

Wildlife-friendly gardening

Creating spaces for native plants and animals in Moonee Valley





Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay our respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and Community Members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Acknowledgements

This booklet was produced by Green Gecko Publications
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Photographs by Moonee Valley City Council, Mary Trigger, Raf Heriot (RH), Elaine Shallue (ES), Ian Moodie (IM), Michael J Smith (MJS), Nick Bradsworth (NB);
natureshare.org.au photographers – Andrew Allen (AA), Russell Best (RB), James Booth (JB), Andrew Brown (AB), Chris Clark (CC), Peter Clark (PC), Georgio De Natale (GDN), John Edwards (JE), Kevin Sparrow (KS) Nathan Fell (NF), Suzanne Jones (SJ), Chris Lindorff (CL), Pauline McCarthy (PM), Thomas N (TN), Lorraine Phelan (LP).

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This publication is printed on
100% recycled paperstock 2019.



Green Gecko
PUBLICATIONS

greengeckopublications.com.au

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Introduction

Indigenous plants and biodiversity

Indigenous plants are the original or local plants that occur naturally, in a given location. They have adapted to the conditions within the local environment such as the soil and climate.

These local plant species have also evolved alongside native wildlife, therefore providing the best possible food and shelter for native animals. A greater variety of indigenous plant species means more food and a more diverse habitat for native wildlife. Wildlife corridors connect isolated areas of habitat in a landscape.

Habitat

The environment where an animal naturally lives or occurs.

Habitat along a creek, for example, allows wildlife to move through the landscape more easily with greater access to food and shelter. Indigenous gardens act in a similar way, providing a habitat stepping stone to help local wildlife move around the landscape.

Biodiversity is important as it sustains the natural systems which provide us with clean air and water, regulate climate and maintain healthy soils for food production.

Biodiversity

The variety of plant and animal species in an environment, genetic differences within and between species and differences between the ecological systems in which they live.

A high diversity of plant species improves the chances of local ecosystems surviving destructive events or processes such as weed and animal invasion, and climate change.

The benefits of growing indigenous plants are that they:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects, and other animals
- require little maintenance to keep them looking healthy
- strengthen local wildlife corridors and so help wildlife cope with climate change
- reflect Moonee Valley's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity and place
- contribute to the preservation of Moonee Valley's natural biodiversity.



Swamp Wallabies in a Moonee Valley garden. Photo: Jane Canaway

Moonee Valley's original vegetation communities

Vegetation communities are groups of plants that share a common environment. Species are indigenous to that place and naturally occur together because they have similar needs.

Moonee Valley has at least 10 vegetation communities, including those of the Victorian Volcanic Plain of which less than 1 per cent of the original vegetation remains. These Ecological Vegetation

Classes (EVCs) and their original distribution before European settlement provides guidance as to the ideal location for various indigenous plants to thrive.

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)



Plains Grassland



Streambank Woodland



Plains Grassy Woodland



Escarpment Shrubland



Grassy Woodland



Floodplain Riparian Woodland



Creekside Grassy Woodland



Brackish Grassland



Riparian Woodland



Swampy Woodland



JH Allan Grassland Reserve



Canning Tea Gardens Reserve



Napier Park

Map of Moonee Valley EVCs



This map has been derived from the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's NatureKit Mapping Tool, pre-1750's mapping layer accessed on 14/08/2018.

Map of Moonee Valley reserves



Nature reserves

Moonee Valley has 40 hectares of reserves including 17 hectares of remnant (original) vegetation devoted to preserving nature in Moonee Valley. The main conservation reserves include:

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----|--|
| 1 | Spring Gully Reserve,
East Keilor | 6 | The Crossway South Reserve,
Avondale Heights |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 2 | PA Kirchner Reserve, Niddrie | 7 | Canning Tea Gardens Reserve,
Avondale Heights |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3 | Afton Street Conservation Park,
Aberfeldie | 8 | Napier Park,
Strathmore |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 4 | JH Allan Grassland Reserve,
Keilor East | 9 | Five Mile Creek Reserve,
Essendon |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 5 | Arcade Way Reserve,
Avondale Heights | 10 | Strathnaver Grassland Reserve,
Strathmore |



Afton Street Conservation Park

Our changing environment

Our environment is constantly changing. Moonee Valley's rolling hills were once interspersed by creeks and the valley teemed with native plants and animals. As Melbourne thrived, the hills became covered in farms and then suburbs.

Some of the changes we made in the past no longer work in our favour. Creeks that became concrete-lined drains now lose precious water and carry pollution into the sea. And so we have also changed how we care for our environment and wildlife.

We no longer rely only on National Parks to prevent extinction, instead we integrate environmental protection into our urban areas. For example, Moonee Valley Council is working to manage water better by reawakening creeks and creating wetlands that slow and filter water. This trapped rainwater can then be used to irrigate our green spaces, saving both money and drinking water.

Moonee Valley is now a bustling inner-urban metropolis that is getting busier as more people enjoy calling our suburbs home. We all can play an important part in helping to look after our changing environment by sharing our reserves and gardens with native animals and plants.

Urbanisation

Over half of Victoria's native vegetation has been cleared. In urban areas, remaining native vegetation have been surrounded by houses, schools, shops, roads and railway tracks. These built barriers isolate the vegetation patches and this makes it difficult for wildlife to move around and reproduce. Wildlife corridors are vital links between remaining vegetation patches.

Climate change

Changes in our global climate are impacting our native flora and fauna. Ongoing lower rainfall and an increase in heatwaves and storm events are predicted to continue.

Pests

Many non-indigenous species can become invasive. Weeds compete with local plants. This results in a reduction of native habitat for wildlife and a loss of biodiversity. Feral cats, dogs and foxes have decimated our native animal populations.

Pollution

Herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers from our gardens can enter our stormwater system, where they end up polluting our local waterways and harming plants and wildlife. Frogs are sensitive to pollutants in water because their skin is sensitive and their eggs have no hardened shells.



Urban environments can be a wildlife refuge.

Wildlife corridors

Creating a habitat garden using indigenous plants will provide a haven for native insects, birds, frogs, lizards and small mammals. If more Moonee Valley gardeners incorporate habitat design into their gardens we can create stepping stones, or resting places, for wildlife to move through our neighbourhoods. Follow this guide to create a wildlife corridor for animals to safely move between the large bushland reserves that exist across Moonee Valley.

Recipe for success:

- Plant local plants in layers.
- Add a birdbath.
- Leave some logs on the ground.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Add a nest box.
- Lock up your cat at night.
- Encourage your neighbours to help build Moonee Valley's wildlife corridors.

create stepping stones, or resting places, for wildlife to move through our neighbourhoods



Wildlife of Moonee Valley

The following are just some of the unique animals that live in Moonee Valley or pass through regularly. Invite these beautiful animals into your garden by creating a habitat garden.

For more on wildlife sightings, or to add your own sightings in Moonee Valley visit: bowerbird.org.au/projects/6049

B I R D S

Australian Hobby (*Falco longipennis*)



Size: 35 – 39cm

Habitat: open woodlands, grasslands with trees, wetlands, rivers, parks and gardens

Diet: small birds and large flying insects.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)



Size: 30 – 34cm

Habitat: farms, watercourses, parks and gardens

Diet: seeds, some weeds and insects.

Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*)



Size: 35 – 39cm

Habitat: timbered watercourses, farms and parks

Diet: seeds and some bulbs.

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)



Size: 48 – 60cm, wingspan to 94cm

Habitat: water bodies and parks

Diet: mainly seeds of aquatic plants with some small crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic insects.

Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*)



Size: 66 – 80cm, wingspan to 1.5m

Habitat: inland lakes and rivers, coastal waters, estuaries and tidal inlets

Diet: mainly fish with some crustaceans and molluscs.

Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*)



Size: 33 – 36cm

Habitat: woodlands, heathlands, parks and gardens

Diet: mainly nectar with some insects.

Southern Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)



Size: 25 – 36cm, females larger

Habitat: tree canopies

Diet: small animals such as mice, microbats and moths.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)



Size: 33 – 50cm

Habitat: forests, open woodlands, roadside trees and gardens with trees

Diet: small mammals, frogs, lizards and nocturnal insects.

BIRDS

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)



Size: 19 – 22cm

Habitat: most habitats except dense forests

Diet: insects and other small invertebrates.

White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*)



Size: 66 – 70cm, wingspan 1m

Habitat: shallow wetlands, tidal mudflats, grasslands and beaches

Diet: fish, frogs and insects.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*)



Size: up to 65cm

Habitat: a variety of habitats, but favours eucalypt woodlands

Diet: seeds and some insects.

FROGS

Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*)



Size: females 60 – 104mm, males 55 – 65mm

Habitat: among reeds, sedges and rushes growing in and along slow-moving water

Diet: mostly invertebrates such as beetles.

Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*)

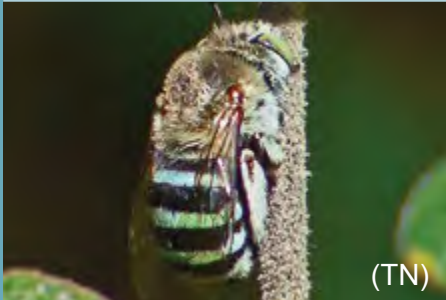


Size: 65mm

Habitat: adaptable pond dweller

Diet: insects.

Blue-banded Bee (*Amegilla cingulata*)



Size: up to 12mm long

Habitat: grasslands, heathlands and woodlands

Diet: nectar.

Garden Orb Weaver Spider (*Eriophora* sp.)



Size: 20 – 25mm

Habitat: woodlands, grasslands, grassy woodlands, parks and gardens

Diet: insects

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)



Size: 50 – 90mm wingspan

Habitat: all habitats except dense forests

Diet: caterpillars feed on daisies, butterflies on nectar.

Plague Soldier Beetle (*Chauliognathus lugubris*)



Size: 1 – 1.3cm

Habitat: forest, heath, woodlands, parks and gardens

Diet: insects and plants.

Small Copper (*Lucia limbaria*)



Size: 25mm wingspan

Habitat: open grasslands, paddocks

Diet: adults feed on nectar, caterpillars feed on oxalis.

M A M M A L S

Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*)



Size: 60mm

Habitat: forest, woodlands and grasslands, roost in tree hollows and under bark

Diet: insects, mosquitoes and moths.

Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)



Size: up to 40cm long in length and weigh 7kg

Habitat: forests, woodlands and grasslands

Diet: ants and termites.

Water-rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*)



Size: body up to 40cm in length and weigh up to 1kg

Habitat: near fresh water, live in burrows dug in the bank of creeks

Diet: mostly fish, crustaceans and insects.

R E P T I L E S

Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*)



Size: shell to 25cm long

Habitat: slow-moving water bodies

Diet: molluscs, crustaceans, tadpoles and insects.

Garden Skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*)



Size: up to 40mm

Habitat: widely distributed

Diet: invertebrates.

Wildlife-friendly gardens

Creating your wildlife-friendly garden

Plants and animals need food, water and shelter for their populations to survive. Each species has particular habitat needs. Here are some of the basic elements of a wildlife-friendly garden. The following chapter provides recipes for attracting different forms of wildlife into your garden.

Layers

A key to creating a habitat garden is to create structural diversity – lots of plants and lots of different layers. Aim to create a mix of trees, shrubs of varying height, grasses and groundcovers.

Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native wildlife. Likewise a few logs, rocks, sticks, mulch and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will help attract wildlife to your garden. A shallow birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help protect birds from predators while they bathe and drink. Frogs need a permanent or semi-permanent water source to keep their skin moist and provide opportunities to breed. Butterflies love to gather on a wide dish of damp sand or a small puddle in the soil.

Shelter

Native wildlife needs to find shelter from bad weather, predators, and competitors. They need a refuge in which to build their homes and raise their young.

Prickly shrubs and mature trees can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird and mammal species. Old trees with hollows provide nesting sites for parrots, owls and possums.

Food

Plants that produce nectar, pollen, seeds, fruit, leaves and roots provide food for many of our native animals. Dead plant material can also be a source of food. Insects that live on the plants, mulch and soil also provide food for birds, lizards, frogs and mammals. Add a good mix of different plants to provide a range of food sources for different animals. Leave leaf litter on the ground below plants as mulch to protect the soil and provide another layer of habitat.

Garden layers



Trees

Large Shrubs

Small Shrubs

**Grasses and
Groundcover**

Logs and Mulch



Rainbow Lorikeet • Tree hollows make perfect habitat for birds and small mammals.



Yellow and Yellow-rumped Thornbills (SJ)



Give wildlife a helping hand!

Common Grass-blue on Yam Daisy (LP) • Butterflies are attracted to flowering daisies.

Attracting butterflies



Dainty Swallowtail (AA)



Sticky Everlasting



Butterflies

Look for the butterfly icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies and other invertebrates.

Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden. They will move over large distances to find nectar-producing plants to feed on and host plants to lay their eggs. Don't be too concerned about the resulting caterpillars as they are not destructive like the introduced Cabbage White Butterfly caterpillars that chomp through your garden.

Recipe:

- Plant lots of open, nectar-producing flowers particularly blue, red and yellow-coloured flowers. Examples include daisies such as Basalt Daisy, pea flowers including Running Postman, grasses such as Kangaroo and Wallaby, and many of our flowering wattles, banksias and eucalypts.
- Add a dish of damp sand. Butterflies take in water and essential salts and minerals from the soil.
- Include a flat rock or paver for butterflies to bask in the morning sun.
- Create a shady retreat from the midday sun and somewhere to shelter from rain; for example, broad-leaved plants so they can cling safely to the underside.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Plant a range of host plants for different butterflies to lay their eggs (for example, Kangaroo Grass for Common Browns, Everlasting Daisies for Dainty Swallowtails, Austral Indigo for Common Grass-blues).

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat

Attracting other invertebrates

Native invertebrates benefit the health of your garden in many ways.

Native bees, ladybirds, hoverflies, spiders, lacewings and dragonflies are plant pollinators, waste recyclers, help control pest insects and are important food for other native animals.

Recipe:

- Add bush mulch to your garden beds to provide food and shelter for leaf litter munchers.
- Leave a few logs and branches of varying sizes in your garden beds.
- Tidy up a small area of your garden at a time, not the whole garden at once. This enables insects to relocate safely.
- Add a shallow dish of water for drinking or a shallow pond for breeding.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Plant a range of different indigenous plants from trees that shed bark for insects to hide in, grasses for egg laying and nectar-producing flowering plants for food. Examples include wattles, paperbarks, banksias, eucalypts, mat-rushes, grasses, daisies, Sweet Bursaria and Hop Goodenia.

Threats:

- Insecticides
- Lack of habitat



Leaf-curling Spider



Hoverfly on Bulbine Lily



Dragonfly (ES)

Building an insect hotel



Insect Hotel



Bottlebrush Sawfly (JB)



Sweat Bee

Have fun with the kids and make an insect hotel!

You can use any untreated timber to make a frame. Add a simple roof overhang to keep the rain out. Avoid glues and paints that may be toxic. Create interesting nooks and crannies with a variety of natural materials such as straw, sheoak cones, pieces of wood, rolled up cardboard and drilled timber blocks.

