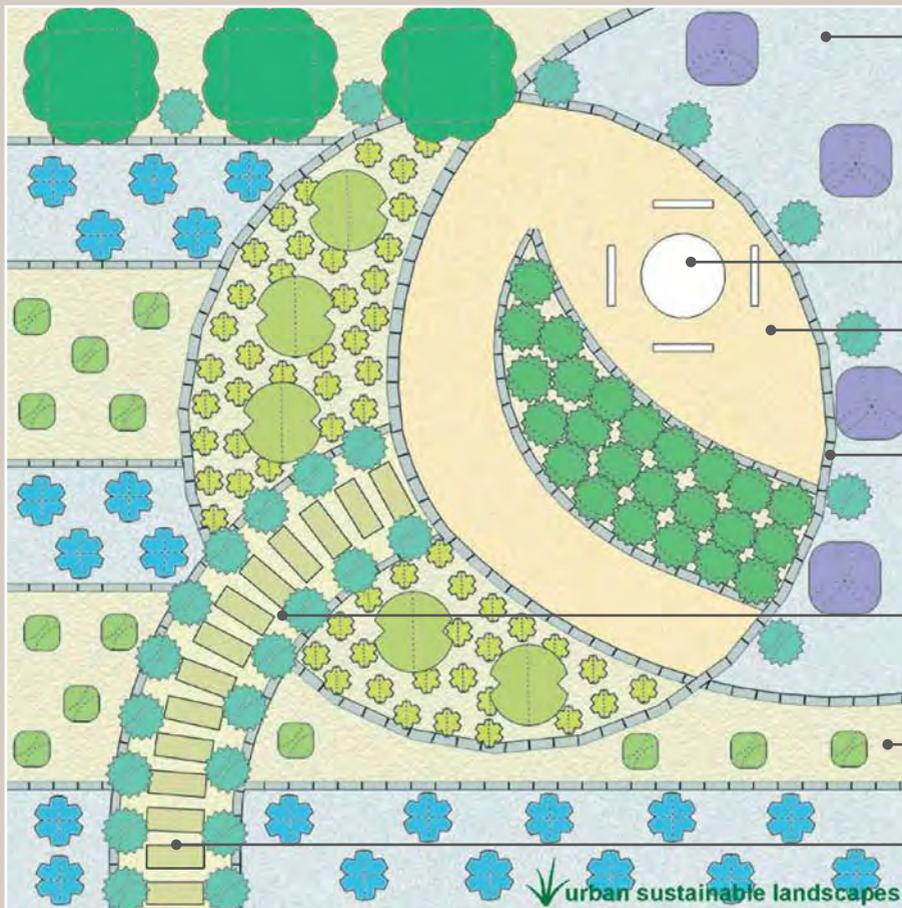


## Climbers



# Contemporary garden design

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture for these bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts. A simple outdoor setting suits the contemporary garden design.



Dolomite gravel

Table & chairs

White wash sustainable pebble

110 x 220mm linear paver divider

14mm quartzite gravel

Mulch

800mm x 300mm paver stepping stones



## Trees & tall shrubs



Woolly Bush

## Medium Shrubs



Cut Leaf Hibbertia



Coast Daisy Bush

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Pink Rice Flower



Purple Flag



Snake Bush

## Grasses, sedges & bulbs



Blueberry Lily



Knotted Club Rush

# Growing local coastal plants

## When to plant

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Planting is best done in the cooler months through autumn and winter. The ideal time is after the autumn opening rains when the soil is moist, and plants have ample time to establish roots before the warm weather kicks in.

## Watering

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Water-in your new plants. Over the first summer they may need an occasional deep watering, but no more than once a week. After their first summer, they should cope on rainfall alone. Prior to severe heat waves, give your plants a thorough watering, so water penetrates deep into the soil.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil and creates excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

Be mindful of current water restrictions and the prescribed times allocated to gardeners for watering.

## Mulch & gravels

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A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss. Organic mulch keeps soil temperatures down, which benefits root density, suppresses weed growth, and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

Apply 5–10 cm of mulch or gravel, creating a bowl shape around the plant to help retain water. To avoid plant disease, keep mulch away from plant stems.

## Phytophthora dieback

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The introduced plant disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has devastating effects on our native plants, including banksias. You can help reduce the spread and impact of *phytophthora* dieback into your garden by asking for dieback-free materials including soil, gravel, potting mix, mulch and plants. And of course, don't spread dieback into the bush!

## Fertilising

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Fertilisers aren't usually needed with local native plants. If you decide to fertilise, seek advice from your local nursery, as products with high levels of phosphorus can harm some local native plants. You'll want to avoid rapid growth that makes your local plants leggy, weak and short-lived.

## Maintaining your local plants

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Pruning is beneficial for many local plants. Most species will appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote new growth and encourage flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering, usually late spring or early summer. Young plants can be pruned lightly and regularly. Older plants can be refreshed with a more extensive prune after flowering. Replace old plants that die or become straggly.

Potted local plants need a little more care than those planted out in gardens. Water your pot plants more regularly in summer, and apply a low-phosphorus fertiliser in spring and summer (check with your local nursery which product is best). Don't over-apply fertiliser as it can harm local native plants. Some plants may need re-potting in the future.

## Sustainable landscaping

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You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials, and avoid materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and leaf litter. More information on native gardens can be found from the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority [www.bgpa.wa.gov.au](http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au).

## More information

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For further information on building frog-friendly gardens visit <http://frogwatch.museum.wa.gov.au/>.



## Sourcing local coastal plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries around Albany, Denmark and Walpole stock local coastal plants. Contact your local council's environmental officer, local landcare group or phone South Coast Natural Resource Management on (08) 9845 8537. Green Skills in Denmark can also provide advice and assistance on (08) 9848 1019.

Ask your local plant nursery for plants that are of 'local provenance' meaning plants grown from seeds or cuttings collected from your local area, catchment or neighbourhood. These plants have adapted to local conditions, so are the best plants for your garden.

You can often place orders in advance with local nurseries in late spring – early summer to collect for late autumn planting. Advance orders are recommended if you want larger quantities of plants, or don't want to substitute if species aren't available. Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers.

Learn how to propagate native coastal plants yourself at The Wildflower Society of Western Australia  
<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/index.html>.



## Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide. From picturesque images of our local coastline, to more in depth gardening resource material, they may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

### Internet

- Your local council's website:
  - Shire of Denmark: Invasive Weeds and Native Flora Information Sheet
  - City of Albany: Native Plant Species Information Sheet
- Department of Environment and Conservation Florabase <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au>
- Sustainable Gardening Australia [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

### Books

- Southern Plants for Your Garden - Dorothy Redreau, 2004
- Coastal Plants: Perth And The South-West Coast Region - Elizabeth Rippley and Barbara Rowland, 2004
- Flora of the South West - Bunbury, Augusta, Denmark - Judy Wheeler, Neville Marchant, Margaret Lewington, 2002
- Western Weeds: A Guide to Weeds of Western Australia, 2nd ed - Hussey *et al.* 2007

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