



Native Gardens

A planting and landscaping guide
for the southern region of Tasmania



local

style

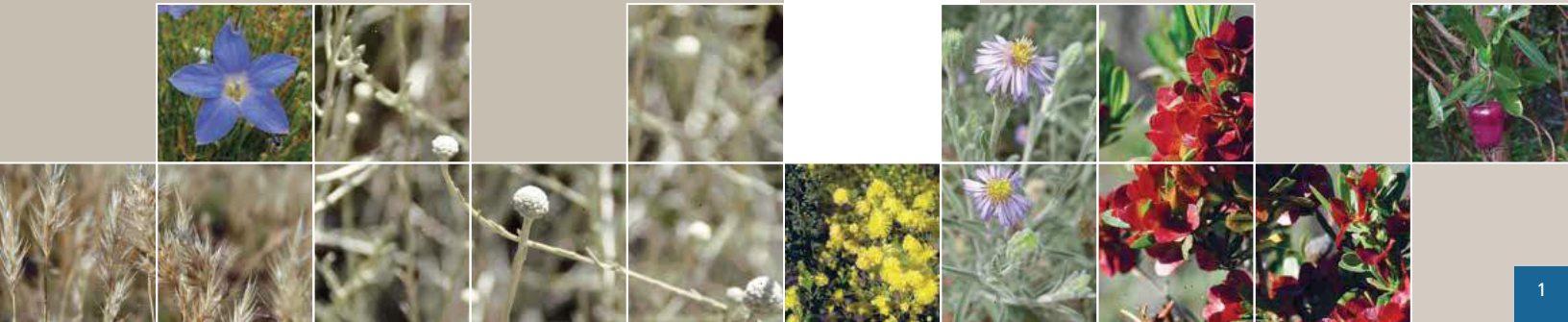
water-wise

habitat

Healthy and attractive gardens

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for people living in the southern region of Tasmania. Water-wise local native plants that are suitable for gardens are suggested as attractive alternatives or replacements for introduced plants that can be harmful to our local natural landscapes.

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Using this planting guide

Getting started

Local native plants can be used to create a unique, attractive and sustainable garden whatever the shape, size or style of your garden. Native gardens are water efficient, conserve native plants, support wildlife and contribute to a greener suburban environment. With a long history of adapting to local soils and climatic conditions, native plants are well placed to cope with future localised changes in climate and seasonality.

This guide provides examples and inspiration for you to create your own vibrant and stylish local native garden using popular design styles and just some of the fantastic variety of native plants found within the southern region of Tasmania. Only a limited number of native plants from the southern region are featured, however there are many more available for you to consider. You may use a landscape design in its entirety or incorporate elements of a design to work in with existing aspects of your garden. Either way, step-by-step, you will learn which plants will work well, how to incorporate them in different landscaping styles and how to maintain them.

The guide also provides information on plants which are renowned for becoming serious weeds in natural areas and are best avoided in a garden setting. When buying plants, you will be able to consider native alternatives and enjoy the benefits they provide. You can use this guide to identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with the recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your garden can benefit your wallet and is an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. You will enjoy learning more about your garden and the huge array of beautiful native plants that can be incorporated in a functional and stylish way. Happy gardening!

Discovering local plants

What is a local plant?

Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your area and have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called ‘indigenous plants’. Native plants included in this guide are local to the southern region of Tasmania (see map on back page). Many are widespread throughout the region, however some have more restricted distributions as noted in the species descriptions.

Why use local plants?

Local plants have a huge range of benefits.

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

Local plants are a great option for residents in suburban areas. They are adapted to the local temperature, rainfall and soil conditions and are the best plants for your neighbourhood and the environment.

How to use local plants

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

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

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

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 30–31.



Garden escapes

Are you harbouring known villains?



How do garden plants become invaders?

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

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment.
- They reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna.
- They can alter soil conditions.
- They can clog up waterways and affect water quality.
- They can harbour feral animals such as feral cats and rats that prey on our native wildlife.

Garden escapes are very costly to control and take resources away from other important environmental issues.

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates to ours. Thriving in the similar conditions, they out-compete local natives and they don't have the pests and diseases that control them in their original environment.

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

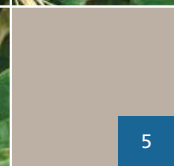
- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, soil, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc).
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings that can grow several months later.
- Sometimes people deliberately plant garden plants in adjoining reserves and bushland areas.
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly into natural areas.

You can help!

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

Here are some other easy things you can do.

- Use local native species in your garden.
- Dispose of your garden waste responsibly.
- Join a local Coast or Landcare group to learn more about your local area and lend a hand! Call NRM South on 6221 6111 or your local Council for more information on how to get involved.