If you are drilling holes in wood to create burrows, drill holes of varying size ranging from 5 – 10mm wide and 15 – 80mm deep. Make the holes smooth and blind (not right through the timber) and slope them slightly upward to help keep them dry.

Or you can fill a pipe with clay and add some holes. Or simply bundle together some straws or bamboo and see who moves in!

Locate your insect hotel with shelter from strong sun, rain and wind. Consider making a few insect hotels and locating them in different sections of your garden, such as a high sunny location and a low shady spot.

Your hotel is now open for business!

Native bees are different from the introduced honeybee. They are mostly stingless and nest alone. A single female bee will build a small burrow in soft ground, timber or a rock crevice.

Visit: mvcc.vic.gov.au/bees

Attracting small birds

Small garden birds are delightful to watch as they forage around the garden or queue up to take a bath. Finches eat seeds and Silvereyes eat berries. Most small birds eat insects and can be great for pest control!

Recipe:

- Provide a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated safe position for bathing and drinking.
- Create open areas for foraging.
- Mulch garden beds to attract tasty insect treats.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Plant dense or prickly indigenous shrubs for protection and safe nest sites. For example, hakea shrubs.
- Prune indigenous shrubs to create a denser form.
- Plant a range of plants including prickly wattles, tea-trees, correas and climbers.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

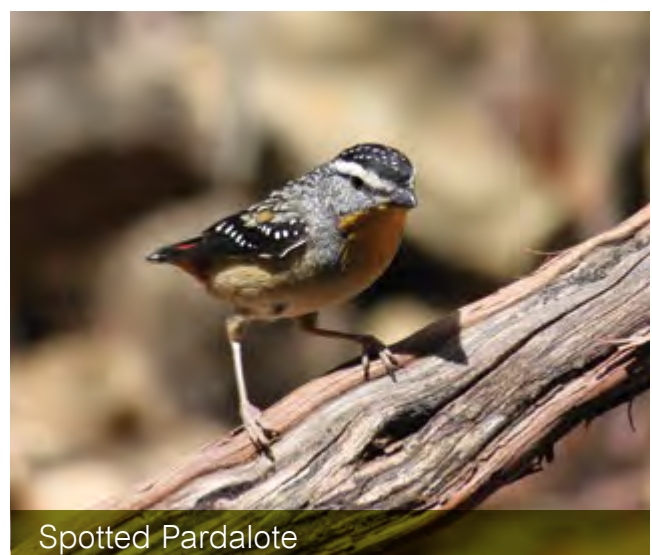
- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Red-browed Finch



Superb Fairy-wren (RH)



Spotted Pardalote



Small birds

Look for the small bird icon in the Indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for small birds.

Attracting honeyeaters



Eastern Spinebill



New Holland Honeyeater



White-plumed Honeyeater (GND)

Honeyeaters are very active birds that need a rich supply of nectar and pollen-producing flowers to keep them fuelled. They have a brush-tongue they use to collect nectar and pollen. Honeyeaters can be protective of a good supply of food and quite aggressive towards other nectar feeders. They also need insects in their diet so, despite their name, don't be surprised if you see them snapping at some bugs.

Recipe:

- Include a shallow dish of fresh water in an elevated safe position for bathing and drinking.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Plant dense or prickly small and large shrubs for protection and safe nest sites.
- Plant a range of nectar and pollen-producing plants.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Honeyeaters

Look for the honeyeater icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for honeyeaters.

Attracting parrots

Parrots feed on a wide variety of plants. Nectar-feeders such as the Musk and Rainbow Lorikeet have a brush-tongue to collect nectar and pollen. Seed-eaters such as Red-rumped Parrot, Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos feed on wattles, banksias, eucalypts and grasses. Long-billed Corellas dig in the ground for tubers. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos love to find grubs hiding under tree bark and crack open cones of the introduced pine trees to extract seed and insects.

Recipe:

- Include a source of fresh water, especially for the seed-eating parrots.
- Plant a range of nectar, pollen and seed-producing plants.
- If you have space, add a tall tree for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows for birds to nest in, or provide a nest box designed for parrots.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides
- Lack of nesting hollows



Eastern Rosella (PM)



Musk Lorikeet



Red-rumped Parrot



Parrots

Look for the parrot icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for parrots.

Attracting large birds and owls



Kookaburra



Grey Butcherbird (RH)



Powerful Owl (NB)

Birds such as Tawny Frogmouths, magpies, owls, laughing kookaburras and butcherbirds are carnivorous and feed on small mammals, lizards and large insects. A few large birds, such as the Common Bronzewing and Crested Pigeon are seed-eaters that mainly feed on grass seeds.

Recipe:

- Provide a source of fresh water for birds to bathe in and drink.
- Include a few tall trees for perching, roosting and nesting.
- Keep tree hollows, or provide a nest box designed for larger birds.
- Practise natural pest control.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Other carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides
- Lack of nesting hollows

For more information on nest boxes visit LaTrobe University's Wildlife Sanctuary latrobe.edu.au/wildlife



Large birds and owls

Look for the large bird icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for large birds and owls.

Attracting lizards and skinks

Blue-tongue Lizards, Marbled Geckos and little Garden Skinks generally prefer to snack on insects, but are opportunists that will also eat berries and seed. Avoid using snail baits in your garden. Even pet-friendly snail bait can harm wildlife. Many a Blue-tongue Lizard has unfortunately died after eating either the snail bait or the dead snails.

Recipe:

- Provide flat rocks or pavers in a protected, sunny spot to warm up.
- Mulch garden beds to attract insects to eat.
- Practise natural pest control (page 34).
- Include a fresh, shallow water supply on the ground.
- Plant tussocky grasses for protection.
- Provide cool shelter such as dense shrubs.
- Keep your pets inside at night.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds and Indian Mynas
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Marbled Gecko (JB)



Blue-tongue Lizard

Snakes

As the weather warms up snakes may appear in open spaces, parks and even our own gardens, usually in search of water, food or somewhere to hide.

If you encounter a snake, leave it alone and slowly walk away. If you see a snake on your property it's safest to have it taken away by a professional wildlife controller.

Visit: mvcc.vic.gov.au/snakes



Tiger Snake (JB)



Lizards and skinks

Look for the lizard icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for lizards, skinks and geckos.

Attracting frogs

Frogs need water to lay their eggs and for tadpoles to grow into frogs. Tadpoles feed on algae and decaying vegetable matter. Frogs spend their non-breeding life away from water and eat insects. They are very quiet during this time.

