

Live Local Plant Local

a guide to native plants
in North Sydney



Nurseries who supply local native plants for the North Sydney region

Ku-ring-gai Community Nursery

Run through Ku-ring-gai Council.

Retail/Wholesale.

Request plants local to the North Sydney area.

420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

Phone: (02) 9424 0353/0418 497 492

Harvest Seeds & Native Plants

Retail/Wholesale.

Provenance is displayed.

281 Mona Vale Road, Terry Hills.

Phone: (02) 9450 2699

www.harvestseeds-nativeplants.com.au

Indigo Native Nursery

Retail/Wholesale.

Request plants local to the North Sydney area.

Lot 57 Wattle Road, Ingleside.

Phone: (02) 9982 3827

www.indigonursery.com.au

Cicada Glen Native Nursery

Retail/Wholesale.

Request plants local to the North Sydney area.

1 Chiltern Road, Ingleside

Phone: 0493 617 744

cicadaglennursery.com.au



Indigenous species that make ideal garden plants

We can preserve and recreate some of North Sydney's unique native vegetation in our gardens by planting locally indigenous species. Many native species are becoming rare and our bushland is under threat from fragmentation, vandalism and the introduction of exotic species. Planting local species not only benefits the environment and native fauna, but is also beneficial to you, as these species require little watering, fertilising and maintenance.

The selection of 30 indigenous species over the next few pages make ideal garden plants because they are hardy, attractive, suitable for a variety of conditions and are easy to maintain.

Key for wildlife-attracting symbols



Possum



Birds



Lizard



Insect/Butterfly



Frog

Ground Covers



Mat Rush

- *Lomandra longifolia*
- Flowers Sep-Nov
- Strappy grass to 1m tall
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Blue Flax Lily

- *Dianella caerulea*
- Flowers Sep-Nov
- Strappy flax-like plant to 80cm tall
- Full Sun/Semi Shade/Shade



Knobby Club Rush

- *Ficinia nodosa*
- Spikelets Oct-Feb
- Erect sedge to 70cm tall
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Native Geranium

- *Pelargonium australe*
 - Spreading herb to 40cm tall
 - Flowers Dec-Feb
 - Full Sun
-



White Root

- *Pratia purpurascens*
 - Ground cover
 - Flowers Sep-Jan
 - Semi Sun
-



Native Violet

- *Viola hederacea*
- Ground cover
- Flowers all year
- Moist, Shade

Native Grasses



Kangaroo Grass

- *Themeda triandra*
- Clumping grass to 1m tall
- Spikelets Sep-Mar
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Native Tussock Grass/Poa

- *Poa affinis*
- Tussock-forming grass to 1m tall
- Spikelets Oct-Feb
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Blady Grass

- *Imperata cylindrica*
- Spreading grass to 1m tall
- Spikelets Dec-Feb
- Full Sun

NOTE: spreads easily, root barrier may be used to contain growth.

Climbers and Vines



Golden Guinea Flower

- *Hibbertia scandens*
 - Flowers Sep-Jan
 - Scrambling Vine
 - Full Sun/Semi Shade
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False Sarsaparilla/Hardenbergia

- *Hardenbergia violacea*
 - Flowers Sep-Oct
 - Scrambler or Twiner
 - Full Sun
-



Old Mans Beard/Travellers Joy

- *Clematis aristata*
- Flowers Oct-Nov
- Vigorous twiner
- Semi Shade

Small Shrubs



Red Spider Flower

- *Grevillea speciosa*
- Flowers Aug-Nov
- To 2m tall
- Full Sun



White Spider Flower

- *Grevillea linearifolia*
- Flowers July-Oct
- To 2m tall
- Semi Shade



Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush

- *Callistemon linearis*
- Flowers Sep-Nov
- From 1.5 to 2m tall
- Full Sun



Handsome Flat-pea

- *Platylobium formosum*
- Flowers Sep-Nov
- To 1m tall
- Semi Shade



Prickly Moses

- *Acacia ulicifolia*
- Flowers Apr-Oct
- To 1m tall
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Native Parsnip

- *Platysace lanceolata*
- Flowers Sep-Mar
- From 1 to 1.5m tall
- Semi Shade



Grey Spider Flower

- *Grevillea buxifolia*
 - Flowers Aug-Apr
 - To 1.5m tall
 - Full Sun
-



Coastal Rosemary

- *Westringia fruticosa*
 - Flowers most of the year
 - Up to 2m tall
 - Full Sun
-