Trees & tall shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



GROW ME instead



holly *Ilex aquifolium* (Europe)
Flowers: late spring-early summer
Reproduces: red berries produce seeds in autumn, vegetative growth from roots and branches
Dispersal: birds, animals



coast teatree *Leptospermum laevigatum*
(East coast Australia, northern Tasmania)
Flowers: late winter-spring
Reproduces: seeds (woody capsule)
Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste



mainland Acacia species
e.g. *Acacia baileyana* (mainland Australia)
Flowers: late winter-spring
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: soil, garden waste, ants



blue butterflybush *Psoralea pinnata* (South Africa)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: birds, water, garden waste, soil



cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp. (East Asia)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: red berries produce seeds late summer-late autumn; suckers from base if cut
Dispersal: birds, garden waste



cape wattle *Paraserianthes lophantha* (Western Australia)
Flowers: late autumn-early spring
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: water, wind, soil, garden waste, ants



mirrorbush *Coprosma repens* (New Zealand)
Reproduces: orange berries produce seeds in summer-autumn
Dispersal: birds, garden waste



sweet pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* (eastern Australia)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: orange berries produce seeds in autumn-winter
Dispersal: birds, animals, water, soil, garden waste



drooping sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*
Tree growing between 5–8m. Long weeping branchlets, grey-green. Interesting cone-like fruit. Well suited to Japanese gardens. Use as feature tree or for screening. Birds such as parrots and cockatoos are attracted to fruit. Full sun.



common boobialla *Myoporum insulare*
Large shrub to small tree, grows 2–5m. Thick light-green fleshy leaves, white flowers winter to spring, purple berry fruit. Good screening qualities. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full sun.



barbers gum *Eucalyptus barberi*
Small tree to 5–10m, usually single stemmed. Bright green 'gum' leaves, prolific white flowers. Great plant for wildlife, provides food, shelter and nesting sites. Use in natural cottage garden setting. Minimum 3.5m set-back from property and sewage pipes. It is drought tolerant and survives well in poor soils. Limited in natural distribution to north east of the region.



broadleaf hopbush *Dodonea viscosa*
Erect shrub to 3m, bright green sticky leaves. Green flowers in winter turn to striking red seed pods in spring. Great for hedging or screening. Responds to pruning. Attracts butterflies in summer. Females plants are preferable as they flower more prolifically with showy red seed heads.



south esk pine *Callitris oblonga*
Cylindrical-shaped tree to 2–5m. Bluish-green foliage. Fruit is a dark brown cone. Great for formal gardens. Attractive foliage. Use as a replacement plant for exotic conifers, as singular feature plant, line a driveway or for screening. Responds well to pruning. Attracts birds. Limited in natural distribution to north east of the region.



silver banksia *Banksia marginata*
Feature tree grows 3–5m. Various forms. Leaves green on top, silver underside. Large yellow flowerheads in spring to autumn. Interesting foliage and seed pods. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full sun.

Medium shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



GROW ME instead



english broom *Cytisus scoparius* (Europe)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: seeds in summer
Dispersal: exploding pods, ants, animals, water, soil, garden waste



dusty daisybush *Olearia phlogopappa*
Hardy shrub to 3m. Leaves dark blue-green above, white below. White, pink, magenta, blue or purple daisy-like flowers occur along stems in spring and summer. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, good foliage contrast. Full sun to part shade.



pride of madeira *Echium candicans* (Madeira Islands, Portugal)
Flowers: spring-early summer
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: deliberately planted, on clothes and equipment, soil, garden waste



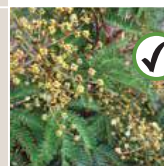
common speedwell bush *Veronica formosa*
Hardy and adaptable Tasmanian endemic shrub to 1.5m. Variable form with many stems arising from the base. Pink, mauve, purple, blue or white flowers in spring. Responds well to pruning.



montpellier broom *Genista monspessulana* (Europe)
Flowers: winter-spring
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: water, soil, garden waste



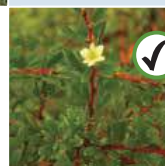
spanish heath *Erica lusitanica* (Europe)
Flowers: winter-spring
Reproduces: tiny seeds
Dispersal: wind, water, animals, garden waste



sunshine wattle *Acacia terminalis*
Shrub to 2m. Attractive bronze-green, fern-like foliage, with usually pale yellow flowers in autumn to winter. Flowers best in full sun or dappled shade. Lives 8–10 years.



boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (South Africa)
Flowers: winter-summer
Reproduces: green berries mature and produce seed in late summer-autumn
Dispersal: birds, animals, water, garden waste



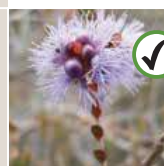
river tridentbush *Micranthemum hexandrum*
Hardy shrub with soft foliage, reaching up to 4m high and wide. Dark green leaves and cream flowers in spring. Can be pruned to create a dense screen.



myrtleleaf milkwort *Polygala myrtifolia* (South Africa)
Flowers: winter-early summer
Reproduces: seeds in autumn
Dispersal: water, ants, birds, soil



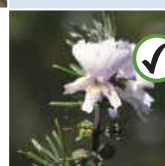
fuchsia *Fuchsia* spp. (Chile)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: fruits in summer-autumn
Dispersal: birds, water, vegetatively



slender honeymyrtle *Melaleuca gibbosa*
Dense rounded shrub to 2m. Attractive foliage and bright pink to mauve flowers in spring and early summer. Full sun to part shade. Drought hardy, frost resistant and tolerates waterlogging. Variable shape and size, can be managed with regular light pruning. Good for screening. Attracts insects and birds.



mainland grevillea species, e.g. rosemary grevillea *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* (mainland Australia)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: deliberately planted, wind, soil, garden waste



narrowleaf westringia *Westringia angustifolia*
Hardy, aromatic Tasmanian endemic shrub to 1–3m. Showy white or pale lilac flowers in spring on the ends of branches. Responds well to light pruning.

