

**Natural Resources**  
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



# Adelaide gardens

## A planting guide



Government  
of South Australia

# Healthy and attractive urban landscapes

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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 suggested as 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 Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges and funded through the NRM levy.

The other guides are:

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

They are available from [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges), natural resources centres and various nursery outlets.

# 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 array of Adelaide's local native plants to create a stunning garden. Step by step, you will learn what plant works best for a given area or need, how to incorporate local native plants in different landscaping styles, how best to maintain your plants and where they can be purchased.

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

When it comes time to buying plants, this guide will provide a better understanding of how and when to use local native alternatives and the many benefits they provide. When you read the section on garden escapes and learn about the impacts invasive plants have, you might even spot some in your garden and decided to replace them with recommendations in this guide.

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 naturally occurred in your neighbourhood prior to European settlement, and have 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!

## Local native plants have a wide range of benefits.

They:

- require less effort to maintain
- require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies
- require minimal fertilisers and pesticides
- provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards
- save you money and time
- adapt to various landscaping styles and produce striking results
- flower at different times of the year so with good planning you can have colour in your 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 be used to create a striking feature pot plant, 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 which pose 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 natives. They also don't have the range of pests and diseases here to naturally control them. 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 your regional natural resources 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 plants with the potential to become garden escapes, or understand how they can 'jump the fence' to become problems. Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally or deliberately.

They can spread by:

- seeds being 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.



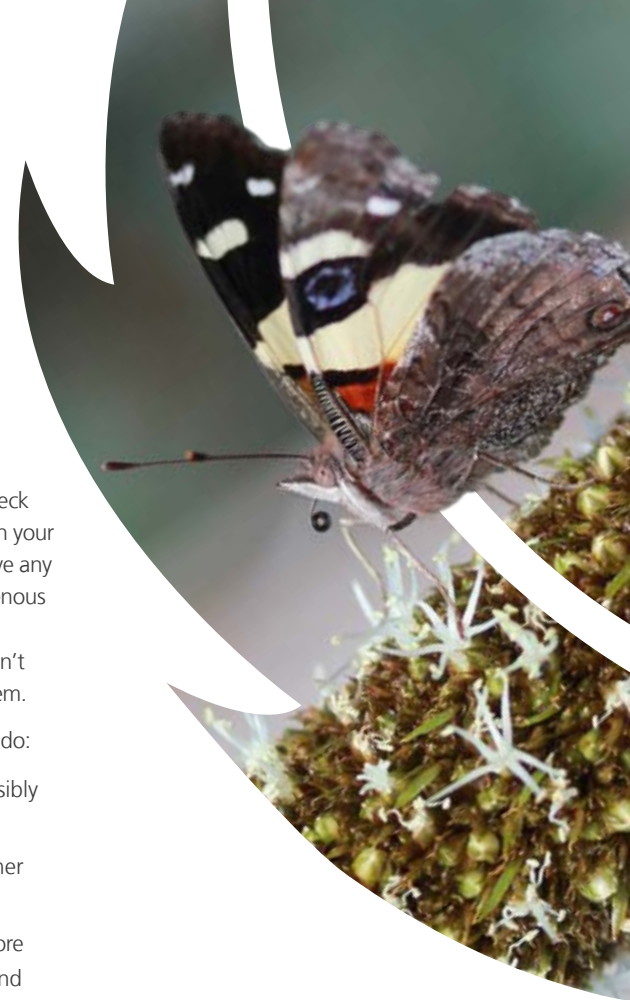
# You can help!

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 other easy things you can do:

- dispose of your garden waste responsibly
- check with your local council before you plant into parks, reserves and other open spaces
- join a local volunteer group to learn more about your environment and lend a hand
- call your local natural resources centre (details on back cover); or visit [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges) for information on how to get involved
- keep an eye out for emerging aquatic weeds, such as Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) that may appear in local creeklines or ponds, and immediately report any occurrences to your local natural resources centre.

Be aware that different weeds need to be controlled by different methods: there are physical, biological and chemical methods for controlling weeds. Use the links on page 38 to find out more information on best practice methods for controlling weeds.



## Trees and tall shrubs

# 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



### Hawthorn or May / Azarola

*Crataegus monogyna* / *C. sinaica*

(Europe, south-western Asia and north Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed



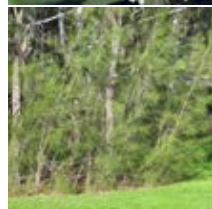
### Olive

*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.

