

Adelaide gardens

A planting guide



Healthy and attractive urban landscapes

Contents

Using this planting guide.....	3
Discovering local native plants.....	4
How to use local native plants.....	5
Garden escapes	6
You can help!	7
Plant ideas	8
Trees and tall shrubs	8
Medium shrubs.....	10
Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs	14
Grasses.....	18
Sedges, rushes and strappy plants	20
Climbers.....	22
Garden design	24
Natural cottage.....	24
Formal.....	26
Family.....	28
Contemporary.....	30
Growing and maintaining local native plants.....	32
Sourcing local native plants.....	34
Where to now?.....	35
Useful resources.....	38

This guide provides simple and inspiring garden advice for people living in the city of Adelaide, its northern plains, foothills and southern suburbs.

Water-wise local native plants are attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local landscapes.

Adelaide gardens – a planting guide is part of a series of gardening guides produced by Green Adelaide and funded by the landscape levy.

The other guides are:

- *Coastal gardens – a planting guide*
- *Creating a wildlife friendly garden.*

They are available from greenadelaide.sa.gov.au

Using this planting guide

Getting started

Our gardens are challenged with long, hot, dry summers, drought, water restrictions, and a changing climate.

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 plants.

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

You will also learn about plants to avoid, which are known for becoming serious weeds in Adelaide's parks, creeklines and other open spaces.

When it comes time to buying plants, you will be prepared, and able to consider local native alternatives and the benefits they provide. You may also find yourself identifying any invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with our recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your garden is an easy and rewarding way to help look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering urban Adelaide's local native plants.

Happy gardening!



White goodenia
Goodenia albiflora

Discovering local native plants

What is a local native plant?

Local native plants are species that evolved to suit local conditions such as soil type, temperature and water availability. They are also called 'indigenous plants'.

Why use local native plants?

Local native plants are a great option for residents of Adelaide as they have adapted to survive harsh conditions such as prolonged sun exposure, nutrient-deprived soils, and limited water availability. This all makes them the best plants for your neighbourhood and our environment!

Why use local native plants?

Local native plants have a huge range of benefits. They:

- are low maintenance
- are drought tolerant
- save you money and time
- require minimal watering, conserving our water supplies
- don't need fertilisers or pesticides
- provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards
- are adaptable for various landscaping styles, producing striking results
- flower at different times so you can have a flowering garden all year round.



How to use local native plants

Local native plants can be incorporated into your garden in the same ways as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal courtyards to relaxed natural cottage settings, to bold contemporary gardens or playful family-orientated spaces.

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

The guide also highlights a variety of local native species which are suitable for pots, such as the yacca (grass tree) which can create a striking feature, or pretty plants such as native pelargonium and native bluebell that look great clustered in groups in cottage style gardens.

To make it easy to choose which plants best suit your yard, the 'grow me instead' sections (pages 8-23) includes icons highlighting the following attributes and uses:



Attracts native birds



Attracts butterflies and/or native insects



Suitable for pots

This guide also shows you which local plant to pick for a particular effect, and makes recommendations for replacing plants known to escape from gardens to become invasive weeds.

Information on caring for your native plants is provided on pages 32-33.



Common eutaxia
Eutaxia microphylla



Garden escapes

Are you harbouring known villains?

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

Environmental weeds are trouble!

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 SA's local native plants as they don't have the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment. They:

- can reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna
- can alter soil conditions
- clog up waterways and affect water quality entering Gulf St Vincent
- harbour pest animals such as foxes, feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife
- are costly to control and take resources away from other important issues
- reduce the value and usability of our open and public spaces.

Declared plants and Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)

Landowners and land managers have a legal responsibility to control declared plants and WoNS. Weed species, including local requirements for control, vary across the state. For information on these types of plants contact Green Adelaide, your local landscape board or environment centre or take a look at the links on page 38.

To make it easier for you to see which weeds are priorities for control, the 'don't plant me' sections (pages 8-23) include icons showing the following weed ratings:

-  Declared Plant in SA
-  Weed of National Significance

How do garden plants become urban invaders?

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

They can spread by:

- seeds transported by birds and other animals; wind and water (including stormwater); humans (on clothing, shoes etc.); and on machinery such as lawn mowers
- being dumped in garden waste (seeds or plant cuttings can establish up to several months later)
- being deliberately planted by people in our natural environments
- growing through garden fences into our parks and reserves.



An Australian admiral butterfly (*Vanessa itea*) on a yacca plant (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana*)

You can help!

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

Here are some easy things you can do:

- use local native species in your garden
- dispose of your garden waste responsibly
- get involved in a community garden
- join a local volunteer group to learn more about your environment and lend a hand
- keep an eye out for reportable alert weeds, such as water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and salvinia (*Salvinia adnata*) that may appear in local creeklines or ponds. Visit pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity for details. Immediately report any occurrences to Green Adelaide.