Pink Crowea

- *Crowea saligna*
- Flowers Jan-Jun
- To 1m tall
- Semi Shade

Tall Shrubs



Heath Banksia

- *Banksia ericifolia*
- Flowers Apr-Aug
- From 2 to 5m tall
- Full Sun



Large-leaf Bush-pea

- *Pultenaea daphnoides*
- Flowers Aug-Nov
- From 2 to 3m tall
- Semi Shade



Bushy Needlebush

- *Hakea sericea*
- Flowers Jun-Sep
- From 2 to 3m tall
- Full Sun



Rusty Pomaderris

- *Pomaderris ferruginea*
- Flowers Sep-Oct
- Up to 4m tall
- Semi Shade



NSW Christmas Bush

- *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*
- Flowers Nov-Jan
- From 2 to 4m tall
- Full Sun/Semi Shade



Everlasting, Paper Daisy

- *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*
- Flowers Aug-Nov
- Up to 2m tall
- Full Sun/Part Shade

Small Trees



Old Man Banksia

- *Banksia serrata*
- From 4 to 8m tall
- Flowers Dec-Mar
- Full Sun



Dwarf Apple

- *Angophora hispida*
- From 2 to 4m tall
- Flowers Nov-Jan
- Full Sun



Black Wattle

- *Callicoma serratifolia*
- From 4 to 5m tall
- Flowers Oct-Nov
- Shade

Medium Trees



Coastal Banksia

- *Banksia integrifolia*
- From 6 to 16m tall
- Flowers Jan-Jun
- Full Sun



Lilly Pilly

- *Acmena smithii*
- To 20m tall
- Flowers Nov-Feb
- Semi Shade/Shade



Scribbly Gum

- *Eucalyptus racemosa*
- To 15m tall
- Flowers Apr-Oct
- Full Sun

Other suitable local species

This selection of native plants can also be found in the North Sydney region, please ask for locally sourced seed if possible. If you have any queries, please contact the Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100.

Tall trees – up to 20-30m

Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>
Cabbage Palm	<i>Livistona australis</i>
Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Grey Gum	<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>
Red Bloodwood	<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>
Red Mahogany	<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i>
Turpentine	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>

Medium sized trees – up to 15m

Black She-Oak	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>
Scribbly Gum	<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>
Sydney Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>
Sydney Red Gum	<i>Angophora costata</i>

Small trees – up to 6m

Sydney Green Wattle	<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>
Water Gum	<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>

Shrubs – up to 2-4m

Broad-leafed Hakea	<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>
Flax-leafed Wattle	<i>Acacia linifolia</i>
Hop Bush	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>
Kunzea	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>
Paperbark Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum trinervium</i>
Pine-leaf Geebung	<i>Persoonia pinifolia</i>
Pink Spider Flower	<i>Grevillea sericea</i>
Pink Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum squarrosom</i>
Scrub She-Oak	<i>Allocasuarina distyla</i>
Sydney Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>
Waratah	<i>Telopea speciosissima</i>
Yellow Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>

Small shrubs – up to 1.5m

Bearded Heath	<i>Leucopogon juniperinus</i>
Burrawang, Cycad	<i>Macrozamia communis</i>
Eggs and Bacon	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>
Grass Tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea arborea & media</i>
Long-leafed Wax Flower	<i>Philotheca myoporoides</i>
Mountain Devil	<i>Lambertia formosa</i>
Sandfly Zieria	<i>Zieria smithii</i>
Slender Rice Flower	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>
Sweet-scented Wattle	<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>

Ground covers

Centella	<i>Centella asiatica</i>
Cockspur Flower	<i>Plectranthus parviflorus</i>
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium homeanum</i>
Flannel Flower	<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>
Germander Rاسpwort	<i>Gonocarpus teucroides</i>
Hydrocotyle	<i>Hydrocotyle peduncularis</i>
Sedge	<i>Juncus usitatus</i>
Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
Sword-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>
Wattle Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>

Grasses

Hedgehog Grass	<i>Echinopogon caespitosus</i>
Plume Grass	<i>Dichelachne micrantha & crinita</i>
Right-angle Grass	<i>Entolasia marginata & stricta</i>
Wallaby Grass	<i>Austrodanthonia tenuior</i>
Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>

Ferns

Bat's Wing Fern	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>
Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>
Rasp Fern	<i>Doodia aspera</i>
Soft Bracken Fern	<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>

Vines and climbers

Apple Dumplings	<i>Billardiera scandens</i>
Dusky Coral Pea	<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>
Native Sarsaparilla	<i>Smilax glycyphylla</i>
Wonga Wonga Vine	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>
Wombat Berry	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>

The Shaded Garden

Many gardens and courtyards in North Sydney are shaded due to the surrounding buildings. The following native species have been selected as they tolerate shady conditions.