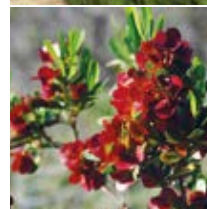


### Southern Cypress-pine

*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.





## Medium shrubs

### Don't plant me



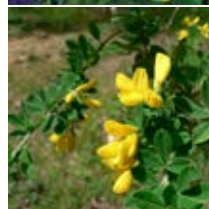
#### Boneseed

*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late autumn to winter

Reproduces: seed (fleshy fruit)



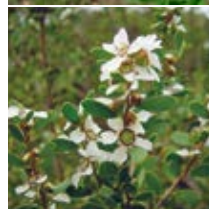
#### Brooms (Cape / Flax-leaved / English or Scotch)

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

(Europe)

Flowers: late winter to spring

Reproduces: seeds, germinates after fire, regrows from cuttings



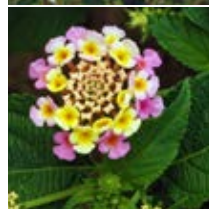
#### Coast Tea-tree

*Leptospermum laevigatum*

(East coast Australia and Tasmania)

Flowers: late winter to spring

Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)



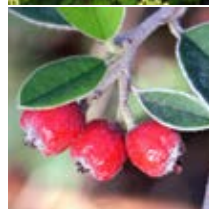
#### Common Lantana

*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*

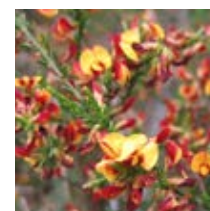
(Mediterranean)

Flowers: winter to spring

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively by root suckers



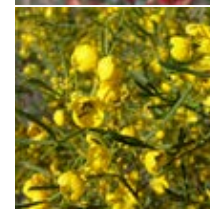
### Grow me instead



#### 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.

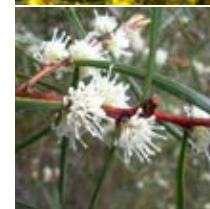


#### Desert Senna

*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.

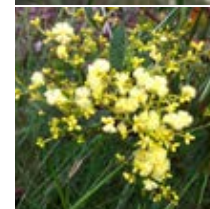


#### Erect Hakea

*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.

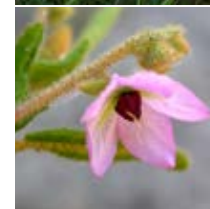


#### Myrtle Wattle

*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.



## Medium shrubs

# Don't plant me



### Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

*Polygala myrtifolia*

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed



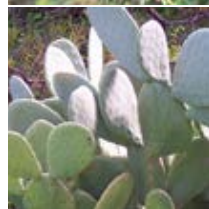
### Rosemary Grevillea

*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

(New South Wales and Victoria)

Flowers: winter through to spring and occasionally at other times

Reproduces: seed



### Red Hot Poker / Prickly Pear or Wheel Cactus

*Kniphofia uvaria* / *Opuntia* spp. ▲ ✕

(Tropical and sub-tropical dry regions)

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



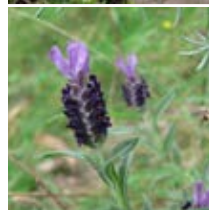
### Diosma

*Coleonema pulchellum*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late winter and early spring

Reproduces: seed



### Topped Lavender

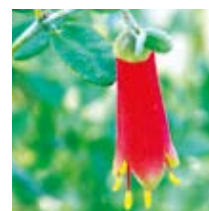
*Lavandula stoechas*

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: winter to spring

Reproduces: seed

# Grow me instead



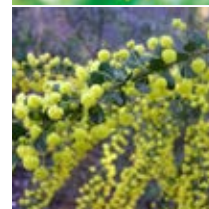
### Rock Correa / Native Fuchsia

*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.

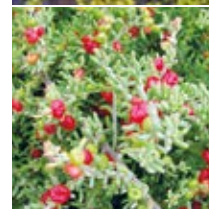


### Round-leaf Wattle

*Acacia acinacea*

Shrub to 2m, weeping habit. Small rounded green 'leaves' (phylloides).

Yellow wattle flowers May to September. Responds to light prune post-flowering. Lives 8-10 years. Well-drained soils, tolerates shade.