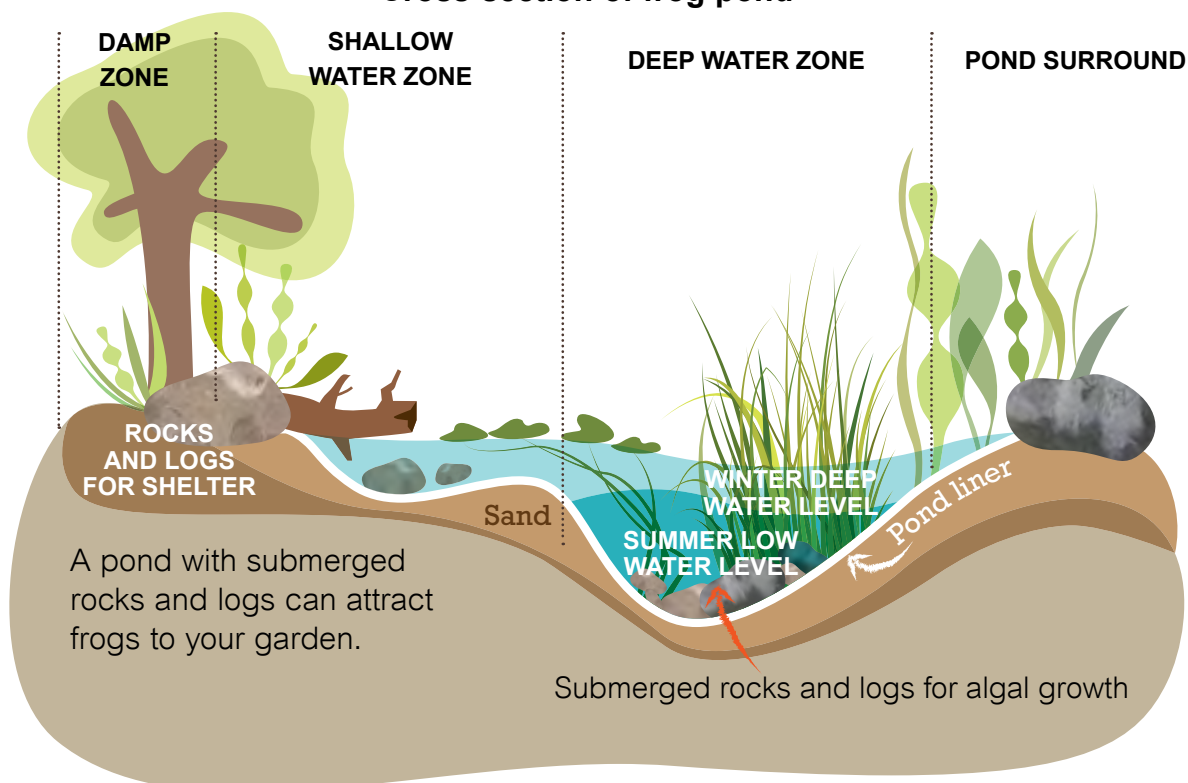
You have two options for attracting frogs to your garden. One is to build a frog pond that will attract breeding frogs to sing their chorus to attract a mate and lay their eggs. The second option if you have a moist, shady area in your garden is to create a Frog Hideaway for non-breeding frogs to burrow under a log or mulch and quietly hop about feeding.

For advice on appropriate indigenous aquatic and semi-aquatic plants visit your nearest indigenous nursery (page 65).

Recipe for a frog pond:

- Locate your pond in a low-lying section of your garden that has 70 per cent shade.
- Avoid locating your frog pond under deciduous trees that drop leaves.
- Include shallow entry points and deeper sections for potted aquatic plants.
- Add rocks and logs and cover the bottom with gravel.
- Fill with rainwater or tap water (chlorinated tap water needs to stand for five days).
- Add a variety of indigenous aquatic and semi-aquatic as well as plants that thrive in moist soil.
- Keep your pets inside at night and prevent cats from entering your pond.
- Avoid pumps.
- Do not add fish.

Cross-section of frog pond



Attracting frogs

Recipe for a Frog Hideaway:

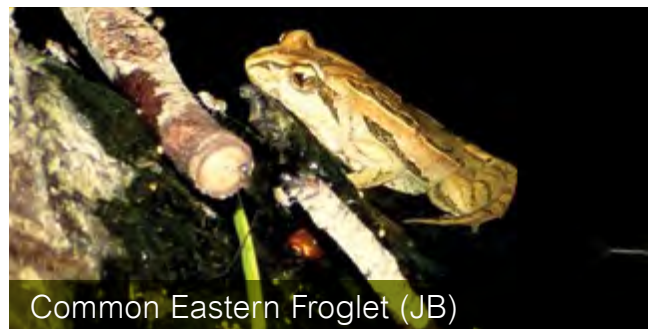
- Find a moist, shady area in a quiet part of your garden.
- Provide shelter such as logs with holes and loose bark or rocks.
- Plant lots of groundcovers, grasses and small shrubs.
- Add chunky wood-based mulch.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Eastern Banjo Frog (NF)

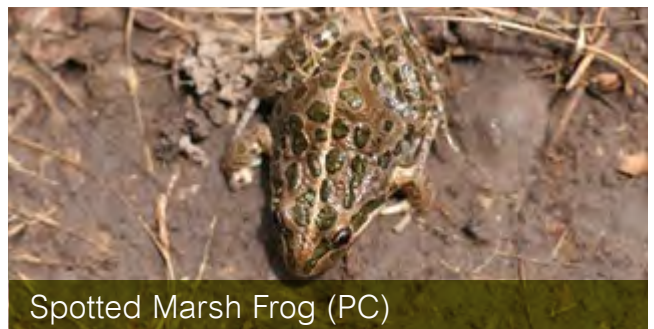


Common Eastern Froglet (JB)

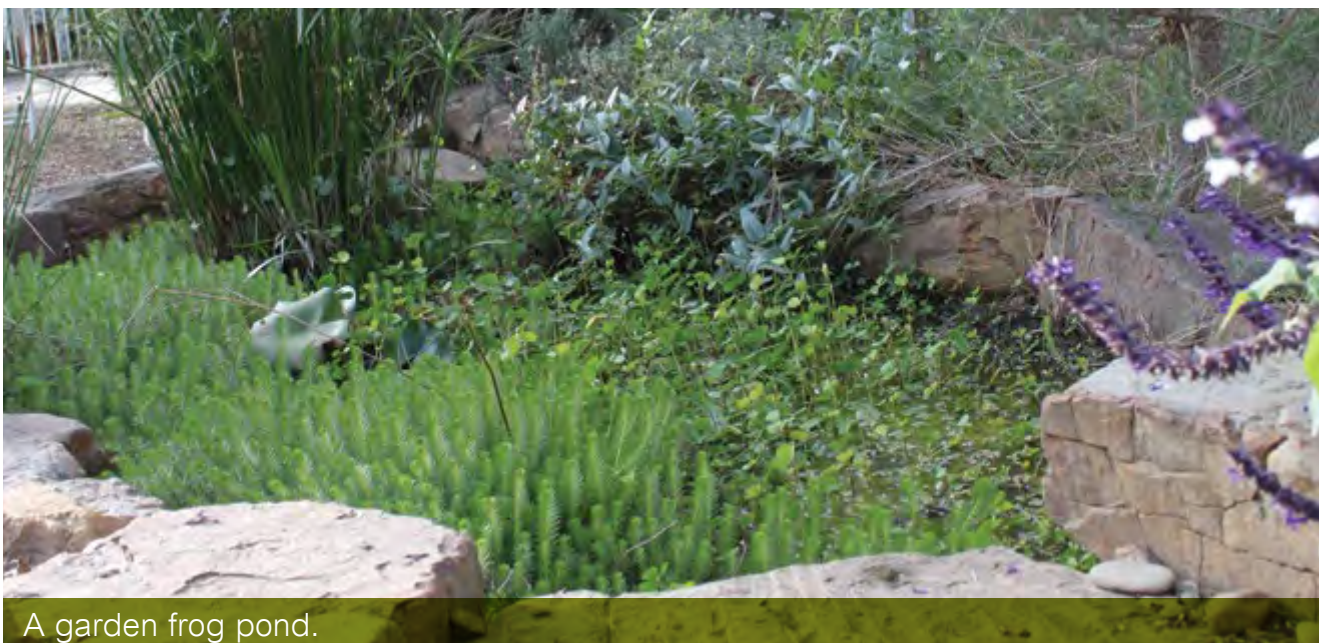


Frogs

Look for the frog icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for frogs.



Spotted Marsh Frog (PC)



A garden frog pond.

Attracting bats and microbats



Lesser Long-eared Bat (JB)



Gould's Wattled Bat (JB)



Grey-headed Flying Fox

Megabats such as the Grey-headed Flying Fox fly out at night in search of pollen and nectar from eucalyptus flowers. Little microbats, such as Lesser Long-eared Bat enjoy a feast of insects. The Little Forest Bat is known to eat around 1,000 mosquitoes in one night! Some microbats fly above the trees catching insects, while others fly close to the ground sometimes even landing to snatch a juicy grasshopper.