Call Green Adelaide on 8463 3733 or go to greenadelaide.sa.gov.au for information on how to get involved.



Don't plant me



Desert ash

Fraxinus angustifolia

(Western Mediterranean and Portugal)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively by root suckers



Non-local wattles

Acacia saligna / *A. cyclops* / *A. iteaphylla* / *A. longifolia*

(Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively by root suckers



Hawthorns, may / azarola

Crataegus monogyna / *C. sinica*

(Europe, south-western Asia and north Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed



Olive

Olea europaea

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed (in fruit, autumn-winter)



Swamp oak

Casuarina glauca

(Eastern Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed, lateral root system forms vigorous suckers



Sweet pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum

(Eastern Australia)

Flowers: late winter and spring

Reproduces: seed, suckering



Grow me instead



Drooping sheoak

Allocasuarina verticillata

Tree to 8m, long weeping grey-green foliage. Flowers in winter. Cone-like fruit. Responds to pruning. Uses: windbreak, screening, hedges or feature tree.



Grey box / peppermint box

Eucalyptus microcarpa / *E. odorata*

Tree with single or multiple trunk to 20m. Coarse bark. Flowers winter to spring. Uses: feature or shade tree. Minimum 3.5m set back from property and sewage pipes.



Silver banksia

Banksia marginata

Feature tree 3 to 5m. Leaves green on top, silver below. Yellow flowers on cylindrical cone, spring to autumn. Responds to pruning; can prune to single trunk. Interesting foliage and seed pods. Uses: feature plant, streetscaping. Slow growing. If foliage yellows apply chelated iron.



Southern cypress-pine

Callitris gracilis

Cylindrical-shaped tree to 5m. Green foliage, dark brown cone fruit. Responds to pruning. Uses: screening, hedging, and to line driveways and paths. Well-drained sandy and limestone soils. Can be used instead of non-native conifers.



Sticky hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa

Erect shrub to 3m. Bright green sticky leaves. Green flowers in winter, red seed pods in spring. Responds to pruning, can 'top' once reaches desired height. Uses: screen or hedge. Well-drained soils. Benefits from additional water in summer.



Sweet bursaria or christmas bush

Bursaria spinosa

Erect, prickly shrub to 4m. Leaves green above, whitish beneath. Fragrant creamy-white flowers, mid summer. Responds to pruning and pollarding. Uses: informal screen and barrier. Grows well in a variety of soil types except coastal sand.



Don't plant me



Boneseed

Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera

(South Africa)

Flowers: late autumn to winter

Reproduces: seed (fleshy fruit)



Brooms (Cape / flax-leaved / english or scotch)

Genista monspessulana / *G. linifolia* / *Cystisus scoparius*

(Europe)

Flowers: late winter to spring

Reproduces: seeds, germinates after fire, regrows from cuttings



Green poison-berry

Cestrum parqui

(South America)

Flowers: most of the year

Reproduces: seed (in berries spread by birds)



Coastal tea-tree

Leptospermum laevigatum

(East coast Australia and Tasmania)

Flowers: late winter to spring

Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)



Common lantana

Lantana camara

(Tropical America)

Flowers: most of the year

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Cotoneasters

Cotoneaster spp.

(China)

Flowers: spring / summer

Reproduces: seed (in berries, autumn / winter)



Italian buckthorn or blowfly bush

Rhamnus alaternus

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: winter to spring

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively by root suckers



Grow me instead



Common eutaxia / spreading eutaxia

Eutaxia microphylla / *E. diffusa*

Low, dense shrub to 1m. Small green leaves. *E. microphylla* has yellow to red pea flowers, winter. *E. diffusa* abundant bright yellow pea flowers, winter and spring. Strong flowering shrub that adds texture and colour. Lime sensitive, likes well-drained soils.



Desert senna

Senna artemisoides

Shrub to 3m. Abundant yellow flowers, winter to spring. Long flat green pods age to dark brown. Creates great foliage and flower contrast. Suitable for most soil types.



Erect hakea

Hakea carinata

Twiggy, open, intricate shrub to 2m. White flowers, spring. Woody, beaked pods contain two large seeds. Uses: light screen, wind-break. Well-drained soils. Provides good habitat for small birds, food for yellow-tail black cockatoos and nectar for butterflies.



Myrtle wattle

Acacia myrtifolia

Compact, bushy shrub to 2m. Bright yellow ball-shaped flowers, winter to spring. Red branches add further colour and interest. Grows in well-drained soils. Good habitat for birds.



Paper flower

Thomasia petalocalyx

Attractive shrub to 60cm tall and 60cm spread. Crinkly green leaves. Small sprays of pink papery flowers, spring to summer. An eye-catching plant providing long-lasting cut flowers.