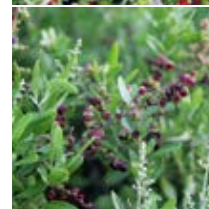


### Ruby Saltbush

*Enchylaena tomentosa*

Low shrub to 1m. Leaves small, blue-green, fleshy. Yellow to red fleshy fruits throughout year. Great foliage and colour contrast.

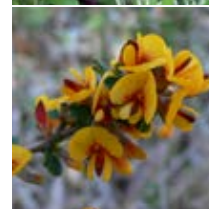
Responds to pruning. Fruits attract wildlife. Most soils.



### Seaberry Saltbush

*Rhagodia candolleana*

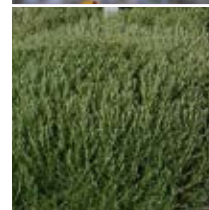
Spreading shrub to several metres wide. Fleshy green leaves, small clusters of white flowers. Globular fruit ripens to deep red, summer to autumn. Uses: lush green informal hedge. Light, regular pruning maintains shape. Lizards eat berries.



### Twiggy Bush-pea

*Pultenea largiflorens*

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



### Twiggy 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.

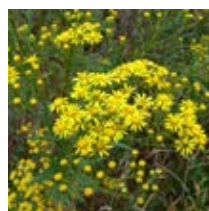
Prune to retain shape.





## Groundcovers and herbs

### 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*

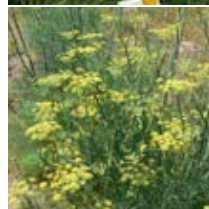
(South Africa)  
Flowers: autumn to spring  
Reproduces: seed



#### 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*

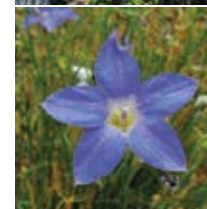
Variable shrub to 1m high. Grey-green foliage resembles lavender. Pink to red flowers, winter to spring. Uses: small pretty shrub for foreground plantings. Prefers well-drained soil, shade tolerant.



#### 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



### Succulents

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

(Africa and the Mediterranean)

Flowers: various

Reproduces: most by vegetative growth, some set seed

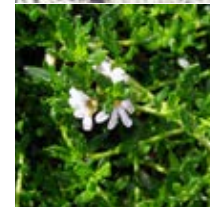
## Grow me instead



### 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.

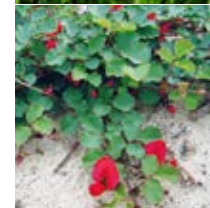


### Pale Fanflower

*Scaevola albida*

Soft prostrate annual groundcover, to 40cm high.

White and purple fan flowers, summer. Tolerates most soils.



### Running Postman

*Kennedia prostrata*

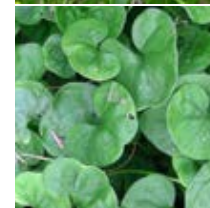
Attractive groundcover to 2m. Leaves pale green. Eye-catching scarlet pea-flowers, winter to summer. Uses: groundcover, feature urn, trail down rockery. Tolerates most soils.



### 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** ▲*Cortaderia selloana / C. jubata*

(South America)

Flowers: autumn

Reproduces: seeds are produced during winter and spring

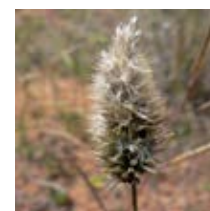
**Kikuyu***Pennisetum clandestinum*

(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** 🐦 🦋 🌱*Austrodanthonia* 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

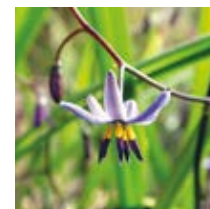
*Zantedeschia aethiopica*

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: seed

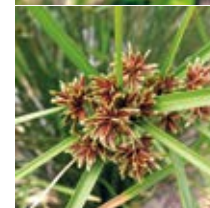
## Grow me instead



### 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*

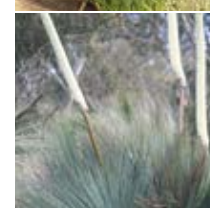
Tussock-forming perennial to 1.5m high. Flowers green and brown, spring to autumn. Uses: mass planting, informal hedge, around ponds. Well-drained soils. Additional water in summer.