Recipe:

- Provide a safe roost to sleep during the day and winter. Large, old trees with hollows or loose bark are ideal.
- Set up a loose pile of rocks for the Lesser Long-eared Bat that roosts on the ground.
- Install a bat box or two in a sheltered location.
- Add mulch to your garden to encourage insects.
- Keep your pets inside at night.
- Plant a range of indigenous plants that attract insects.

Threats:

- Carnivorous birds
- Cats and dogs outside at night
- Pesticides



Bats and microbats

Look for the bat icon in the indigenous plant guide (pp 37 – 58) for plants that provide food and shelter for bats and microbats.

Attracting possums

Common Brushtail and Ringtail possums have adapted very well to urban life! As their natural homes have been removed, they have relocated into our roof spaces and nest in our gardens.

Although many of Australia's native mammals are extinct, we are fortunate to still have possums.

Recipe to happily sharing your garden with possums:

- Install a possum nest box to encourage possums away from your house.
- Plant indigenous flowering shrubs and trees to provide food and nesting sites.
- Build a fence of wire netting around your garden beds. String high-tensile wire between posts. Attach the netting loosely so that it sways when a possum attempts to climb it. Bury the bottom 20cm of netting and curve the top outwards.
- Use tree guards or wire covers to protect young plants.
- Use adjustable collars (strips of hard plastic or soft metal) around tree trunks to stop possums climbing up trees next to your house.
- Some people swear by home-made garlic spray to keep possums away from their prized plants (2 tablespoons of crushed garlic to 1 litre of water, leave to stand overnight. Strain and spray).
- Possums are protected native animals. Fines and penalties apply for harming them. If possums are becoming a problem, possum trapping or removal must be undertaken by a licensed professional.



Common Brushtail Possum

Although many of Australia's native mammals are extinct, we are fortunate to still have possums.



Common Ringtail Possum

Sick or injured wildlife

Expert help

If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, immediately call for assistance. Do not try to unnecessarily handle the animal. Always treat wildlife with caution, especially when distressed or injured. They may react unpredictably, carry disease and can be dangerous. Wherever possible, wait for an experienced/qualified person to arrive. Stress can kill wildlife. If you do move it, keep the animal in a dark and quiet box and do not attempt to give it any food or water.

Contact the following organisations for help:

- **Wildlife Victoria** 8400 7300.
- **Your local vet.**

Prevention

Wildlife can suffer from heat stress too. On days of extreme heat you can help wildlife by placing bowls of water in your garden and watering sections of your garden to create cool areas.

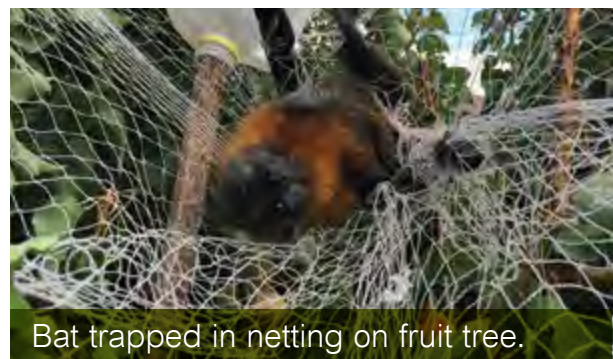
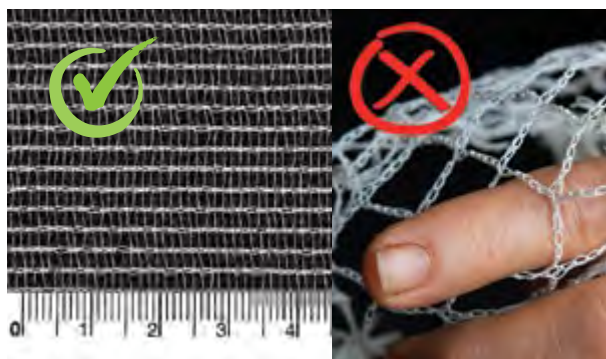
Planting a wildlife garden will encourage native animals to browse for their natural food in your garden, but wildlife does not benefit from being fed commercial

food. In many situations it can make them sick. Artificial nectar feeders can ferment and make birds ill. Birds can become dependent on an artificial food supply and fail to eat a wide range of natural food types. Animals that expect to be feed by humans can also become quite aggressive and demanding. Prevent wildlife from eating your pet's food by feeding your pet inside or within a fully enclosed pen.

Loosely woven garden netting will trap bats, birds, reptiles and mammals, often resulting in their death. As a rough guide if you can insert your finger through the netting it is capable of trapping wildlife. If you must net your fruit trees, choose densely woven netting with a mesh size less than 1cm². Ensure your netting is not loosely hanging. Securely fix it to the ground or tie it to the base of the tree. Remove nets when not required.

Domestic cats and dogs are one of the main threats to our native wildlife. Prevent these problems by keeping all your pets inside at night. For tips on how to keep your cat safe and happy at home visit safecat.org.au.

If you use netting choose a densely woven net with a mesh size less than 1cm².



Bat trapped in netting on fruit tree.