Prickly tea-tree

Leptospermum continentale

Bushy shrub to 4m. Small prickly green leaves. Magnificent white flowers, spring. Hardy shrub suits hill face and plains. Good plant for hedging and habitat.



Don't plant me



Myrtle-leaf milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia

(South Africa)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed



Rosemary grevillea

Grevillea rosmarinifolia

(New South Wales and Victoria)
Flowers: winter through to spring and occasionally at other times
Reproduces: seed



Prickly pear or wheel cactus

Opuntia spp.

(Americas)
Flowers: various
Reproduces: mostly vegetative growth, some set seed



Sweet briar / dog rose

Rosa rubiginosa / *R. canina*

(Europe and western Asia)
Flowers: late spring to summer
Reproduces: seed



Diosma

Coleonema pulchellum

(South Africa)
Flowers: late winter and early spring
Reproduces: seed



Topped lavender

Lavandula stoechas

(Mediterranean)
Flowers: winter to spring
Reproduces: seed

Grow me instead



Rock correa / native fuchsia

Correa glabra / *C. reflexa*

Dense shrubs to 1.2m high; 2m wide. Upright or spreading form. Smooth, dark green foliage. *C. glabra*: green or red bell flowers, winter. Lemon-scented leaves when crushed. *C. reflexa*: pink bell flowers, winter – spring. Uses: low screen or hedge. Prune to shape. Well-drained soils.



Round-leaf wattle

Acacia acinacea

Shrub to 2m, weeping habit. Small rounded green 'leaves' (phyllodes). Yellow wattle flowers May to September. Responds to light prune post-flowering. Lives 8-10 years. Well-drained soils, tolerates shade.



Ruby saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

Low shrub to 1m. Leaves small, blue-green, fleshy. Yellow to red fleshy fruits throughout year. Great foliage and colour contrast. Responds to pruning. Fruits attract wildlife. Suits most soils.



Seaberry saltbush

Rhagodia candolleana

Spreading shrub to several metres wide. Fleshy green leaves, small clusters of white flowers. Globular fruit ripens to deep red, summer to autumn. Uses: lush green informal hedge. Light, regular pruning maintains shape. Lizards eat berries.



Twiggly bush-pea

Pultenea largiflorens

Erect shrub with twiggly branches to 3m. Masses of orange and red pea flowers, spring. Grows in well-drained drier positions.



Twiggly daisy-bush

Olearia ramulosa

Attractive shrub to 2m. Grey leaves, small yellow flowers in autumn. Prune when flowers fade to encourage second flowering and thicken growth. Uses: hedge, colour and texture contrast. Most soils. Prune to retain shape.



Don't plant me



African daisy

Senecio pterophorus

(South Africa and Swaziland)
Flowers: late spring to autumn
Reproduces: seed



Bulbil watsonia

Watsonia meriana var. *bulbillifera*

(South Africa)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed, vegetative via bulbils



Cotton bush

Gomphocarpus cancellatus

(South Africa)
Flowers: autumn to spring
Reproduces: seed



Teneriffe daisy

Argyranthemum frutescens ssp. *foeniculaceum*

(Canary Islands)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed



Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare

(Mediterranean)
Flowers: summer
Reproduces: seed



Freesia

Freesia spp.

(South Africa)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed, corms and bulbils

Grow me instead



Common everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Herb to knee high. Silver-grey leaves, clusters of bright-yellow daisy flowers, long lasting, spring to summer. Prune when flowers fade to encourage second flowering and thicken growth.

Uses: plant on mass, great as cut or dried flowers. Well-drained soils.



Creeping boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium

Ground runner, shin high to 5m across. Small green leaves.

Dainty white or pale purple flowers, spring to summer.

Minimal pruning. Good soil stabiliser. Uses: space filler, lawn replacement (no foot traffic), trail down rock walls. Attracts lizards.



Lavender grevillea

Grevillea lavendulacea

Variable shrub to 1m high. Grey-green foliage resembles lavender.

Pink to red flowers, winter to spring. Uses: small pretty shrub for foreground plantings. Prefers well-drained soil, shade tolerant.



Muntries

Kunzea pomifera

Ground-hugging shrub extending over several metres. Thick bright green leaves. Showy white fluffy flowers, spring to early summer.

Purple berries. Uses: ground cover or hanging baskets.



Native bluebell

Wahlenbergia spp.

Delicate herb to 30cm. Pretty blue flowers, winter and spring.

Dies back over summer. Responds well to pruning. Plant on mass.



Native pelargonium

Pelargonium australe

Pretty herb to knee high. Large green velvety leaves.

Pale pink flowers with purple stripe, spring to summer.

Prune after flowering. Plant in small clusters.



Don't plant me



Gazania

Gazania spp.

(South Africa)

Flowers: most of the year, mainly spring to autumn

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Gladioli

Gladiolus spp.