### Pale Rush

*Juncus pallidus*

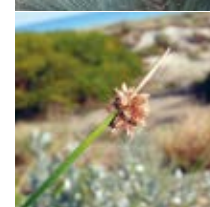
Hardy rushes to 2m. Flowers in summer. Great border plants, use in mass plantings. Grow in moist areas.



### Yacca

*Xanthorrhoea semiplana*

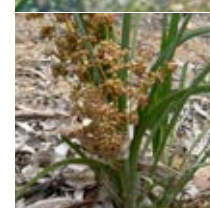
Trunk to 3m high. Juveniles have no trunk. Dense crown of grass-like leaves to 1.5m. Flowers creamy-white on cylindrical spike to 3m long, spring. Uses: feature plant. Slow growing. Potted plant benefits from fertiliser application (refer pages 32-33).



### 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.



## Climbers

### Don't plant me



#### Blue Periwinkle Creeper

*Vinca major*

(Central and southern Europe and northern Africa)  
Flowers: spring and summer  
Reproduces: stem rooting, vegetatively



#### Blue-bell Creeper / Sollya

*Billardiera heterophylla* (formerly *Sollya heterophylla*)

(Western Australia)  
Flowers: spring and summer  
Reproduces: seed



#### Bridal Creeper / Asparagus Fern / Bridal Veil

*Asparagus asparagoides* / *A. scandens* / *A. declinatus*

(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

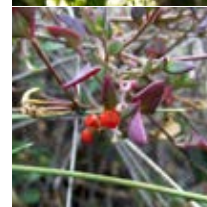
### Grow me instead



#### Coastal Lignum

*Muehlenbeckia gunnii*

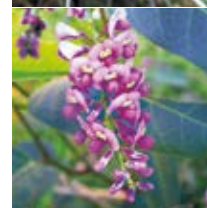
Robust perennial twining plant. Green, lance-shaped leaves. Small pale yellow flowers most of the year. Prune as required. Don't plant under powerlines. Good habitat for birds to hide in. Shade tolerant.



#### Climbing Saltbush

*Einadia nutans*

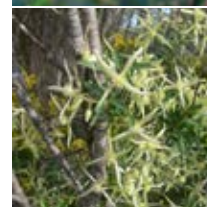
Climber or groundcover. Herbaceous or woody stems spreading to 1m diameter. Small pointed fleshy leaves. Tiny yellow flowers and attractive bright red or yellow fruit, most of the year. Uses: groundcover, creeper, hanging baskets. Moist, well-drained soil.



#### 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 decipiens* (formerly *C. 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

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. You can add bird-baths, hollow logs, and nesting boxes to attract and support local wildlife. 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.

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!