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



GROW ME instead



false dandelion *Urospermum dalechampii*
(Europe, Western Asia)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seeds in late spring-summer
Dispersal: wind, soil, root growth



euphorbia species *Euphorbia spp.*
(Africa, Madagascar, Mediterranean)
Flowers: depends on species
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: wind, deliberately planted, garden waste



red valerian *Centranthus ruber*
(Western Europe, Mediterranean)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: seeds, late summer-autumn
Dispersal: wind, soil, garden waste



gazania *Gazania spp.* (South Africa)
Flowers: year round, particularly spring and autumn
Reproduces: seed, vegetatively
Dispersal: water, deliberate planting, garden waste



foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*
(Europe)
Flowers: spring-summer
Reproduces: seeds
Dispersal: water, wind, soil, animals, garden waste



succulents
(Africa, Mediterranean)
Flowers: various
Reproduces: vegetatively, seed
Dispersal: wind, deliberate planting, garden waste



yellow pigface *Carpobrotus edulis* (South Africa)
Flowers: late summer-winter
Reproduces: fruits in summer, vegetatively
Dispersal: wind, birds, garden waste, deliberate planting



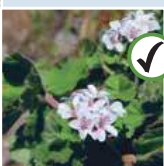
stinky boronia *Boronia anemonifolia*
Erect shrub to 1.5m. Variable in its leaf shape. Numerous white to pink small flowers in groups in spring-summer. Attractive strongly scented leaves. Very reliable and quick growing.



common everlasting *Chryscephalum apiculatum*
Herb to knee high. Silver-grey leaves, clusters of bright-yellow daisy flowers, October to January. Works well in natural cottage and contemporary gardens. Long-lasting flower, looks great as a cut flower, can also be dried. Butterfly food source.



cushionbush *Leucopytha brownii*
Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage, pale-yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, colour contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Full sun. Ideal for coastal sites. Limited in natural distribution to north eastern coastal areas of the region.



southern storksbill *Pelargonium australe*
Herb to knee high. Large green velvety leaves, pale-pink flowers with purple stripe occurs in spring to summer. Pretty plant, great in cottage or bushland garden. Can plant in pots. Prune after flowering, will self seed. Full sun to part shade.



common teatree *Leptospermum scoparium*
Several prostrate forms growing as low, ground covering shrubs, generally spreading to about 2m wide. Different forms have varying leaf shapes and heights. Generally white flowers in spring to summer. Hardy plant suitable for well drained, dry and coastal sites, in full sun to light shade.

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



GROW ME instead



ground clematis *Clematis gentianoides*

Non-climbing ground cover endemic to Tasmania, with star shaped white flowers from spring to summer. Grows well in more protected sites with full or part sun. Does not tolerate water logging or drying out in summer. Can be pruned during winter-spring to increase flowering. On female plants, flowers are followed by fluffy seed heads.



spreading guineaflower *Hibbertia procumbens*

A widespread, spreading shrub to about 1m. Prolific yellow flowers in spring. Prefers a well-drained position, preferably with a little shade.



running postman *Kennedia prostrata*

Prostrate runner to 2m. Leaves pale green, bright red pea-flowers winter to summer. Eye-catching flowers, use as an attractive ground cover or plant in small to large garden pots. Light shade preferred.



matted lobelia *Lobelia pedunculata*

A matting groundcover, spreading to 1m or more, with masses of small, scented white or blue flowers in summer. Flowers are a deep blue when young, fading as they age. Butterfly attracting.



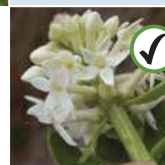
roundleaf pigface *Disphyma crassifolium*

Succulent ground-running plant. Green leaves round in cross section, bright-pink flowers in spring. Attractive ground cover, soil stabiliser. Will trail over walls. Tolerates saline soils. Full sun to part shade.



bluebell *Wahlenbergia spp.*

Delicate herb to 30cm, pretty blue flowers in late spring and summer. Self seeds but dies back over summer. Very pretty, delicate plant. Suitable pot-plant. Great in cottage or bushland gardens, especially planted in drifts.



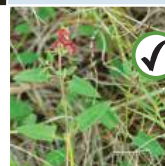
forest candles *Stackhousia monogyna*

A delightful, low accent plant. Cream flowers occur in candle-like clusters at the ends of the stems (up to 30cm long) in spring and summer. Flowers have a pleasant scent at night. Usually lives for 3–5 yrs but pruning after flowering may extend longevity. Prefers well-drained sites and some protection from full sun.



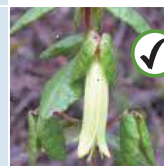
wiry bauera *Bauera rubioides*

Attractive low spreading shrub, growing to between 30cm and 1.2m high, depending on form. Flowers are white or various shades of pink in spring. May prefer cooler, moister parts of the garden but generally hardy. Tolerates frost.



climbing saltbush *Einadia nutans*

Groundcover spreading 1 to 2m, will climb if supported. Small arrowhead shaped green leaves, insignificant green flowers turn to red/orange edible berries. Attracts native birds and butterflies. Sun or shade.



common correa *Correa reflexa*

Small shrub with dark-green leaves and green bell flowers in winter and spring. Attractive flowers, great in formal, cottage or bushland garden settings. Attracts birds. Full sun to shade. Variable forms.