(Africa and the Mediterranean)

Flowers: all year

Reproduces: seed, root fragments and cormels



Hottentot fig / sea fig / iceplant

Carpobrotus edulis / *C. aequilaterus* / *C. chilensis* / *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late summer to winter

Reproduces: fleshy fruit in summer, vegetatively



Pincushion

Scabiosa atropurpurea

(Southern Europe)

Flowers: spring to summer

Reproduces: seed



Sparaxis

Sparaxis spp.

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed, corms and leaf bulbs



Succulent, red hot pokers

E.g. Aloe spp. / *Agave* spp. / *Aeonium* spp. / *Sedum* spp. / *Kniphofia uvaria*

(Africa and the Mediterranean)

Flowers: various

Reproduces: most by vegetative growth, some set seed

Grow me instead



Karkalla / native pigface

Carpobrotus rossii

Attractive thick, fleshy groundcover. Green leaves triangular in cross-section. Large bright pink flowers, spring. Good soil stabiliser, can trail down walls or pots.



Pale fanflower

Scaevola albida

Soft prostrate annual groundcover, to 40cm high. White and purple fan flowers, summer. Tolerates most soils.



Running postman

Kennedia prostrata

Attractive groundcover to 2m. Leaves pale green. Eye-catching scarlet pea-flowers, winter to summer. Uses: groundcover, feature urn, trail down rocky. Tolerates most soils.



Sticky goodenia

Goodenia varia

Ascending to prostrate shrub to 1m. Thick, toothed green leaves. Yellow flowers, early spring to late autumn. Bright green foliage provides lushness in gardens. Suitable for small gardens.



Tom thumb

Dichondra repens

Small, prostrate perennial herb; creeping stems. Tiny yellow-green flowers, summer. Fruit: hairy, two-lobed capsule. Uses: groundcover, hanging baskets, between stepping stones, lawn substitute (does not need mowing but can be). Moist position.



White goodenia

Goodenia albiflora

Distinctive blue/green evergreen shrub to 0.5m. Masses of white fan-shaped flowers most of the year. Interesting colour-contrasting blue green foliage. Prefers well-drained soils.



Don't plant me



African feathergrass / African lovegrass

Pennisetum macrorum / *Eragrostis curvula*

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: spring to autumn

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively (rhizomes)



Couch grass

Cynodon dactylon

(Tropics world-wide)

Flowers: late spring to early summer

Reproduces: sets seed in summer, also spreads vegetatively (including lawn clippings)



Fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum

(East Africa and Middle East)

Flowers: summer to autumn

Reproduces: seed



Giant reed

Arundo donax

(North Africa and Asia)

Flowers: late spring to early winter

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively (rhizomes)



Pampas grass / pink pampas grass / toe-toe

Cortaderia selloana / *C. jubata* / *C. richardii*

(South America / New Zealand (Toe-toe))

Flowers: autumn

Reproduces: seeds are produced in winter and spring



Kikuyu

Pennisetum clandestinum

(East Asia)

Flowers: summer to autumn

Reproduces: vegetative reproduction (e.g. lawn clippings)

Grow me instead



Black-head grass

Enneapogon nigricans

Small ornamental grass to 50cm. Small black flowers winter to summer. Uses: foreground plantings, particularly path edges.



Common tussock-grass

Poa labillardieri

Long lived, tussock forming perennial grass with weeping habit. Highly ornamental greyish-green or blue-green leaves. Flowers spring to summer. Clusters or mass plantings.



Silky blue-grass

Dicanthium sericeum

Delicate, ornamental native grass to 40cm high. Flat, bluish-green leaves. Two or three upright bluish-green flower spikes, spring to summer. Uses: mass plantings, informal edging. Heavier clay soils or areas that capture a lot of moisture.



Wallaby grass

Rytidosperma spp.

Small to medium clumping grasses to 1m. Flower spring to summer. Uses: mass planting, borders, grow between pavers.



Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

Dense tussock perennial grass to 1.5m. Red-purple tinged leaves and pink flowers, summer. Uses: substitute lawn (tolerates cutting back twice a year), mass plantings. Well-drained soils.



Don't plant me



Wild iris / African Iris

Dietes spp.

(Southern Africa)

Flowers: spring to early summer

Reproduces: seed pods



Agapanthus

Agapanthus spp.

(South Africa)

Flowers: late spring and summer

Reproduces: seed and vegetatively



Arum Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: seed



Grow me instead



Flax-lilies

Dianella longifolia / *D. revoluta* / *D. brevicaulis*

Small clumping plants to knee high. Leaves strappy and stiff, blue-green. Blue flowers on narrow stalks above or within foliage line, spring. Uses: borders, large or small groupings, indoors. Most soils and shade.



Flat-sedge

Cyperus vaginatus

Tussock-forming perennial to 1.5m high. Flowers green and brown, spring to autumn. Uses: mass planting, informal hedge, around ponds. Well-drained soils. Additional water in summer.