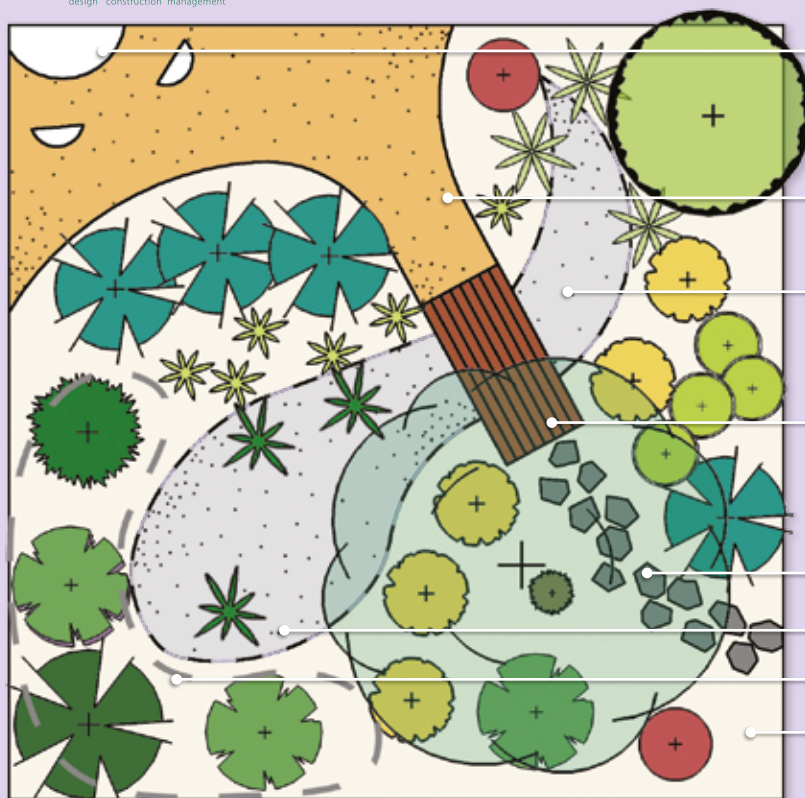


Table and chairs

14mm Yankalilla gravel

Whitewash sustainable pebble

Recycled railway sleeper bridge

Salvaged slate stepping stones

Low lying area 300mm

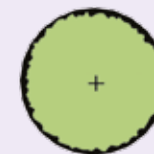
Mounded area 300mm

Mulch

## Trees and tall shrubs



Grey / Peppermint Box



Drooping Sheoak



Sticky Hop-bush

## Medium shrubs



Twiggy Daisy-bush



Twiggy Bush-pea



Common Eutaxia

## Groundcovers and herbs



Creeping Boobialla



Native Pigface



Native Pelargonium

## Grasses, sedges and rushes



Pale Rush



Flat-sedge



Knobby Club-rush

## Climbers



Old Man's Beard

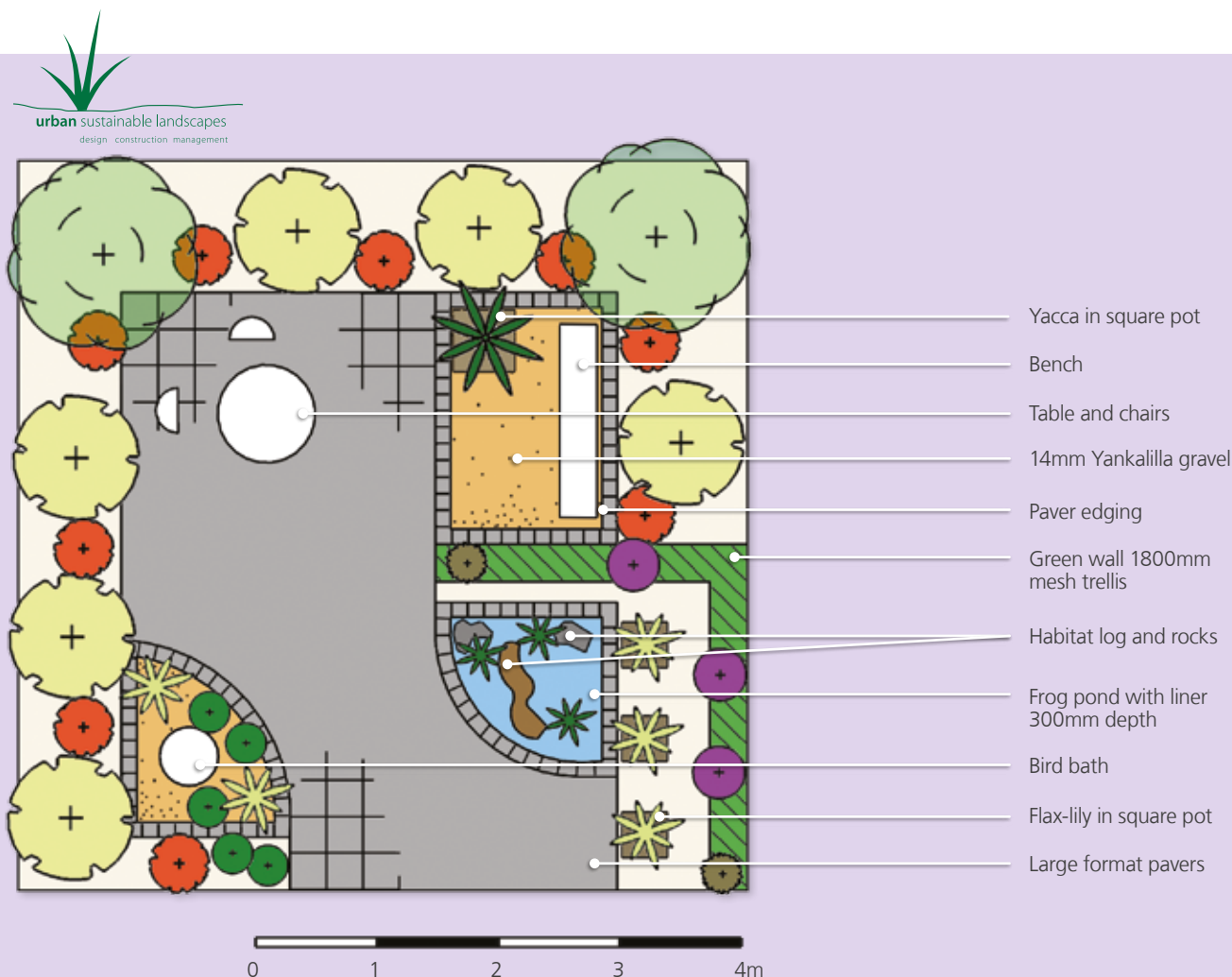