GROW ME instead

Grasses

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



GROW ME instead



fountaingrass *Pennisetum setaceum*

(North East Africa)

Flowers: late spring-mid winter

Reproduces: seed

Dispersal: wind, water, animals, soil, garden waste, on clothing



coastal tussockgrass *Poa poliformis*

Tussock grass growing to knee high. Thin blue-green leaves, brown-yellow flower heads. Tight foliage. Great in small or large group plantings, also rockeries and borders. Good as a pot-plant. Full sun.



pampasgrass *Cortaderia spp.*

(South America, New Zealand)

Flowers: depends on species

Reproduces: prolific seed in winter-spring, rootstock

Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste



common wallabygrass *Rytidosperma caespitosum*

Clumping grass to knee high, fluffy white seed heads in summer. Plant in clumps, good in bush garden setting. Attracts wildlife including butterflies.



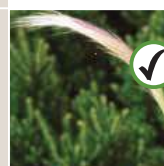
african feathergrass *Cenchrus macrourus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late spring-summer

Reproduces: seeds in summer-autumn

Dispersal: rootstock, seeds, water, soil



longhair plumegrass *Dichelachne crinita*







Decorative evergreen with an attractive flower cream plume in spring. Fast growing to 1m. Prefers full sun. Tolerates wind, frost and drier conditions.



Tufting plants, water plants & bulbs






DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



	<p>agapanthus <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> var. <i>orientalis</i> (Southern Africa) Flowers: summer Reproduces: seed in late summer-autumn, rootstock Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted</p>
	<p>new zealand flax <i>Phormium tenax</i> (New Zealand) Flowers: spring-summer Reproduces: seed, rootstock Dispersal: wind, water, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted</p>
	<p>watsonia <i>Watsonia meriana</i> (Southern Africa) Flowers: summer-autumn Reproduces: vegetatively from bulbs, rarely seeds in summer, Dispersal: water, slashing, ants, soil, garden waste</p>
	<p>montbretia <i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i> (Southern Africa) Flowers: summer-early autumn Reproduces: seeds summer-early autumn, vegetatively from rootstock and bulbs Dispersal: water, soil, garden waste</p>
	<p>arum lily <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> (Southern Africa) Flowers: winter-summer Reproduces: seed, rootstock Dispersal: water, birds, animals, soil, garden waste, deliberately planted</p>
	<p>evening gladiolus <i>Gladiolus tristis</i> (Southern Africa) Flowers: variable, often summer-early autumn Reproduces: seeds, vegetatively from bulbs Dispersal: water, slashing, ants, soil, garden waste</p>

GROW ME instead



	<p>knobby clubsedge <i>Ficinia nodosa</i> Attractive evergreen clumping plant to 1m high. Leaves dark-green, cylindrical & upright. Flower heads brown ball-shaped, occur all year. Versatile plant. Use as accent, group plantings, pot-plants, around ponds. Tolerates salt spray & wet zones. Attracts butterflies. Full sun to part shade.</p>
	<p>flag-iris <i>Diplarrena latifolia</i> / <i>moraea</i> A tufting plant to 1m, white flowers with yellow and purple markings over summer. Frost hardy. <i>Diplarrena latifolia</i> more suited to wetter sites, <i>Diplarrena moraea</i> more suited to drier sites.</p>
	<p>sagg <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> An extremely hardy tussock with bright green foliage to 60cm. Straw-coloured flowering seed heads on stems to 50cm. Survives very dry conditions, but looks better with some watering.</p>
	<p>running marshflower <i>Ornduffia reniformis</i> Aquatic plant for pond edges or containers. Floating shiny green, round leaves and stalked yellow flowers in summer. Likes full sun to part shade. Will die back if water recedes. Ideal for water depths to 60cm.</p>
	<p>flaxlily <i>Dianella tasmanica</i> / <i>revoluta</i> / <i>brevicaulis</i> Small clumping plant to knee high. Dark-green leaves are strappy and stiff. Blue to purple flowers produced on narrow stalks in spring. <i>D. revoluta</i> does not tolerate direct coastal exposure. Great for borders, large or small group plantings, pots & indoors. Full sun to shade.</p>

Climbers

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



bluebell creeper *Billardiera heterophylla*
(Western Australia)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: fruits produce seed in summer-autumn, rootstock, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, soil, water, garden waste



ivy *Hedera helix* (Europe)

Flowers: late summer-winter

Reproduces: berries produce seed in summer, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, water, soil, garden waste



bridal creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*
(Southern Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: berries produce seeds in November, rootstock

Dispersal: birds, rabbits, water, soil, garden waste



bridal veil *Asparagus declinatus* (South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: berries produce seed in late winter-early spring, rootstock

Dispersal: birds, animals, water, soil, garden waste



asparagus fern
Asparagus scandens (Southern Africa)

