

# Minimise the risk of introducing garden escapees

Many common plants have jumped the garden fence and become invasive weeds. Using local native plants in your garden not only reduces the risk of introducing further garden escapees, but also helps maintain the special and unique identity of the area – our sense of place. Local native plants attract native insects, small birds and marsupials, providing important refuges in a rapidly developing area.

Like many of the exotic species we know well, local natives grow quickly, flower beautifully at different times of the year and come in a variety of colours, foliage textures and scents.

The plants suggested here make up a small selection of the hundreds of beautiful flowering plants found in this region. For a comprehensive guide to local flowering plants, see references listed in this brochure.



***Ficinia nodosa***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Juncus pallidus***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Melaleuca huegelii***  
Photo by F. Humphreys ANBG



***Olearia axillaris***  
Photo by H. Rolfe



***Verticordia plumosa***  
Photo by M. Moir



***Acacia browniana***  
Photo by M. Moir



***Anigozanthos flavidus***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Beaufortia sparsa***  
Photo by D. Rooks



***Billardiera fusiformis***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Boronia megastigma***  
Photo by M. Fagg ANBG



***Conostylis aculeata***  
Photo by M. Fagg ANBG



***Darwinia citriodora***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Hardenbergia comptoniana***  
Photo by Monterey Bay Nursery



***Hibbertia cuneiformis***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Hypocalymma angustifolium***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Kennedia prostrata***  
Photo by M. Fagg ANBG



***Orthrosanthus polystachyus***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Patersonia occidentalis***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Pimelea ferruginea***  
Photo by M. Fagg ANBG



***Templetonia retusa***  
Photo by C. Jury



***Thysanotus multiflorus***  
Photo by C. Jury

# The Margaret River Region - a Biodiversity Hotspot

Biodiversity is the diversity of all living things. The south west of Western Australia is renowned internationally for having very high species diversity with particularly high numbers of endemic species (species that occur here and nowhere else). The international label of “Biodiversity Hotspot” not only implies an amazing variety of plants and animals, but also a high level of threat from development, changing land use and feral plant and animal species. Help us to preserve our biodiversity by using plants native to the region in your garden.



| Botanical Name  | Common Name                            | Flowers                           | Description  | situation    |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <i>Acacia browniana</i>   |  | Cream, yellow<br>Aug-Oct          | Erect spreading shrub to 2m. Sand, gravel and lateritic soils.   | Most         |
| <i>Anigozanthos flavidus</i><br>(Margaret River variety)        | Tall Kangaroo Paw                      | Red<br>Aug-Dec                    | Local variety has tall red flowers with tufty foliage. Adaptable and hardy plant on sand clay or gravel.             | Wet/Most     |
| <i>Beaufortia sparsa</i>  | Swamp Bottlebrush                      | Red<br>Jan-Apr/Sep-Nov            | Erect shrub to 3m. Prefers sand or swampy areas. Shire emblem.   | Wet          |
| <i>Billardiera fusiformis</i><br>( <i>Sollya heterophylla</i> ) | Australian Bluebell                    | Blue all year<br>(mostly Nov-Feb) | Sturdy, long-flowering, twining shrub to 2m. Found on a variety of soils.  | Most         |
| <i>Boronia megastigma</i>                                       | Scented Boronia                        | Yellow/brown<br>Jul-Oct           | Beautifully scented slender shrub to 1m. Prefers peaty sand and winter wet areas. Likes shade.                       | Wet          |
| <i>Conostylis aculeata</i>                                      | Prickly Conostylis                     | Yellow/green<br>Aug-Nov           | Hardy, small tufty plant suitable to most soils.   | Most         |
| <i>Darwinia citriodora</i>                                      | Lemon Scented Darwinia                 | Yellow, green, red<br>May-Dec     | Erect or sprawling shrub to 1.5m with bell-shaped flowers. Hardy plant found on laterite, granite and sloping soils. | Most         |
| <i>Ficina nodosa</i> (prev. <i>Isolepis</i> )                   | Knotted Club Rush                      | Brown Aug-Apr                     | Attractive, salt tolerant and hardy rush to 1m.  | Coastal/Most |
| <i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i>                                 | Native Wisteria                        | Purple Jul-Oct                    | Hardy, vigorous climber suitable to most soils.  | Most         |
| <i>Hibbertia cuneiformis</i>                                    | Cutleaf Hibbertia                      | Yellow<br>Jan-Mar/Jun-Nov         | Long-flowering, hardy, medium shrub suitable to most soils.  | Most         |
| <i>Hypocalymma angustifolium</i>                                | White Myrtle                           | White, pink<br>Jun-Nov            | Small shrub to 1m. Flowers range from white to pink.   | Wet/Most     |
| <i>Juncus pallidus</i>  | Pale Rush                              | Brown Oct-Dec                     | Robust rush to 2m. Common in wet areas.  | Wet          |
| <i>Kennedia prostrata</i>                                       | Scarlet Runner                         | Red<br>Apr-Nov                    | Prostrate or twining shrub with red flowers. Prefers sandy or gravel soils. Excellent ground cover.                  | Most         |
| <i>Melaleuca huegelii</i>                                       | Chenille Honey Myrtle                  | White and Pink<br>Oct-Jan         | Hardy spreading shrub or tree. Found on a variety of soils but prefers coastal limestone soils.                      | Coastal/Most |
| <i>Olearia axillaris</i>  | Coastal Daisy Bush                     | Green/yellow<br>Jan-Jul/Nov-Dec   | Compact rounded shrub to 2m. Striking grey/green, aromatic foliage.  | Coastal      |
| <i>Orthrosanthus polystachyus</i>                               | Morning Iris/ Many Spike Orthrosanthus | Blue<br>Sep-Nov                   | Tufty foliage with a profusion of blue flower spikes to 1m. Clayey loam, laterite, sandy soils.                      | Most         |
| <i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>                                  | Purple Flag                            | Purple<br>Sep-Jan                 | Tufted perennial to 70cm with broad spreading leaves.  | Most         |
| <i>Pimelea ferruginea</i>                                       |  | Dark pink<br>Aug-Feb              | Low erect shrub with striking pink flowers. Often wind pruned along the coast. Sandy limestone or granite soils.     | Coastal/Most |
| <i>Templetonia retusa</i>                                       | Cockie's Tongue                        | Red<br>Apr-Nov                    | Long-flowering shrub to 2-3m. Prefers limestone soils.   | Coastal/Most |
| <i>Thysanotus multiflorus</i>                                   | Many-flowered Fringed Lily             | Lilac<br>Aug-Jan                  | Silvery-grey buds and stems with purple flowers. Grows on sandy, laterite or granitic soils.                         | Most         |
| <i>Verticordia plumosa</i>                                      | Plumed feather flower                  | Pink<br>Nov-Jan                   | Low growing spreading shrub under 1m. Found on a variety of soils.   | Most         |