# Formal courtyard

The formal style suits courtyards 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!



## Trees and tall shrubs



Southern Cypress-pine

## Medium shrubs



Rock Correa

## Groundcovers and herbs



Lavender  
Grevillea



Tom Thumb

## Grasses, sedges and rushes



Yacca



Flax-lily



Flat-sedge

## Climbers



Native Lilac



Old Man's  
Beard



# Family

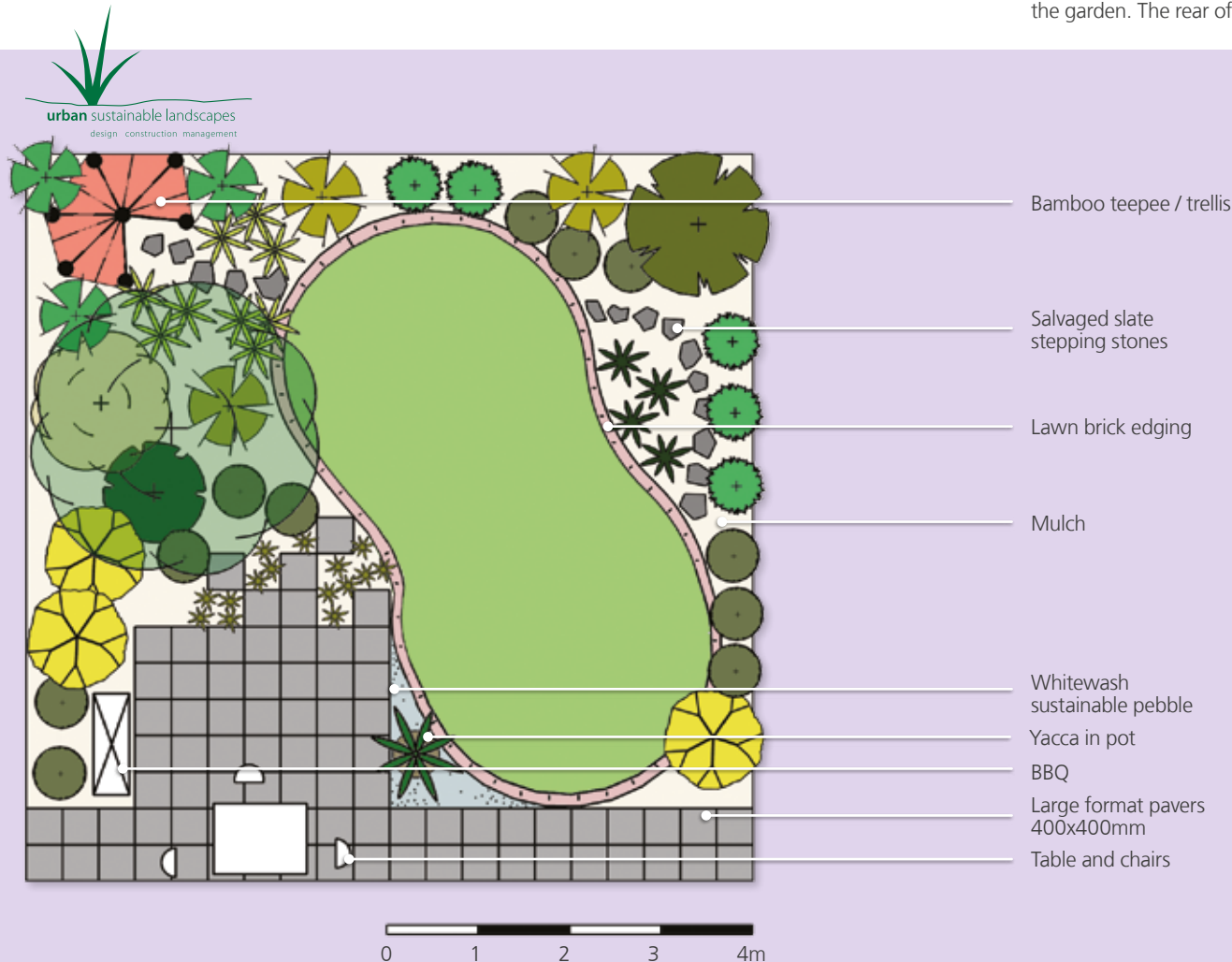
Family gardens can be much more than a large expanse of lawn with a swing set and cubby house (for kids and parents alike). It is quite easy to create exciting, playful spaces for children to explore and develop through sensory play. Successful family gardens feature zoning of areas and encourage creative