Pale rush

Juncus pallidus

Hardy rushes to 2m. Flowers in summer. Great border plants, use in mass plantings. Grow in moist areas.



Yacca

Xanthorrhoea semiplana

Trunk to 3m high. Juveniles have no trunk. Dense crown of grass-like leaves to 1.5m. Flowers creamy-white on cylindrical spike to 3m long, spring. Uses: feature plant. Slow growing. Potted plant benefits from fertiliser application (refer page 32).



Knobby club-rush

Ficinia nodosa (formerly *Isolepis nodosa*)

Versatile evergreen clumping plant to 1m high. Leaves dark-green, cylindrical and up-right. Brown ball-shaped flower heads occur all year. Uses: accent plant, group plantings, around ponds. Tolerates salt spray and wet zones.



Mat-rushes

Lomandra densiflora / *L. multiflora*

Tussock rushes growing from central base to 50cm high. Long, stiff grey-green leaves. Creamy yellow flowers in clusters at base of leaves, spring. Uses: boundary and habitat plant. Moist, well-drained soils. Additional water in summer.



Don't plant me



Blue periwinkle creeper

Vinca major

(Central and southern Europe and northern Africa)

Flowers: spring and summer

Reproduces: stem rooting, vegetatively



Bluebell creeper / sollya

Billardiera heterophylla / *B. fusiformis*

(Western Australia)

Flowers: spring and summer

Reproduces: seed



Asparagus Fern / bridal creeper / bridal Veil

Asparagus spp.

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: red berries late spring, also spreading underground root system (rhizomes)



English ivy / cape ivy

Hedera helix / *Delairea odorata*

(Europe)

Flowers: autumn

Reproduces: small, black berries during winter and horizontal stems root at nodes when they contact the soil



Blue / purple morning glory

Ipomoea indica / *I. congesta*

(Tropics world-wide)

Flowers: most of the year

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



Nasturtium

Tropaeolum majus

(Peru)

Flowers: summer and autumn

Reproduces: seed

Grow me instead



Coastal lignum

Muehlenbeckia gunnii

Robust perennial twining plant. Green, lance-shaped leaves. Small pale yellow flowers most of the year. Prune as required. Don't plant under powerlines. Good habitat for birds to hide in. Shade tolerant.



Climbing saltbush

Einadia nutans

Climber or groundcover. Herbaceous or woody stems spreading to 1m diameter. Small pointed fleshy leaves. Tiny yellow flowers and attractive bright red or yellow fruit, most of the year. Uses: groundcover, creeper, hanging baskets. Moist, well-drained soil.



Native lilac

Hardenbergia violacea

Attractive climber or shrub with trailing and twining stems. Dark green leaves, clumps of bright purple pea flowers, winter. Uses: climber, small shrub, feature pot plant. Sheltered positions.



Old man's beard

Clematis microphylla

Climber reaching several meters with support, or plant as groundcover. Masses of pale green/white flowers, winter to early spring. Female flowers turn to fluffy seeds, late spring. Prune annually. Well-drained soils.



Sweet apple-berry

Billardiera cymosa

Climber or small shrub to shin high. Dark green leaves, striking purple to blue flowers in spring. Red / purple berries, summer.



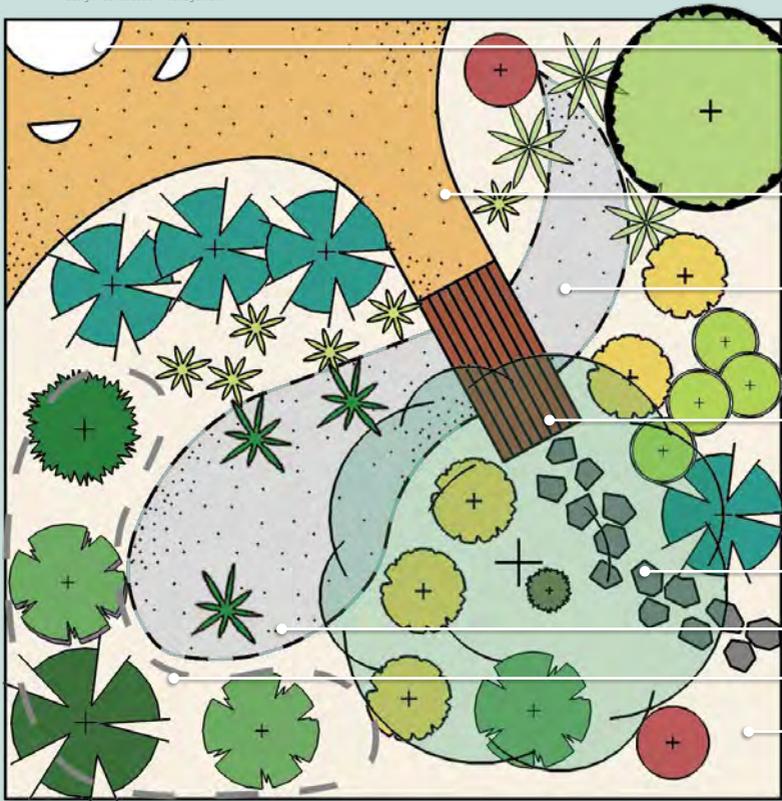
Natural cottage

A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local native plants as many species flower in winter, and with some planning, you can achieve 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 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.