Flowers: winter-spring

Reproduces: berries produce single seed, vegetatively

Dispersal: birds, soil, garden waste



blue periwinkle

Vinca major (Mediterranean)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: vegetatively

Dispersal: water, wind, soil, garden waste



banana passionfruit *Passiflora tarminiana*
(South America)

Flowers: summer

Reproduces: fruits produce seed in early autumn

Dispersal: birds, animals, soil, water, garden waste

GROW ME instead



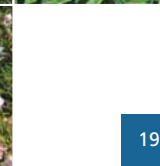
mountain clematis *Clematis aristata*

A vigorous vine with relatively large creamy white flowers in spring. Prefers to grow with a support. Female vines have fluffy seeds following flowering. Hardy in most soils, likes sunny or semi shaded position and will withstand heavy pruning.



purple appleberry *Billardiera longiflora*

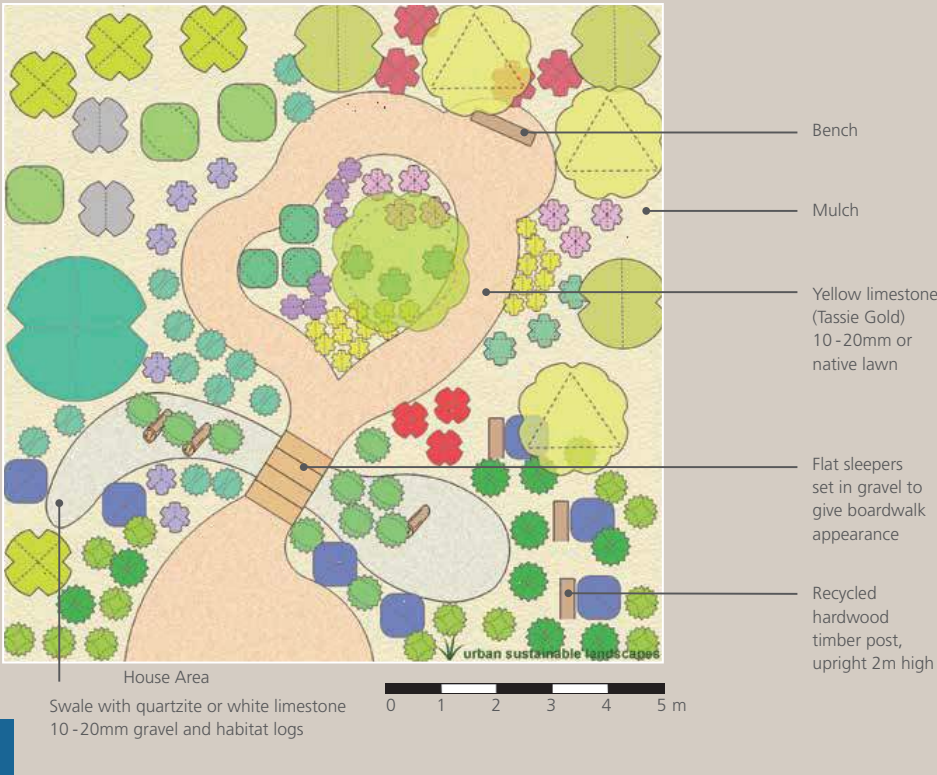
Climber or small shrub to shin high. Dark green leaves, green flowers in spring and red/purple berries in summer. Attracts butterflies. Full sun to part shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Natural cottage garden design



A natural cottage garden emphasises colour and diversity and is easy to achieve with local plants. Varied flowering times providing an array of colours year-round, including winter, offering a wonderful place for local wildlife. Varied leaf shape and texture also add interest. These gardens are relaxed and have a feeling of flow, incorporating curved paths and rustic furniture. This garden type is generally more densely planted and may use shorter-lived plants (many of which self seed) offering opportunity for new species with replacements. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic nature's mix of plants, allow them to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Bird-baths, logs and nesting boxes all fit well and support local wildlife.