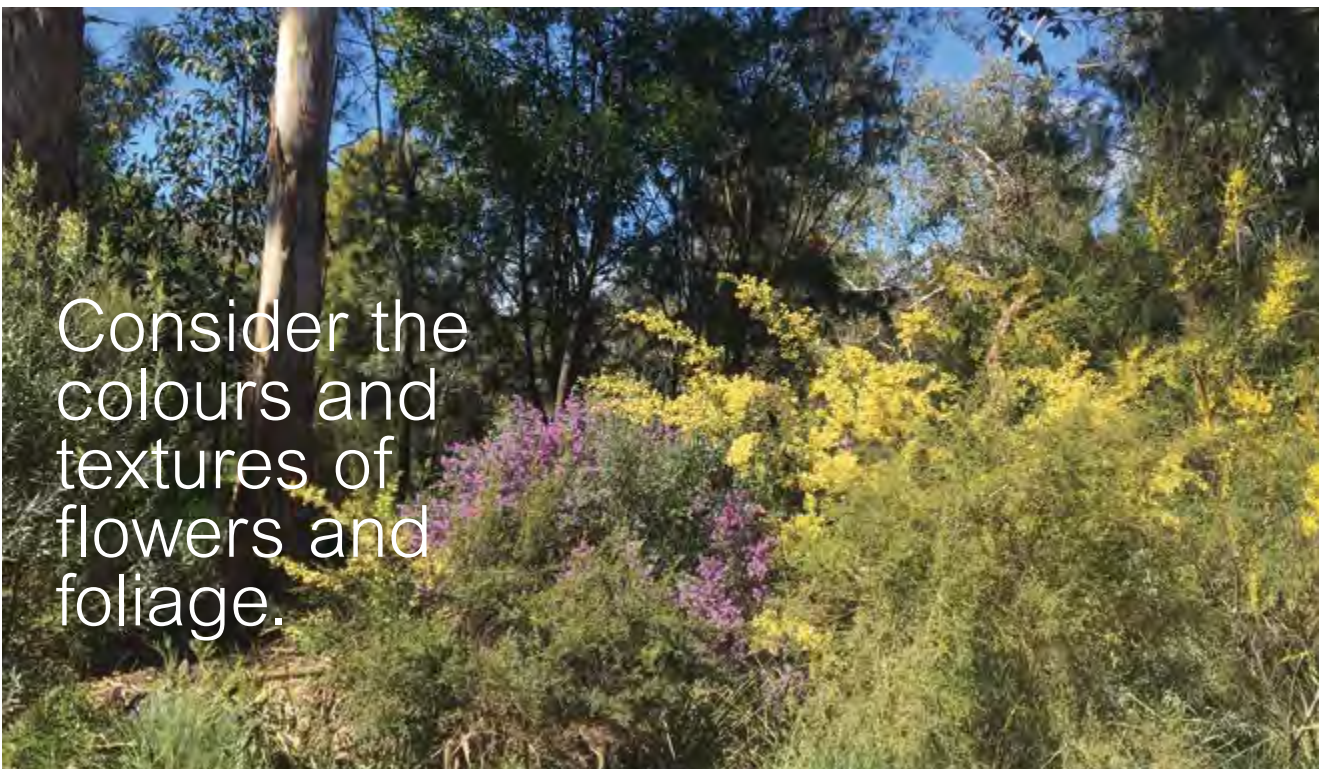
Creating your indigenous garden

Indigenous plants can be used to beautiful effect in almost any style of garden. Whether you prefer a formal, cottage, contemporary or bush garden, indigenous plants are suitable. Many can be hedged, grouped for stunning effect or grown as a beautiful feature tree. If you have an existing garden featuring exotic plants, you can introduce indigenous plants to attract more native wildlife. You don't need to do a complete garden makeover. Plant a bed of indigenous daisies, add a dish of damp sand and the local butterflies will delight you!





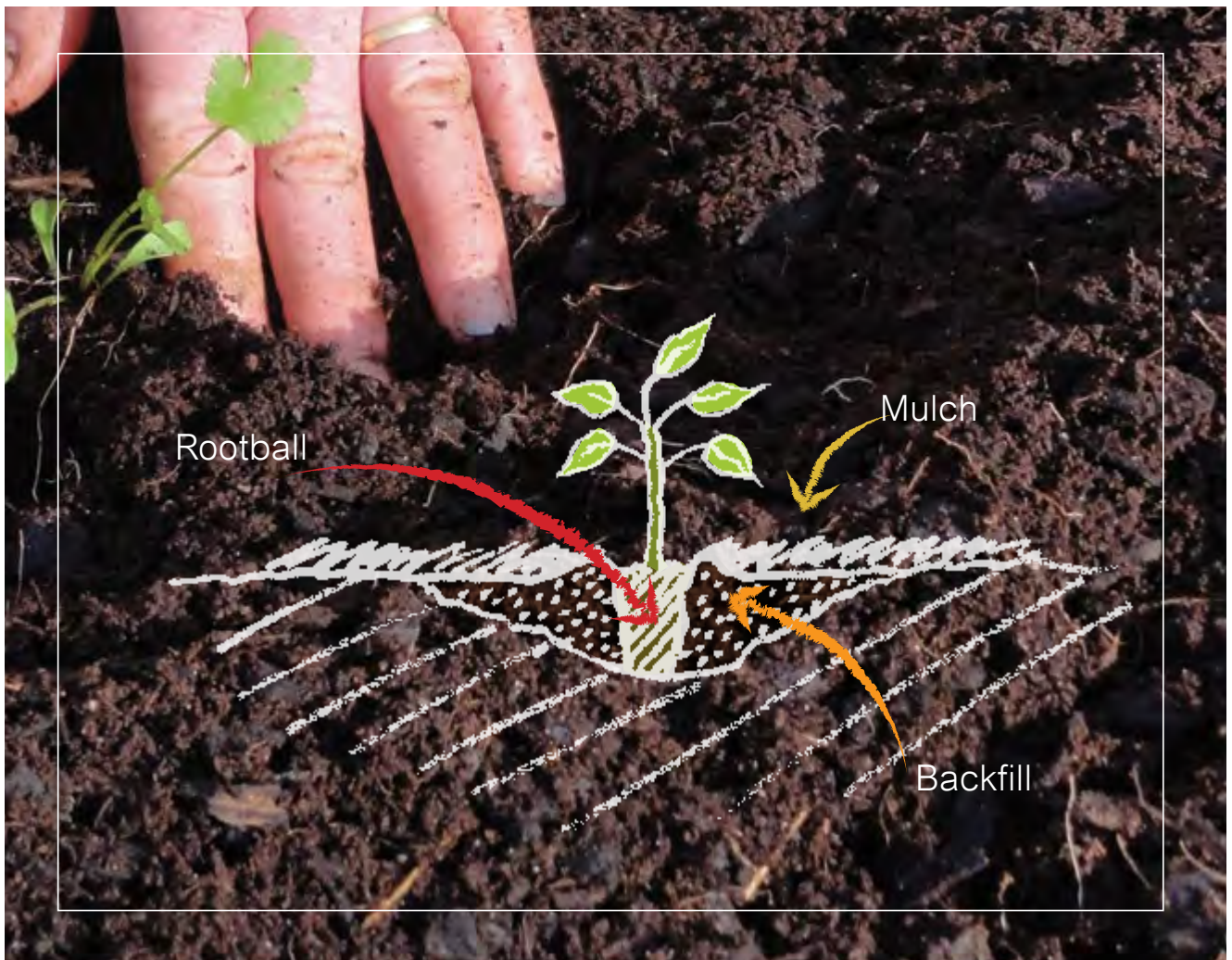
Photo: Klaus Kaulfuss



Planting

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. Refer to the indigenous plant guide (page 37 – 58) or visit your nearest indigenous nursery for advice (page 65).

- The best time to plant is in late autumn and early winter.
- Pre-soak your plants in a bucket of water before planting.
- In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain prior to planting.
- Prepare a hole twice the width of the container and slightly deeper.
- Remove plant from pot gently and place plant in the hole a little lower than original ground level.
- Place the plant just a little lower than the original soil level.
- Firmly replace the soil around the plant.
- Water the plant in well.



Maintenance

Gardens planted with indigenous plants generally require less maintenance than gardens planted with exotics.

Watering

If you have the right plant in the right location – for example, full sun and sandy soil as opposed to shade and moist soil – your plants should only require additional watering while they are establishing. Monitor all your plants for wilting during heatwaves as climate change is causing disruptions to our rainfall and temperature conditions. Apply water to the base of the plant and provide a long, deep watering. It is best to do this early or late in the day.

Mulch

Mulch helps keep the soil temperature down in summer, helps hold water in the soil, suppresses weeds and releases nutrients to the soil. A bush mulch is best for an indigenous garden as it slowly breaks down and creates a natural leaf litter look and makes ideal habitat for insects and lizards!

Fertiliser

Australian soils have low nutrient levels. They do not require fertilising.

Pruning

Indigenous plants respond well to a light pruning after they have flowered. This encourages the plant to be compact and dense.

Weeding

Weeds are less likely to grow in an indigenous garden with mulch; however, some weeding is a part of any garden. Weeds can be composted at a high temperatures, and weeds are accepted in your fortnightly green waste bin.



Monitor all your plants for wilting during heatwaves as climate change is causing disruptions to our rainfall and temperature conditions.

Natural pest control

Gardening with indigenous plants is a great way to create a balance of beneficial insects that keep the destructive pests under control. Ditch herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers as you generally won't need them, they can harm beneficial insects and they can kill our native wildlife. By growing a good diversity of plants and using other methods of pest control you can usually control outbreaks of pests in your garden, and create healthier habitats.

Consider:

- checking your garden regularly for pests
- making sure plants are not planted too close together so there is good ventilation to prevent fungal diseases
- hand-removing weeds when they are small
- attracting natural predators to your garden. Create the right habitat and your garden will be jumping with ladybirds and small birds feasting on garden pests
- keeping your pruning tools sharp and clean so cuts are hygienic and bark isn't torn. This helps prevent disease.

