



# A Planting Guide for Mid North Gardens

## Why, local native plants

Local, native plants are species that would naturally occur in your area, evolved to suit local conditions.

Growing native plants in your garden is beneficial as they:

- Reduce water and fertiliser use
- Require low maintenance
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Reduce backyard weeds
- Flower at different times of the year, so you can have a flowering garden all year round.

## Garden Escapes – Are you growing potential weeds?

Weeds are plants growing where they are not wanted. Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds.

Environmental weeds:

- Threaten our local native plants and environment
- Reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna & harbour pest animals
- Alter soil conditions and clog up waterways
- Are very costly to control

## Are your garden plants jumping the fence?

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates. 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.

Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally and deliberately:

- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, wind, water or humans (clothing, shoes etc)
- Dumped garden waste with seeds/plant cuttings
- Growing through fences

## How can you help?

You can remove plants from your garden which are environmental weeds and replace with the local, native plants suggested in this publication. These plants can be sourced from State Flora or from all good nurseries.

## Groundcovers, herbs & grasses

Fill the gaps and add texture



### Berry Saltbush

*Atriplex semibaccata*

A very hardy groundcover with bluish-green foliage. Good ground stabiliser & useful as a living mulch.

### Black-anther Flax-lily

*Dianella revoluta*

Small, clumping lily to 1m high. Green strappy foliage with dark blue flowers. A hardy species.



### Bulbine lily *Bulbine bulbosa*

Small lily to 0.75m high with attractive yellow star-shaped flowers. Tolerates most soils, but prefers good drainage.

### Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*

Erect, tussocky perennial grass to 1m high. Grows in full sun to part shade. Tolerates a wide range of soil types from sandy soils to clays.



### Lemon grass *Cymbopogon ambiguus*

Erect, tussocky, perennial grass 0.5 high by 0.3 m wide with flower spikes up to 1.5m. Leaves have a strong lemon scent when crushed. Requires full sun or part shade.

### Native Lilac *Hardenbergia violacea*

Low groundcover or climber with purple, pea-shaped flowers in winter (pink or white flowering cultivars available).



### Running Postman

*Kennedia prostrata*

Low ground cover with red flowers in late winter to spring.

### Scented Iron Grass

*Lomandra effusa*

Clumping, grass-like plant to 50 cm high. Small, white flower clusters in winter to spring.



## Trees and Tall Shrubs

Feature trees, screening or driveways



**Common Oak-bush**  
*Allocasuarina muelleriana*

Grey-green to reddish shrub, 1-4 m high. Seeds extracted by a variety of bird species.

### Drooping Sheoak

*Allocasuarina verticillata*

Grey-green tree with a drooping habit, 5-10 m high. Use as a feature tree or for screening.



**Native Apricot**  
*Pittosporum angustifolium*

A small tree with drooping habit, 3-6 m high. Fruits are orange, containing seeds that attract native birds.

### Quandong *Santalum acuminatum*

A medium shrub, 2-5 m high. Small, cream flowers in late spring to summer. Fruits are edible and a traditional Aboriginal food source.



**Southern Cypress Pine** *Callitris gracilis*

A native conifer, easy to grow species, 5-15 m high. Great for formal gardens, attractive foliage. Use as a feature plant, line driveway or screening.

### Sticky Hop-bush *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *spatulata*

Erect shrub 2-4 m, with striking red seed pods in spring. Great for hedging or screening.



**Wreath Wattle** *Acacia acinacea*

A very hardy, attractive shrub. Displays masses of yellow gold flowers in later winter/early spring. Grows 1-2 m high.

### Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*

A medium shrub, 3-8 m high. The clusters of yellow ball-shaped flowers are visually striking in any garden.

## Medium and Small Shrubs

Splashes of Colour

### Common Correa *Correa reflexa*

Small shrub 0.5-2 m high. Red bell-shaped flower with green or yellow tip.



**Common Eutaxia**  
*Eutaxia microphylla*

Low shrub to 50 cm high. Flowers are a pea-shaped, yellow with purple or red in spring.

### Common Everlasting

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Bright yellow button flowers in late winter to spring. A great plant to use as a cut flower.



**Common Fringe Myrtle**  
*Calytrix tetragona*

Slender shrub, 1-2 m high. Produces masses of pink to white star-shaped flowers in spring. Sun or light shade.

### Emu Bush *Eremophila glabra*

0.5-3 m high, form and colour is varied amongst species. Flowers in late winter to summer. Attracts honeyeaters.



### Lavender Grevillea *Grevillea lavandulacea*

Small spreading shrub 0.3-1 m high by 1.5 m wide. Flowers are bright red or pink in winter and spring.



**Scarlet Bottlebush**  
*Callistemon rugulosus*

2-4 m high, red flower spikes with yellow anthers. Leaves are pointy and sharp. Prefers sandy moist soil, but is drought and frost tolerant.

### White Goodenia *Goodenia albiflora*

Small shrub to 70 cm high. Blue-green foliage with white flowers from spring to summer. An important plant for butterflies and native insects.



**Radiata Pine** *Pinus radiata*

**Athel Pine** *Tamarix aphylla*

**Aleppo Pine** *Pinus halepensis*

**Olive** *Olea europaea/cuspidata*

### Don't Plant a Garden Escape!

**Peppertree** *Schinus areira*

**Gazania** *Gazania linearis*

**Pampas Grass** *Cortaderia selloana*

**Topped Lavender** *Lavandula stoechas*

**White weeping Broom** *Retama raetama*

**White Arctotis** *Arctotis stoechadifolia*

**Century Plant** *Agave americana*

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Natural Resources  
Northern & Yorke



Government  
of South Australia