Trees & tall shrubs



Medium shrubs



Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Grasses, tufts & lillies



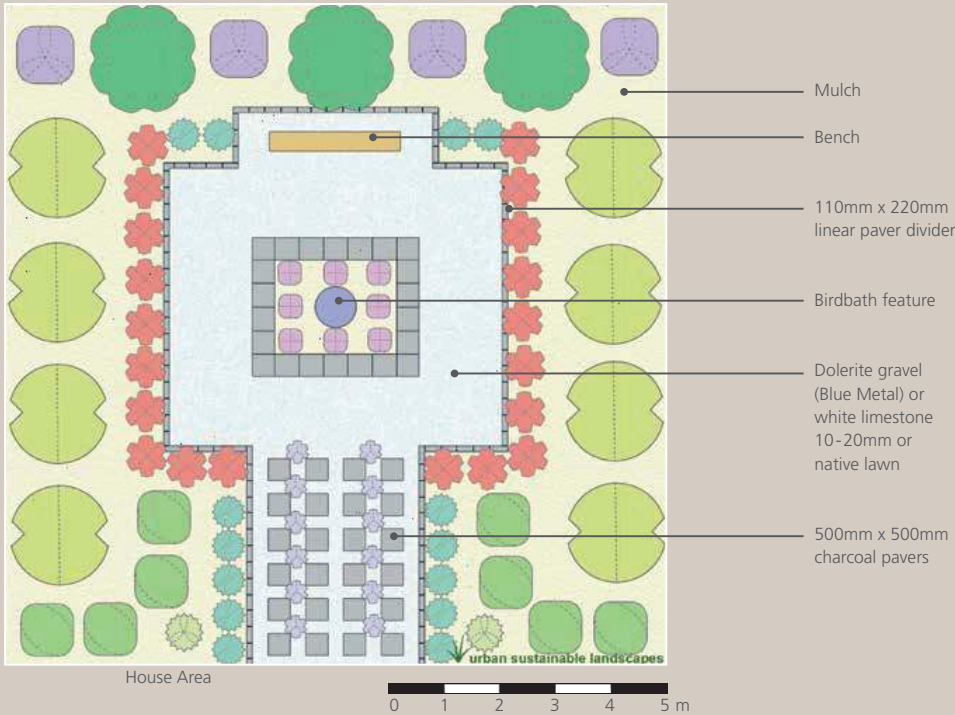
Climbers



Formal garden design



The formal garden has strong design elements, often focusing on straight lines and repetition. Plant diversity is generally lower and species with neat and dense forms are more suited. A number of local plants can be clipped into hedges or shaped to form the basis of the formal garden. Sedges and grasses can be used in mass plantings and accent borders. Use local climbers or trailing plants in a feature urn, terrace or retaining wall. To achieve a formal garden style, emphasise symmetry and borders and use gravel or sustainable pebbles to create and highlight landscaping features.