The design below gives you some ideas on how to create one of these gardens – you will notice there is a diversity of local plant species featured, with some repetitive plantings and clustering of plants in a general flowing arrangement. The mounded area

and depression add interest to the garden, with stepping stones and a recycled railway sleeper bridge adding rustic elements which entice you through the garden. You can apply this exact design to your yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own!

Table and chairs

14mm Yankalilla gravel

Whitewash sustainable pebble

Recycled railway sleeper bridge

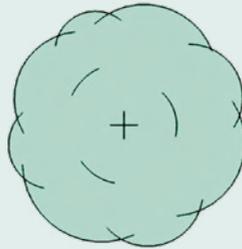
Salvaged slate stepping stones

Low lying area 300mm

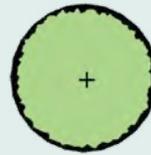
Mounded area 300mm

Mulch

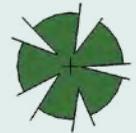
Trees and tall shrubs



Grey / peppermint box



Drizzling sheoak



Sticky hop-bush

Medium shrubs



Twiggy daisy-bush



Twiggy bush-pea



Common eutaxia

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Creeping boobialla



Native pigface



Native pelargonium

Grasses, sedges and rushes



Pale rush



Flat-sedge



Knobby club-rush

Climbers



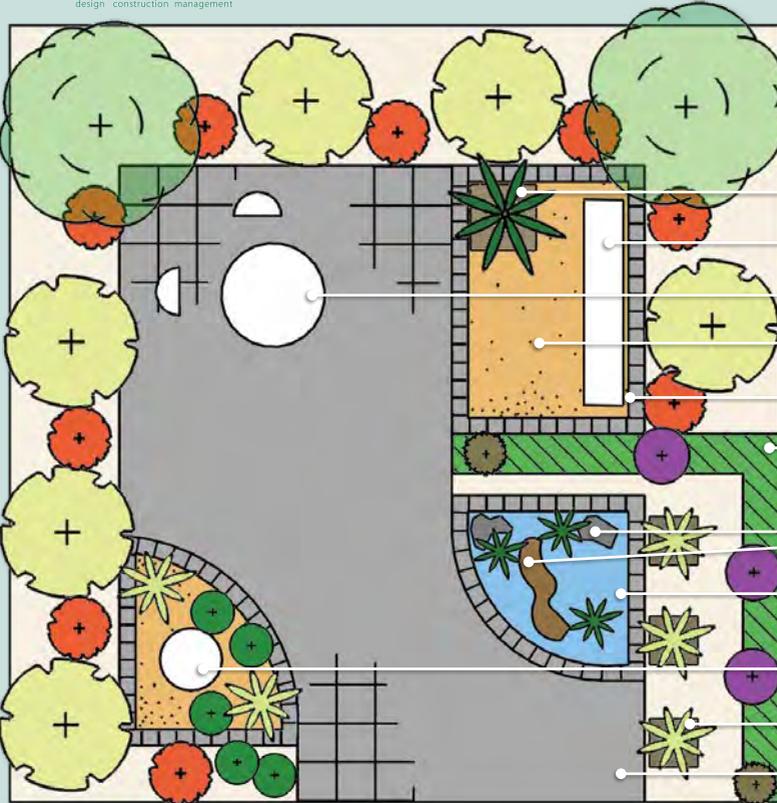
Old man's beard

Formal

The formal style suits courtyards and modern urban yards as the emphasis is on structure and balance with a simple and uncluttered feel. Formal courtyard gardens emphasise symmetry and borders, and use paver edging, gravel, or sustainable pebbles to create and highlight landscaping features.

A number of local native plants can be grown into clipped hedges or shapes to form the basis of formal gardens.

The design below gives you some ideas on how to create one of these gardens. You will notice a small number of plant species are



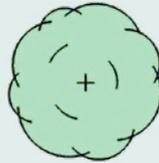
featured, and are laid out in a repetitive and mirrored manner to create symmetry and balance.

A green wall using native climber species provides screening to a private seated area in the rear of the courtyard. Species such as

correa, grevillea and flax-lily can all be grown in pots and look great set out in straight lines. Apply this exact design to your yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own!