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 species featured which provide stimulation for children through their interesting textures and vibrant colours. A lawn featuring non-invasive grass species provides an open playing space, and a number of stepping-stone paths adjacent to the lawn invite children to explore deeper 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 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!



## Trees and tall shrubs



Grey / Peppermint Box



Sweet Bursaria

## Medium shrubs



Paper Flower



Desert Senna



Round-leaf Wattle

## Groundcovers and herbs



Sticky Goodenia



Running Postman



White Goodenia

## Grasses, sedges and rushes



Yacca



Common Tussock-grass



Mat-rush



Black-head Grass

## Climbers



Sweet Apple-berry

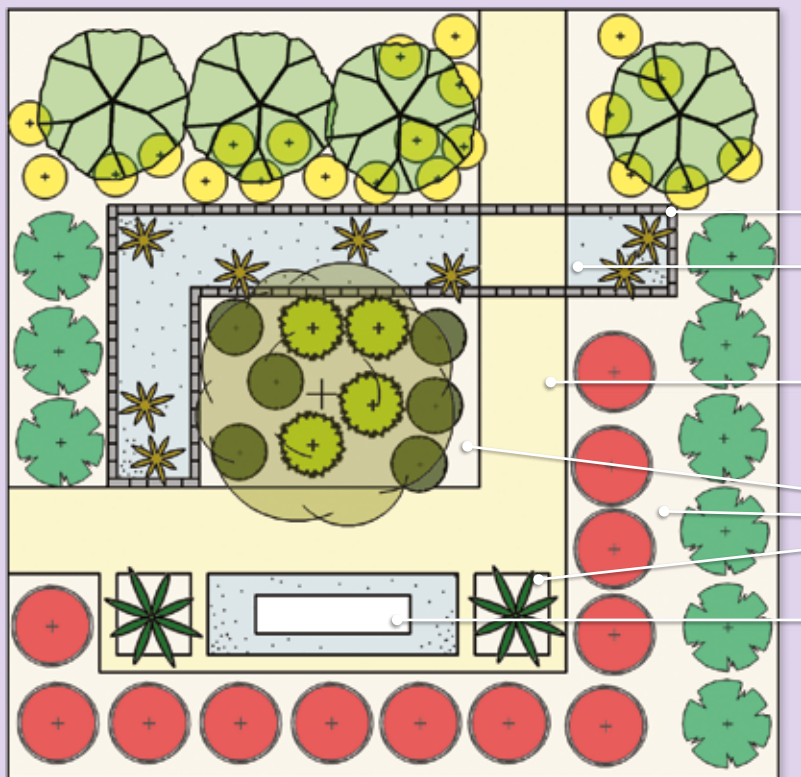
# Contemporary

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

The design below gives you ideas on using local plants to create one of these gardens – you will notice the creative layout of garden beds 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

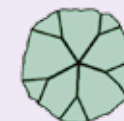
Bench

## Trees and tall shrubs



Silver Banksia

## Medium shrubs



Myrtle Wattle



Seaberry Saltbush



Ruby Saltbush

## Groundcovers and herbs



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 current water restrictions and the prescribed times allocated to gardeners 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%! 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