Some home remedies:

- Add a few drops of detergent, linseed or fish oil to a shallow dish to catch earwigs and Portuguese Millipedes.
- Place a ring of crushed eggshell, sawdust or coffee grounds around plants to deter snails and slugs. They will also tend to gather under an upturned pot for easy collection.
- Make a garlic spray to repel pests (2 tablespoons of crushed garlic to 1 litre of water. Stand overnight, strain and spray).



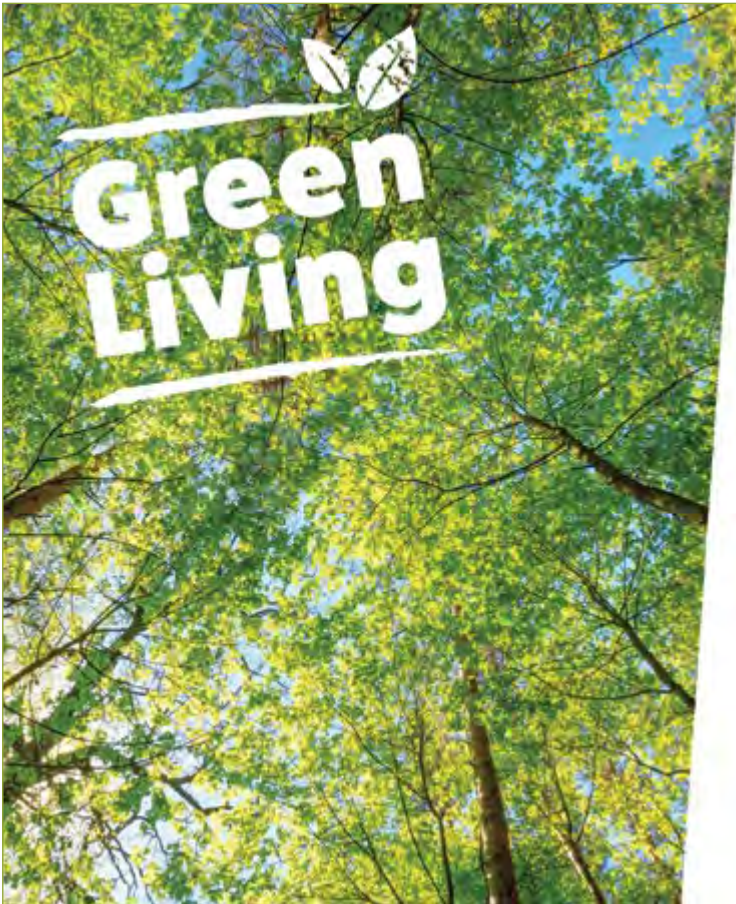
Common Spotted Ladybird eating aphids. (ES)



Garden Snail



Snail trap



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Moonee Valley indigenous plant guide

The following section features a selection of plants you may wish to include in your garden. If you are keen to attract wildlife to your garden the following icons indicate a section that features a selection of plants plants that will attract different wildlife:



Small birds such as wrens, robins and fantails



Honeyeaters such as spinebills and honeyeaters



Parrots such as rosellas, lorikeets and cockatoos



Butterflies and **invertebrates** such as beetles, dragonflies and spiders



Frogs such as the Growling Grass Frog and Spotted Marsh Frog



Lizards such as skinks and Blue-tongue Lizards



Mammals such as microbats, bats and possums



Large birds such as owls, Tawny Frogmouth and kookaburras















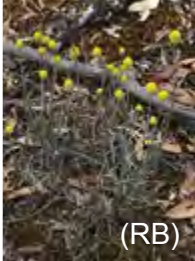



Please note: All plant sizes mentioned in this publication are approximate. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of a plant.









































Herbs and groundcovers



















These plants play an important role in the landscape. Not only are they attractive, they are useful for binding soil, minimising weed growth, attracting butterflies and are important for attracting pollinators for other plants. Indigenous herbs and groundcovers are able to tolerate a wide range of growing conditions.

Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman

<p><i>Acaena novae-zealandiae</i></p>	<p>Bidgee-widgee </p>
 (ES)  (KS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creeping groundcover that dies back in winter. • Grows 10cm high and 1 – 4m wide. • Green/white globular flowers from October to January. • Tolerates all soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Atriplex semibaccata</i></p>	<p>Berry Saltbush  </p>
 (RB)  (RB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hardy groundcover. • Grows 10 – 30cm high and 1 – 2m wide. • Small flowers from November to February, followed by succulent yellow to red berries. • Full sun and well-drained soil.
<p><i>Brachyscome paludicola</i></p>	<p>Basalt Daisy </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretty, white daisy flowers from October to February. • Grows to a height and width of 30 – 60cm. • Prefers a sunny position in moist soils. • Prune in winter to rejuvenate.
<p><i>Calocephalus</i> spp.</p>	<p>Beauty-heads   </p>
 (RB)  (RB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive plant suitable for mass planting. • Grows 20 – 50cm high and 30cm – 1m wide. • Yellow or white flowerheads from October to February. • Grows in well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Chrysocephalum</i> spp.</p>	<p>Everlastings </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostrate to 30cm high and 1 – 2m wide. • Beautiful golden daisy flowers from September to February. • Pruning back in late winter encourages new growth. • Grows in all well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Full sun to semi-shade.

<p><i>Dichondra repens</i></p>	<p>Kidney Weed  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creeping groundcover that forms a dense mat of leaves 1 – 2m wide. • Prefers moist, well-drained soil. • Light to full shade. • An excellent lawn substitute in low-traffic areas.
<p><i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i></p>	<p>Ruby Saltbush  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low spreading plant. • Prostrate to 1m. • Bluish – green foliage. • Succulent fruit from September to April. • Very adaptable tolerating poor soils and dryness. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Eryngium ovinum</i></p>	<p>Blue Devil  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stunning structural blue flowers from November to February. • Grows 10 – 60cm high and 30 – 50cm wide. • Full sun, well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Short-lived, but removing the stems at ground level after flowering will extend its life.
<p><i>Geranium spp.</i></p>	<p>Crane's-bills  </p>
  <p>(RB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrambling herb prostrate to 1m wide. • Moist shaded conditions. • Delicate pink to white flowers October to March. • Useful for stabilising soil in shaded situations.
<p><i>Glycine spp.</i></p>	<p>Twining Peas   </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dainty twining plants 30cm to 2m high. • Moist well-drained soils tolerating dry periods. • Semi-shade to full shade. • Attractive purple pea flowers from August to January.

<p><i>Microseris lanceolata</i></p>	<p>Yam Daisy </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An indigenous species, similar to dandelions, best planted en masse. • Grows 15 – 50cm high and 15 – 25cm wide. • Single, bright-yellow flower from July to February. • Moist to well-drained soils. • Semi-shade.
<p><i>Myoporum parvifolium</i></p>	<p>Creeping Boobialla  </p>
 (CL)  (CL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very adaptable matting groundcover, excellent for binding soil. • Prostrate to 10cm high and 2 – 4m wide. • White star-like flowers October to February. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Well-drained soil.
<p><i>Pelargonium australe</i></p>	<p>Austral Stork's-bill </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fast-growing plant for rockeries and small gardens. • Grows to 30 – 60cm high and 30cm – 1m wide. • Attractive pink flowers from October to February. • Prefers well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Ptilotus</i> spp.</p>	<p>Pussy Tails and Featherheads  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive and unusual plants. • 10 – 50cm high and 30 – 60cm high. • Fluffy yellow-green flowers October to February. • Well-drained soils. • Full sun.
<p><i>Pycnosorus</i> spp.</p>	<p>Drumsticks </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique, ball-like flowerheads from November to February. • Grows from 20 – 90cm high and wide. • Stunning when planted en masse. • Prefers moist soil and full sun. • Cut flowers hold their colour.




