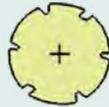
- Yacca in square pot
- Bench
- Table and chairs
- 14mm Yankalilla gravel
- Paver edging
- Green wall 1800mm mesh trellis
- Habitat log and rocks
- Frog pond with liner 300mm depth
- Bird bath
- Flax-lily in square pot
- Large format pavers

Trees and tall shrubs



Southern cypress-pine

Medium shrubs



Rock correa

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Lavender grevillea



Tom thumb

Grasses, sedges and rushes



Yacca



Flax-lily



Flat-sedge

Climbers



Native lilac



Old man's beard

Family

Family gardens can be much more than a large expanse of lawn with a swing set and cubby house. It's easy to create exciting, playful spaces for children to explore nature and develop through sensory play. Successful family gardens feature zoning of areas and encourage creative

freedom in kids' outdoor play by providing plenty of opportunities for exploration, challenge, interaction and learning.

The design below gives you some ideas on how to create a functional, relaxed and stylish family garden.



There is a diversity of local native plants featured which provide stimulation for children through their interesting textures and vibrant colours. A lawn featuring non-invasive grass provides an open playing space, and a number of stepping-stone paths adjacent to the lawn invite deeper exploration in the garden. The rear of the garden houses a

bamboo teepee trellised with sweet apple-berry, creating a kids' refuge and hiding place. A functional paved area provides space for a family outdoor table setting and BBQ (and a blank canvas for your budding chalk artists!). You can apply this exact design to your yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

Bamboo teepee / trellis

Salvaged slate stepping stones

Lawn brick edging

Mulch

Whitewash sustainable pebble

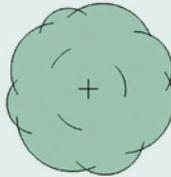
Yacca in pot

BBQ

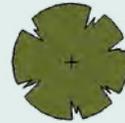
Large format pavers 400x400mm

Table and chairs

Trees and tall shrubs



Grey / peppermint box



Sweet bursaria

Medium shrubs



Paper flower



Desert senna



Round-leaf wattle

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Sticky goodenia



Running postman



White goodenia

Grasses, sedges and rushes



Yacca



Common tussock-grass



Mat-rush



Black-head grass

Climbers

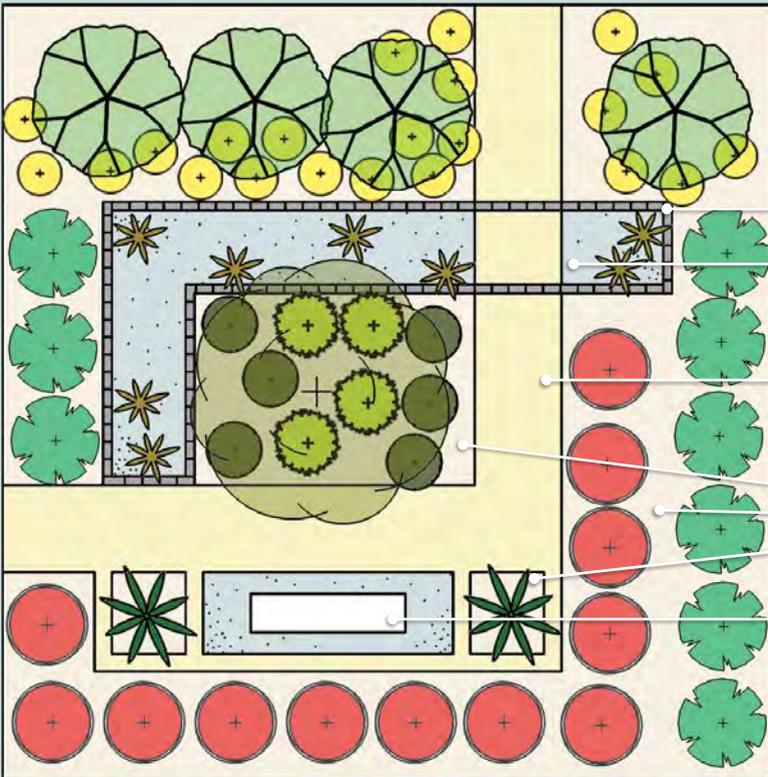


Sweet apple-berry

Contemporary

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local native plants offer excellent colour and texture to provide opportunity 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.



Notice the creative layout of garden beds below, and use of contrasting landscape materials such as gravel, sandstone pavers and mulch.

A small number of local native plant species are presented in a deliberate and repetitive manner. You can apply this exact design to your yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own!

Charcoal paver
100x200mm

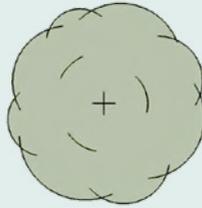
Quartzite gravel

Sandstone pavers
200x200mm

Mulch

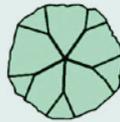
Bench

Trees and tall shrubs



Silver banksia

Medium shrubs



Myrtle wattle



Seaberry saltbush



Ruby saltbush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Muntries



White goodenia



Common everlasting

Grasses, sedges and rushes



Yacca



Pale rush

Growing and maintaining local native plants

When to plant

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 deep roots before the warm weather kicks in.