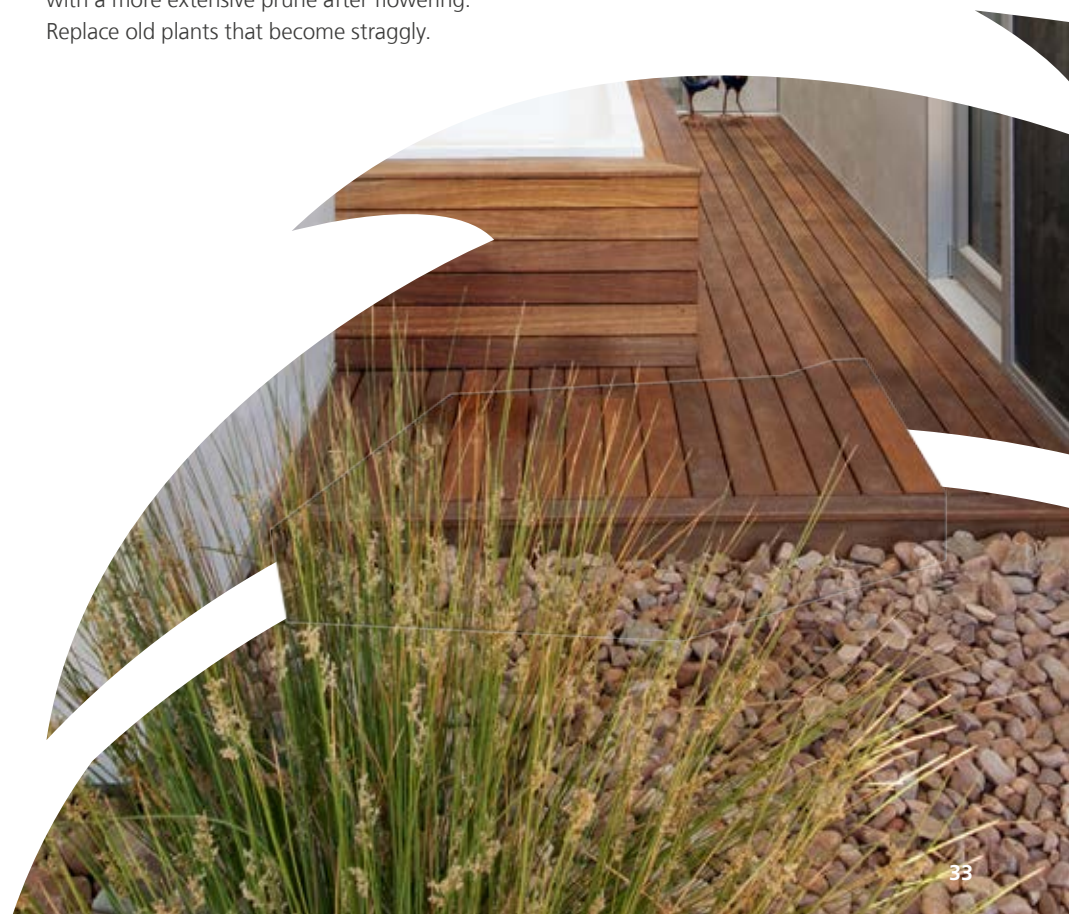
Pruning is beneficial for many of these plants. Most species will appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote new growth and encourage flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering, usually late spring or early summer. Young plants can be pruned lightly and regularly. Older plants can be refreshed 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 on sustainable landscaping can be found here: [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au) (look under 'Botanic Gardens').

## 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 [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges). Alternatively, you can check with your council or phone your local natural resources centre for more help (see page 38 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.

Subscribe to *Urban Biodiversity News* to receive newsletter updates about plant sales and other activities that support local wildlife around greater Adelaide (see page 38 for details).

# Where to now?

So you've had a quick read of this guide and are keen to tackle some of the garden escapes you've realised are lurking in your garden, or you want to try your hand at 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 the list on pages 36-37 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 help plan your new garden (write down 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 and herbs	
Grasses	
Sedges, rushes and strappy plants	
Climbers	

Plant category	Notes (e.g. quantity, uses, location)
Trees and tall shrubs	
Medium shrubs	
Groundcovers and herbs	
Grasses	
Sedges, rushes and strappy plants	
Climbers	



# Useful resources

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

- Natural Resources Centres / Backyards for Wildlife / Urban Biodiversity News  
[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges)
- Your local council's website
- Weeds in Australia [www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds)
- Sustainable Landscapes Project, Botanic Gardens [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)
- Sustainable Gardening Australia website [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.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*  
Biosecurity SA [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm\\_biosecurity/weeds](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm_biosecurity/weeds)
- Weeds Australia [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)



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[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges)



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urban sustainable landscapes  
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