Tall trees

Cabbage Palm	<i>Livistona australis</i>
Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Lilly Pilly	<i>Acmena smithii</i>
Turpentine	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>

Small trees

Black Wattle	<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>
NSW Christmas Bush	<i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i>
Blueberry Ash	<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>
Treefern	<i>Cyathea australis</i>
Water Gum	<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>
Magenta Lilly Pilly	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>

Shrubs

Breynia	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>
Elderberry Panax	<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>
Sydney Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>
Golden Spray	<i>Viminaria juncea</i>
Yellow Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>
Hickory Wattle	<i>Acacia implexa</i>
White Spider Flower	<i>Grevillea linearifolia</i>

Low shrubs

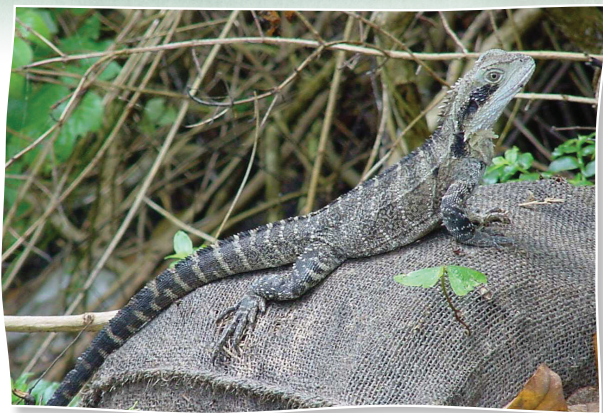
Blue Flax Lily	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>
River Rose	<i>Bauera rubioides</i>
Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>

Ground covers

Native Ferns	<i>Pteridium; Hypolepis;</i> <i>Calochlaena etc</i>
Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
Commelina	<i>Commelina cyanea</i>
Native Violet	<i>Viola hederacea</i>

Vines

Wonga Wonga Vine	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>
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Water Dragon

Wildlife Habitat Gardens

Gardens provide important habitat for native fauna such as birds, lizards, possums, frogs and butterflies that continue to survive in the urban environment and in neighbouring bushland. Gardens can provide food, shelter, nesting sites and wildlife corridors for native fauna.

There are several layers of vegetation found in natural bushland which consist of:

- **Canopy trees** – habitat for birds, owls and possums.
- **A (dense) mid-storey of small trees and shrubs** – important for shelter and protection of small birds (such as wrens and robins) and Ringtail Possums.
- **An understorey of small flowering shrubs** – habitat and food source for butterflies and small birds.
- **Ground covers of ferns, grasses, leaf litter, rocks and logs** – habitat for geckoes, lizards, skinks (incl. Blue-tongue Lizards) and small native marsupials. A mulch layer of leaves and twigs provide habitat for insects and lizards, which in turn provides food for birds and creates healthy soil.

Design your own garden ECOSYSTEM using layers of trees, shrubs, ground covers, rocks, logs and mulch.

Handy hints for creating a wildlife habitat garden

- Design your garden around the fully-grown heights and shapes of your selected plants.
- Draw your garden design on paper.
- All fauna species have four basic requirements for survival: food, shelter, fresh water and nesting sites.
- Use rocks, logs, bird baths, frog ponds and nesting boxes as feature items in your garden.
- Build a bird bath (out of cats' reach) or create a frog pond, contact the NSC Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100 for DIY factsheets.
- Mulching your garden helps to suppress weed growth and retains water in the soil, reducing your need to water. Use either recycled woodchips (from pruned trees, available from your local nursery or landscape supply), or leaf litter. (Do not use pine or casuarina needles as they suppress other plant growth).
- Minimise the use of pesticides. Birds and owls that eat poisoned prey build up toxicity in their system that can kill them when their fat reserves are utilised. Cats and dogs can also become seriously ill if they eat poisoned insects or mice. Snail baits can kill Blue-tongue Lizards.
- Keep a part of your garden 'messy' as it provides great habitat.
- Identify what habitat elements already exist in your garden, for example: rock walls, log piles, hollow logs, tree hollows, bricks, dead trees, natural ponds, caves, old PVC/clay pipe pieces and natural sandstone crevices. All of these places provide shelter, protection or food sources for a variety of native species.