Watering

Water-in your new plants. Over the first two summers give your plants a deep watering once a week to help them establish deep roots. After this, they should be able to cope on rainfall alone; however, depending on variations in seasons and to keep your garden thriving, give your plants a deep water as required. Be mindful of any water restrictions and any prescribed times for watering.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are robust and can survive during periods of low rainfall and minimal watering. However, take care as over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil, creates excessive growth, and results in less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

Pot plants

Potted 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 about which product is best). Don't over-apply fertiliser as it can harm your plants. Some plants may need re-potting in the future.

Mulch and gravels

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70 per cent! 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.

Fertilising

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 local native plants. You'll also want to avoid rapid growth that makes your plants leggy, weak and short-lived.

Pruning

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 become straggly.

Sustainable landscaping

You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally-sourced materials. Avoid materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch.

More information

For further information on establishing local native plants and how you can create habitat for native fauna, such as birds and butterflies, visit the 'Useful resources' listing on page 38.



Sourcing local native plants



The plants featured in this guide were chosen as they not only look good in gardens, but also tend to be the most readily available commercially. However, not all nurseries stock local native plants. A list of specialist native plant nurseries can be found at greenadelaide.sa.gov.au

Alternatively, you can check with your council or phone Green Adelaide on 8463 3733 for more help (see the back cover for details).

Ask your 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 best for your garden.

You can often place orders in advance with specialist native plant nurseries in late spring to early summer and then collect them to plant in late autumn. Advance orders are recommended if you want larger quantities of plants, special or hard-to-grow species, or if you have your heart set on a particular species.

Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers.

Keep an eye out for local plant giveaways which are sometimes run by councils in winter - these will be advertised on your local council website and are extremely popular!



Where to now?

So you've had a read of this guide and want to tackle garden escapes lurking in your garden, or you want to try gardening with local native species. Here are some of the next steps you can take:

- research and create a vision
- decide on your garden's scale, theme and look
- consider what you already have in your garden – what's staying and what's going?
- put your plan to paper – sketch the main features, e.g. paths, seating, ponds, garden beds
- use your list on the next pages to help you plan your plant order
- create a timeline – do you need to order in advance, how long will it take to prepare the garden beds, what weeds will need to be controlled?
- follow the growing and maintenance tips in this guide – and remember, local native gardens are **low** maintenance, not **no** maintenance!

Use the table on the next two pages to plan your new garden. There's plenty of space to write your favourite species from this guide and how you plan to use them.



Plant category	Notes (e.g. quantity, uses, location)
Trees and tall shrubs	
Medium shrubs	
Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs	
Grasses and sedges	
Climbers	

Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide. From picturesque images to more in-depth gardening resource materials, they may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

- Green Adelaide greenadelaide.sa.gov.au
- Your local council's website
- Weeds Australia environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds
- Sustainable Gardening Australia sgaonline.org.au
- *The native plants of Adelaide (2010)*
Phil Bagust and Lynda Tout-Smith, Wakefield Press
- *Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia*
pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa





Text by Claire Lock and Olivia Brodhurst, Rural Solutions SA.

Green Adelaide gratefully acknowledges the photographers who donated their images for this guide: Shaun Kennedy, Ron Sandercock, Rata Luckens, Doug Fotheringham, Nick Fewster, Ben Moulton, Caroline Taylor, Tony Flaherty, Sharn Smith, Bill Doyle, Peter Watton, Tina Gillespie, Martin Stokes, Dragos Moise, Jerry Smith, Russell Dahms, Forest & Kim Starr, Eyefood, Biosecurity SA, Urban Biodiversity Unit, and from WikiCommons: Elstro, Alvesgaspar and Chhe.

This planting guide is funded from the landscape levy.

© Green Adelaide 2021

Disclaimer: Green Adelaide and the Government of South Australia and their employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use or results of use of the information contained herein as to its correctness, accuracy, currency or otherwise.

Green Adelaide

Department for Environment and Water

81 - 95 Waymouth Street

Adelaide SA 5000

T: 8463 3733

E: dew.greenadelaide@sa.gov.au

greenadelaide.sa.gov.au

f facebook.com/GreenAdelaide

@ instagram.com/GreenAdelaideSA

#GreenAdelaide



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, and other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia
2021 | FIS 96728

Green Adelaide was established by the South Australian Government to help manage urban densification and climate change impacts on metropolitan Adelaide. Green Adelaide will work to create a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient city by partnering, funding and supporting aligned organisations and communities, as well as delivering on-ground iconic projects to establish Adelaide as Australia's first National Park City.

**GREEN
ADELAIDE**