

A WEED & WATER-WISE READ IS GUARANTEED!

Greening Australia has just released a new book, *Native Plants for Central Australian Gardens*.

Phil Barron, the Arid Lands Threatened Flora & Biodiversity Support officer is currently promoting the book as a valuable resource for residents of the Arid regions of South Australia.

“We’ve been hearing about the impact of the drought in the region and it goes without saying that water is a precious resource, especially in South Australia.” Phil commented.

“This book is a timely reminder that, if chosen carefully, native plants can be attractive active garden plants, promoting wildlife, needing less water and fertiliser - and of course, no weed risk.” Phil said.

“It provides some excellent information, with photos and illustrations, on species selection, designing, making and maintaining a native garden, including watering, mulching and trouble-shooting problems.” Mr Barron promoted.

“Plants, especially native plants, provide many benefits and a beautiful garden can really capture the local character and make your house a home. However, some poor choices in your garden or revegetation project can end up being a very costly exercise” Said Phil.

“This type of miss management in your residential garden wastes time, money, water and is increasing the spread of weeds.” Phil commented.

“Most importantly, it is resulting in a major threat to biodiversity, resulting in native flora and fauna decline.” Said Mr Barron.

“This publication is locally available from Wadlata and the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta.” Mr Barron said.

Some other key points of the publication for our local outback gardens include:

- Species selection - get the right plants in the right place
- Avoid using introduced plants like Fountain Grass, White Cedar, Gazanias and Athel Pines as these pose a significant weed and water risk;
- Use more local native species, like Eremophilas. They come in all shapes and sizes, from groundcovers to small trees, are drought tolerant and are great for native honeyeater birds.
- Control pests and weeds, especially rabbits and feral goats.
- Tree-guards - try and avoid them or choose mesh or breathable options because seedlings can cook in solid-sided guards.
- Choose the best time of year to plant, generally avoiding November to March;
- Advance-order seedlings from nurseries months before you plan to plant them – so you can get what you want, often at a better price.
- Contact your local nursery for good local advice.

For more information on obtaining a copy of this publication contact Phil Barron on #0427 181 585.

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Greening Australia is the country’s largest not-for-profit environmental organisation. It tackles critical issues like salinity, declining water quality, soil degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss in a practical and scientific way.

www.greeningaustralia.org.au

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