Powerful Owl, Photo P. Smith



Blue-tongue Lizard



Superb Fairy-wren
Photo: P. Smith

Use of indigenous plant species

Native plants have evolved with native fauna. Specific plant species will attract specific fauna. For example:

- plants with simple flowers (e.g. peas and native daisies) attract butterflies and stingless native bees
- nectar rich blossoms (i.e. Eucalypts, Banksias, Grevilleas and Correas) attract honeyeaters and Rainbow Lorikeets
- spikey mid-storey species (i.e. Hakeas, Heaths, Prickly Acacias) planted densely, attract small birds such as Superb Fairy-wrens
- low ground covers, native grasses and rocks attract geckoes, lizards and skinks (e.g. Blue-tongue Lizards)
- Casuarinas and plants that produce seed attract parrots

Weeds

A weed is a plant out of place and a biosecurity weed is one that legally must be controlled. A biosecurity weed is declared if it poses a problem to human health or the environment. Not all exotic plants pose a threat to the bush, but there are a number that alter natural ecosystems, smothering indigenous plants and feeding off excess nutrient levels in disturbed soils.

Progressively remove biosecurity weeds or invasive plants from your garden to prevent them spreading. Staging weed removal retains habitat during the transition to a native garden.

Contact the NSC Bushland Project Officer for weed brochures on 9936 8100 or visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/weeds for further information.

Nesting Boxes

The urban environment lacks sufficient tree hollows (they take hundreds of years to develop) and dense mid-storey vegetation (due to over-clearing, fragmentation and altered fire regimes). Microbats and possums have adapted to live in roofs, which may be frustrating for some people.

Possum boxes

Install a possum box in your garden. Brushtail Possums require hollows to dwell in, while Ringtail Possums can create their own nest called a drey in dense mid-storey vegetation. Having a Brushtail Possum living in a possum box in your garden may deter other possums from living in your roof, as they are highly territorial.



Brushtail Possum
Photo: Sydney Wildlife

Parrot nesting boxes

Install a nesting box for parrots and lorikeets to provide hollows to nest in and to rear their young.

Microbat nesting boxes

Install a nesting box for Microbats. They are insectivorous and will help to manage insects (such as mosquitoes) in your garden.

Native bee nests

Stingless native bees are great pollinators and attract foraging small birds.

Note: nesting boxes are available from the North Sydney Council Customer Service Centre at cost price. Alternatively, contact the NSC Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100 for DIY nest box or drey designs.

Fauna Nuisances

Possums and Brush Turkeys

All native wildlife are protected in NSW and it is illegal to trap and relocate wildlife without a license issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Possums are highly territorial animals and the vast majority die when relocated. If animals are removed from an area, they will likely be replaced by other individuals. Contact the NSC Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100 for alternate options.

Aggressive birds

A number of native birds such as Ravens, Kookaburras, Noisy Miners and Currawongs have adapted well to our urban environment and are aggressive to other birds. Planting dense, spikey endemic shrubs such as hakeas, heaths and prickly acacias help to provide shelter and protection for smaller birds.



Noisy Miners

Noisy Miners are especially problematic for smaller bird species such as small honeyeaters and wrens. Avoid planting hybrid grevilleas (such as Robyn Gordon Grevilleas) that provide copious amounts of nectar for Noisy Miners. Instead, plant Correa, Crowea and Native Fuschia, they are more suited to small birds than to Noisy Miners.

Currawongs

Currawongs eat the eggs and young of other bird species. Avoid planting too many berry producing plants. Weeds such as Privet, Celtis and Cotoneaster provide a year-round food source for Currawongs – these plants should be removed.

Exotic animals

Domestic pets and feral animals can have a devastating effect on wildlife in gardens as well as bushland. For more information on domestic or feral cats, foxes, rabbits or Indian Mynas, please contact the NSC Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100.

Further information & recommended reading

For an extensive list of local native plants suitable for your garden, visit www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Adams, G. 1998. *Birdscaping Your Garden: How to Attract Native Birds to Your Garden*. Lansdowne Publishing, Australia.

Benson, D & Howell, J. 1990. *Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs*. Kangaroo Press, Australia.

Robinson, Les. 1991. *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney*. Kangaroo Press, Australia.

Pizzey, G. 2000. *The Australian Bird-Garden: Creating Havens for Native Birds*. Angus & Robertson, Australia.

Urquhart, P. 1999. *The New Native Garden: Designing with Australian Plants*. New Holland Publishers, Australia.

What can I do?

Join North Sydney Council's Native Havens program

Open to all North Sydney Council residents where participants are provided free of charge with:

- advice from a qualified bush regenerator to help develop a habitat garden plan
- a selection of suitable local native plants
- advice on improving habitat elements
- weed control tips
- ongoing support.

Contact

North Sydney Council's Bushland Project Officer

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/nativehavens



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