

## **Make your urban native garden thrive!**

### **Purchasing native species**

When creating your garden ask the nursery where their plants and seeds came from to make sure it really is local material you are about to plant.

Ensure you visit a reputable native plant nursery. There are many nurseries throughout South Australia who specialize in local South Australian indigenous species.

### **Using local native species**

Local native species are the most appropriate plants for the creation of your native garden.

*Why local natives?*

- Natives are the most effective plants to attract native wildlife back to your garden
- Are adapted to local climate and soil conditions
- Are less susceptible to diseases and insect attack

Planting local species ensures that the genetic integrity of species in the natural bushland is not lost through interbreeding which may occur when plants from different localities are planted side-by-side.

### **How to create a native garden**

Your garden should have:

1. At least three different types of local native flowering bushes at different heights.
2. A highly visible place for birds to drink and bathe.
3. At least one tree over 2.5 metres tall, if the tree does not have hollows you could consider installing a nest box.
4. An area with leaf matter, stones and wood where birds and lizards can forage for insects and worms.
5. An area of grass and low-growing plants.

### **Local Provenance**

Within plant species there is genetic variation that makes a local population more suited to local conditions.

In order to give you the best quality seedlings, as well as preserve the gene pool of the locally adapted species, seeds should be collected from as close as possible to the area where planting will occur.

### **Weed Management**

Please ensure you are not planting species which can spread outside of your garden and become environmental weeds. Contact your local council for more information on garden escapees and weeds in your area.

Greening Australia's Vegetation Services Manager, James McGregor says of this list "All species are suitable for the average backyard as they require very little water once established."

"They are all evergreen varieties which are fast growing and survive in a variety of soil types."

"Creating a native garden in your backyard will not only look good, it will reduce water usage and will also encourage native fauna such as birds, butterflies and lizards back into your garden!"

### **The Top Ten**

The following list is comprised of native indigenous plants which thrived on the Adelaide Plains prior to European settlement:

<b>Species Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Small trees/large shrubs:</b>		
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Christmas Bush	Large clusters of creamy yellow flowers
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Native Apricot	Orange fruit contrasts with white trunk, attractive weeping habit
<b>Shrubs:</b>		
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Wreath Wattle	Whole braches covered in yellow wattle flowers
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	Reddish tinged foliage and branches with yellow wattle flowers
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Sticky Hop Bush	Attractive bright red seed pods contracts with glossy green foliage
<b>Ground Covers:</b>		
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>	Ruby Saltbush	Very effective weed suppressor, prostrate or low bush covered in bright yellow, orange or red berries
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping Boobialla	Very effective weed suppressor, small white flowers
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	Pale Fan-flower	Well suited to a hanging basket, attractive pale blue to while fan shaped flowers
<b>Grasses and Lillies:</b>		
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Large tussock of strappy leaves with many blue to deep purple flowers
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Large tussock of green to blue green foliage with red tinge. Develops a striking seed head

## **ENDS**

*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](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)

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