Trees & tall shrubs



south esk pine



broadleaf hopbush or silver banksia

Medium shrubs



slender honey myrtle

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



climbing saltbush



common Correa



ground Clematis



matted lobelia

Grasses, tufts & lilies



sagg

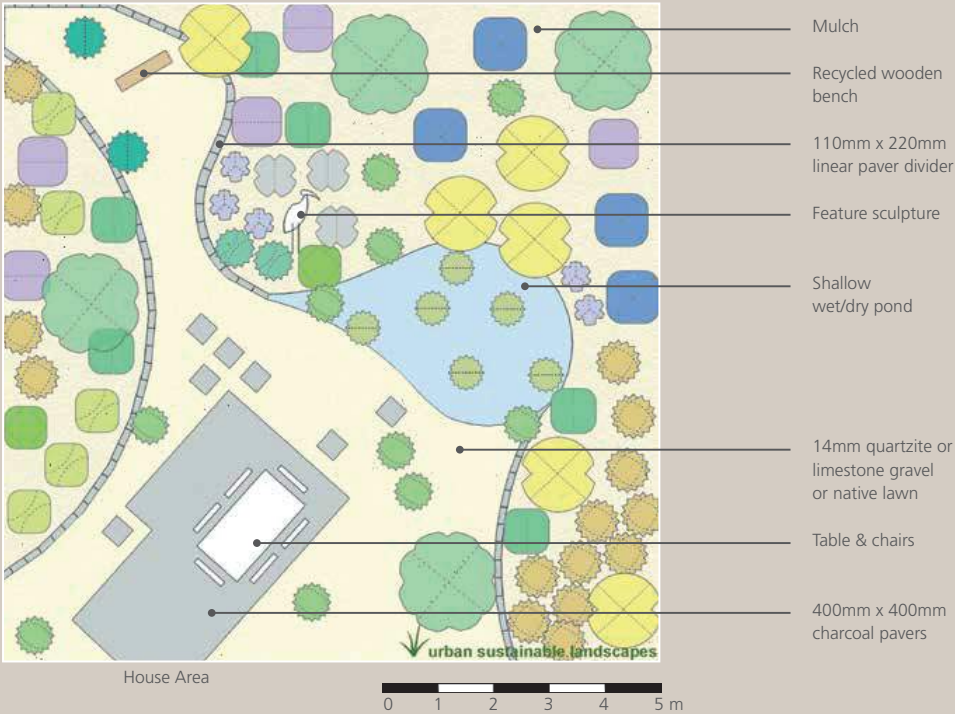


flaxlily

Japanese style garden design



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



Trees & tall shrubs



drooping sheoak
or silver banksia

Medium shrubs



sunshine wattle
or river tridentbush

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



southern
storksbill



cushionbush



common
teatree



roundleaf
pigface



spreading
guineaflower

Grasses, tufts, water plants & lilies



running
marshflower



knobby
clubsedge



flag-
iris



sagg



coastal
tussockgrass

Climbers



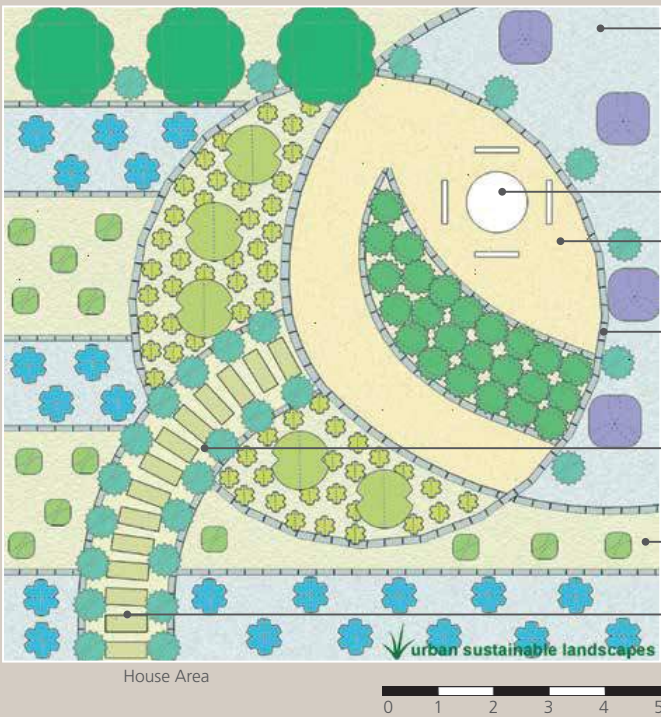
mountain
clematis



purple
appleberry

Contemporary garden design

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local plants offer excellent colour, texture and form 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 lines and contrast. Density and repetition of species in contrasting beds emphasises the design elements. A simple outdoor setting suits the contemporary garden design.



- Dolerite gravel (Blue Metal) 10 - 20mm
- Table & chairs
- Yellow Limestone (Tassie Gold) 10 - 20mm
- 110 x 220mm linear paver divider
- 14mm quartzite gravel
- Mulch
- 800mm x 300mm paver stepping stones

Trees & tall shrubs



south esk pine



broadleaf hopbush

Medium shrubs



slender honeymyrtle



narrowleaf westringia

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



common everlasting



roundleaf pigface

Grasses, tufts & lilies



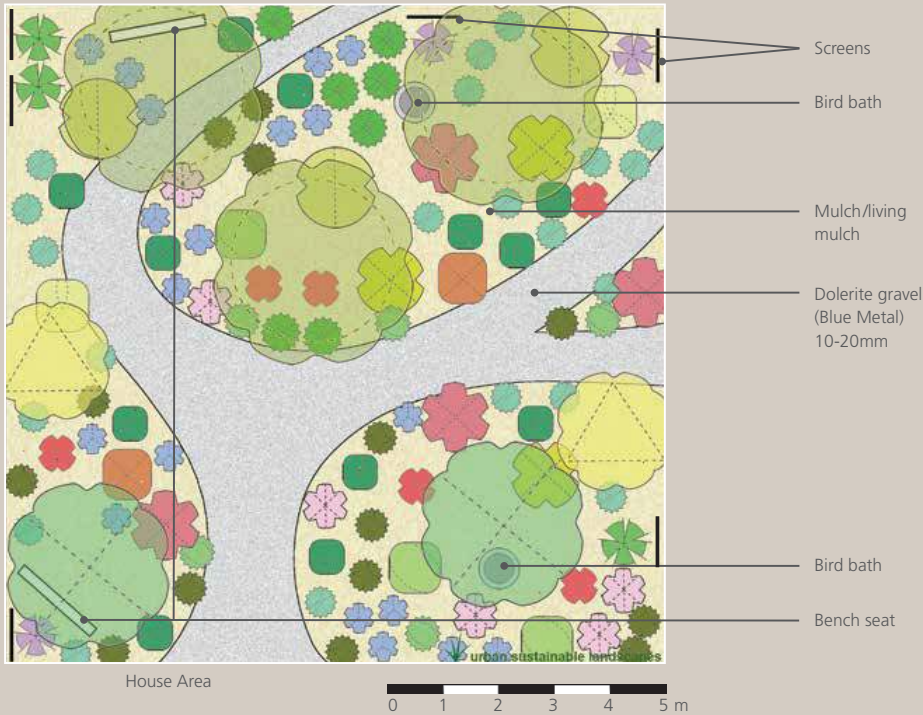
flaxlily



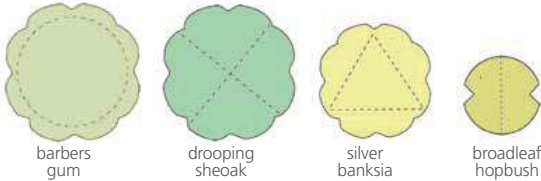
knobby clubsedge

Naturalistic garden design

The naturalistic garden closely reflects the composition and structure of the natural bush and follows a more natural design. This garden offers a peaceful relaxed space with both open sunny spaces and shadier areas under trees and taller shrubs. Small shrubs, herbs, grasses and ground covers are all present and provide varied shape and texture. A more limited palette of colours draws the focus to subtle colour variations. Paths can be more informal and meandering, and habitat logs, nesting boxes, ponds and other garden features can be incorporated to further support wildlife.



Trees & tall shrubs



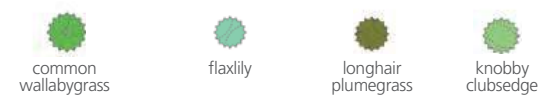
Medium shrubs



Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Grasses, tufts & lilies



Climbers



Growing local native plants

When to plant

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

Watering

Water-in your new plants. Over the first summer they may need an occasional deep watering, but no more than once a week. After their first summer, they should cope on rainfall alone. Prior to longer periods of hotter weather, give your plants a thorough watering, so water penetrates deep into the soil. Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil and creates excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants. Be mindful of current water restrictions and the prescribed times allocated to gardeners for watering.