## Important tips

- 1. Plan and understand your garden.**  
Choose plants that will do well on your site and with your particular soils.
- 2. Plant at the right time of year.**  
Planting from the end of autumn after the first good rains through to mid winter will give the plants time to establish before the summer months.
- 3. Only use low phosphorus fertilisers** suitable for native plants (sparingly if at all). Alternatively, a layer of organic mulch will provide enough nutrients; be sure to leave space around stems and trunks to prevent fungal problems.
- 4. Water native plants weekly during their first summer.** Unless they are wetland plants, they should only need occasional watering once they are established.
- 5. Order your plants early (Jan/Feb).**  
If your chosen plant is difficult to source, look elsewhere or replace it with another local native (there are plenty to choose from). Local nurseries are usually happy to order plants in for you if they don't have them in stock – if in doubt, ASK!

## REFERENCES

- Scott, J. and Negus, P. 2002, Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Australia's South West Augusta-Margaret River Region, Cape to Cape Publishing, WA
- Cape to Cape Catchments Group 2004, Cape to Cape Landcare Companion, CCCG, Natural Heritage Trust, Margaret River, WA
- Crosbie, D. 1996, Bush Plants for Perth Gardens, National Trust of Australia, WA
- Paczkowska, G. and Chapman, A.R. 2000, Western Australian Flora, A Descriptive Catalogue, Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Western Australian Herbarium, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, WA

## Where can you get help?

### Local nurseries grow or can order a selection of local natives:

Everyday Potted Plants  
Ph: 9757 7424

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery  
Ph: 0409 376 976 or BDEC Ph: 9754 2049

Margaret River Nursery and Irrigation  
Ph: 9757 2691

Nuralingup Garden Nursery  
Ph: 9757 7587

The Tube Nursery  
Ph: 9755 5509

**Please contact the Cape to Cape Catchments Group (9757 2202) for advice.**

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Monterey Bay Nursery  
<http://montereybaynsy.com/>

Australian National Botanic Gardens  
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/>

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Local Native Plants  
of the **Margaret River Region**  
Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin

## Plant This Instead



*Xanthorrhoea preissii* - photo courtesy of C. Jury

Local native plants are the essence of our region's beauty and biodiversity. Plant them in your garden to maintain our unique sense of place, save water, minimise the risk of introducing garden escapes and to enjoy the natural wonder of wildflowers.