Mulch & gravels

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70%! Chunky Landscape Mulch (CLM) (organic preferably) keeps soil temperatures down, allows water to flow freely through to the soil, contains spaces for air flow reducing growth of fungus and diseases and encouraging good microbes, suppresses weeds, is less flammable and helps to promote good soil structure, root density, and productivity. Choose your mulch carefully as Unscreened Landscape Mulches (ULM) can cause more problems than good. 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. Species such as kidneyweed (*Dichondra repens*), matted lobelia (*Lobelia pedunculata*) and native violet (*Viola hederacea*) can also be used as a 'living mulch' in the garden.

Native lawns

Native grasses come in many shapes and sizes. Some can be grown as a tough, waterwise native lawn, that requires little to no fertiliser. Themeda, Poa and Austrodanthonia species are some examples that can be used. These species are tufty and hardier in look and feel than a traditional exotic lawn, but develop attractive seed heads which provide food for native birds and habitat for butterflies and pest-controlling insects. They will self sow if allowed to seed and don't like to be cut too short. *Microlaena stipoides* is another native alternative which retains a significant proportion of green leaves year-round and does well from regular mowing which encourages spreading. The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has established a trial plot of *Microlaena stipoides* to demonstrate its effectiveness as a domestic lawn.

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

Maintaining your local plants

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

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

Sustainable landscaping

You can help the environment by using sustainable, locally sourced, recycled or on-site materials, such as soil, rocks and mulch. Do not take materials from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs, beach sand or seaweed. Where you do source additional materials ensure you use local licensed suppliers. Weed seeds, pests and diseases are a threat to your garden and the natural environment. Investigate different suppliers and ask questions about where materials come from to ensure they are weed, disease and pest free.

More information

For further information on establishing local native plants, how you can make your garden wildlife friendly and sustainable landscaping visit the Gardens for Wildlife Program website - www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/

The Sustainable Landscapes Project also has great landscaping information (please note: species recommendations are not for southern Tasmania) See publications under 'related links' - www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Sustainable_Landscapes_Project



Sourcing local plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries around southern Tasmania stock local plants. A list of native plant nurseries can be found on NRM South's website - www.nrmsouth.org.au. Follow the links – Information, Publications, Brochures and Fact Sheets. Alternatively, contact your local council's Environmental Officer for further information.

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

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

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

Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide and may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

Internet

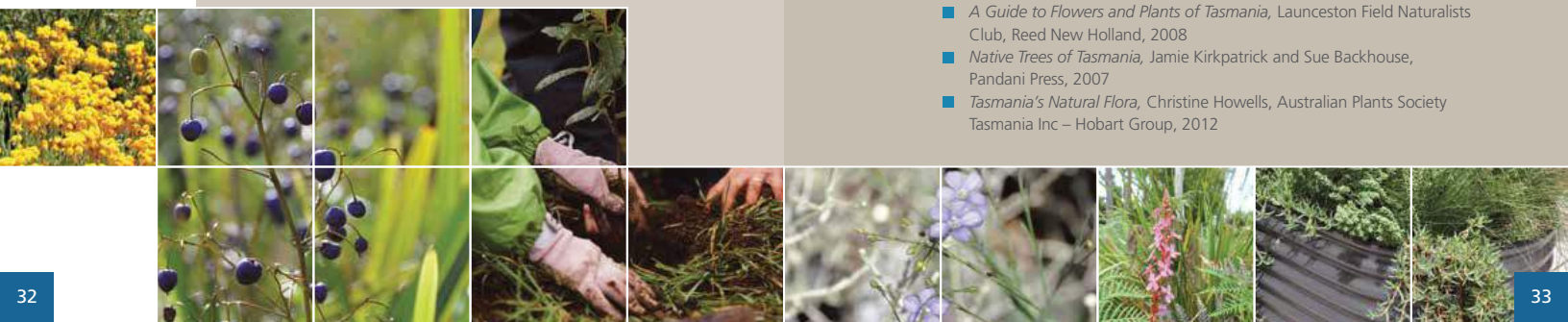
- Gardens for Wildlife Program www.gardensforwildlife.dpipwe.tas.gov.au
- Australian Plants Society Tasmania www.apstas.com
- Understorey Network www.understorey-network.org.au/index.html
- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens www.rtbg.tas.gov.au
- Sustainable Gardening Australia www.sgaonline.org.au
- Frogs Australia Network <http://frogsaustralia.net.au/conservation/creating-habitat.cfm>
- Your local council's website

Resources

- Native Plant Species Lists (by council area), *Weeds of Southern Tasmania - A Guide to Environmental & Agricultural Weeds* and other priority weed brochures are available on the 'Publications' page of NRM South's website - www.nrmsouth.org.au

Books

- *The Australian Garden, Designing with Australian Plants*, Diana Snape, Garden Art Press, 2003
- *A Guide to Flowers and Plants of Tasmania*, Launceston Field Naturalists Club, Reed New Holland, 2008
- *Native Trees of Tasmania*, Jamie Kirkpatrick and Sue Backhouse, Pandani Press, 2007
- *Tasmania's Natural Flora*, Christine Howells, Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc – Hobart Group, 2012





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