<p><i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i></p>	<p>Chamomile Sunray </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive rockery plant. • Grows 20 – 30cm high and 20 – 60cm wide. • Papery daisy flowerheads to 3cm wide September to February. • Well-drained soil. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Responds well to hard pruning after flowering.
<p><i>Veronica gracilis</i></p>	<p>Slender Speedwell   </p>
 (RB)  (RB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostrate 50cm high and 80cm to 2m wide. • Clusters of delicate pink flowers from September to February. • Moist soils tolerating periods of poor drainage. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Vittadinia</i> spp.</p>	<p>New Holland Daisy </p>
  (RB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive, lilac-purple flowers most of the year. • Grows 10 – 40cm high and 30 – 50cm wide. • Fluffy seedheads after flowering. • Prefers full sun and well-drained soil.
<p><i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.</p>	<p>Bluebells  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masses of flowers peaking from October to March. • Grows 15 – 50cm high and 15cm wide. • Full sun. • Moist well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Prune after flowering and provide additional water in summer.
<p><i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i></p>	<p>Sticky Everlasting </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 20 – 90cm high and 30cm – 1m high. • Showy bright-yellow flowers from August to March. • Well-drained soils. • Full sun. • Pruning necessary to encourage bushiness.

Creepers and climbers

These showy, attractive plants grow well trained along a fence or climbing up a tree. They can also be used as a spreading, matting groundcover in rockeries or pots.

Hardenbergia violacea
Purple Coral Pea

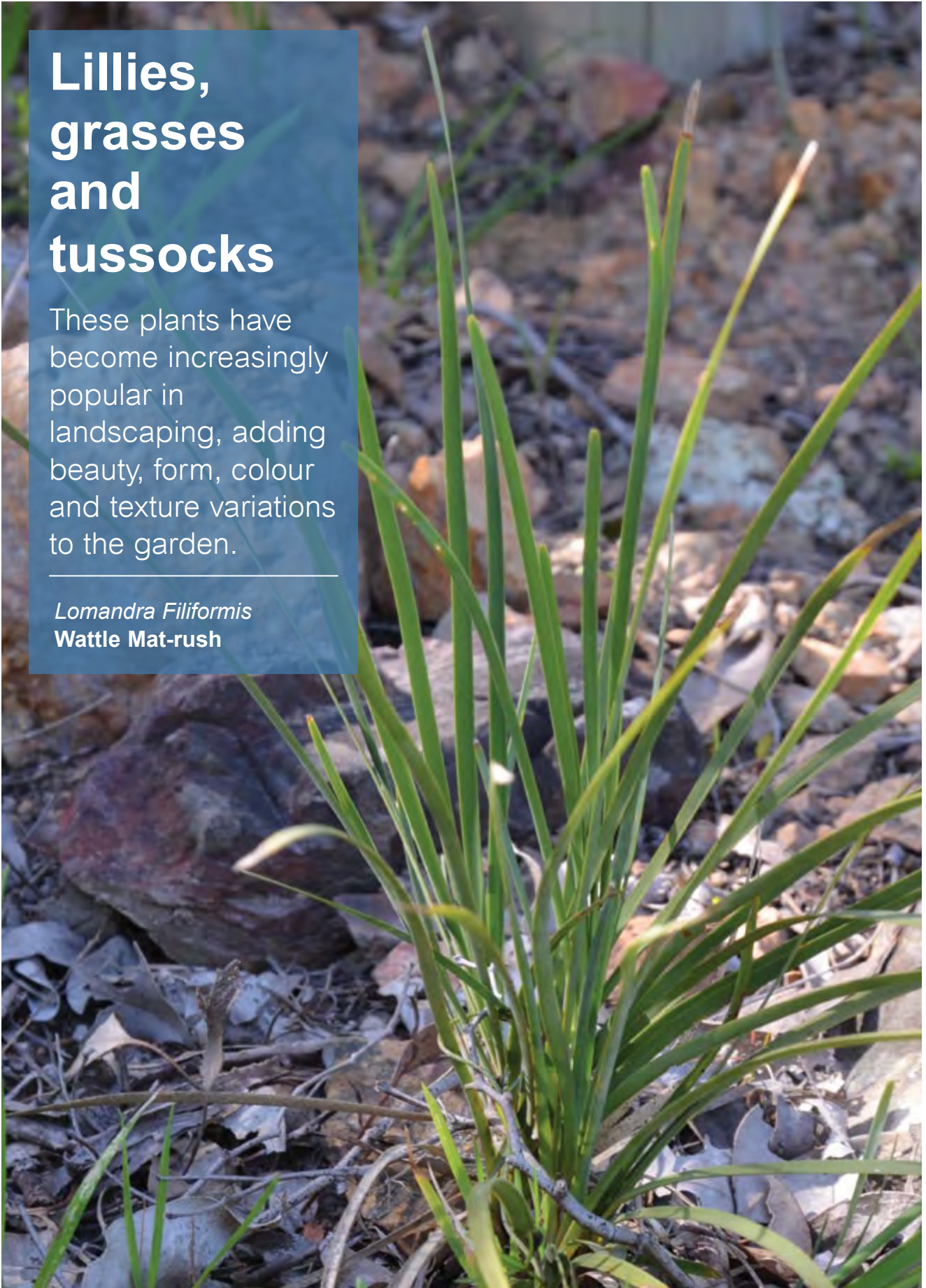






















<p><i>Clematis microphylla</i></p>	<p>Small-leaved Clematis</p>  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scrambling climber that can be trained to cover a fence or trellis. • Prefers well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. • Produces masses of starry flowers from July to September. • Attractive, feathery seedheads after flowering.
<p><i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i></p>	<p>Pink Bindweed</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fast-growing, trailing groundcover or light climber. • Attractive, pink flowers from October to February. • Grows well in heavy basalt soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Einadia nutans</i></p>	<p>Nodding Saltbush</p>  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hardy plants that scrambles over rocks and plants. • Easily cut back if smothering other plants. • Tiny flowers followed by attractive small red or yellow berries in summer and autumn. • Grows well in full sun to semi-shade. • Dry, well-drained soils.
<p><i>Hardenbergia violacea</i></p>	<p>Purple Coral Pea</p>  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive fast-growing creeper. • Can be trained on a trellis or over a retaining wall. • Showy purple flowers from July to November. • Full sun to semi-shade with well-drained soil.
<p><i>Kennedia prostrata</i></p>	<p>Running Postman</p>  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attractive, trailing groundcover that also grows well in containers or hanging baskets. • Showy flowers from August to November. • Prefers dry, well-drained, gravelly soils. • Full sun or semi-shade.
















Lillies, grasses and tussocks
























These plants have become increasingly popular in landscaping, adding beauty, form, colour and texture variations to the garden.

Lomandra Filiformis
Wattle Mat-rush



<p><i>Arthropodium strictum</i></p>	<p>Chocolate Lily  </p>	
  <p>(JB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rosette of grassy leaves 30 – 40cm high and wide. • Prefers well-drained soil. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Chocolate-scented flowers from October to December. • Dies back after flowering until the following autumn. 	
<p><i>Austrostipa</i> spp.</p>	<p>Spear Grass   </p>	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 50cm – 1m high and 2m wide. • Attractive flowerheads September to November. • Dry soil, also tolerates saline and limy soils. • Full sun to semi-shade. 	
<p><i>Bothriochloa macra</i></p>	<p>Redleg Grass  </p>	
  <p>(JE) (JE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows to 30cm – 1m high and 30cm wide. • Flowerheads from March to October. • Well-drained clay loam soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Tolerant of extended dry periods, but responds well to extra watering. 	
<p><i>Bulbine bulbosa</i></p>	<p>Bulbine Lily </p>	
  <p>(KS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-flowering plant grows to 25cm high and 30cm wide. • Full sun to semi-shade, well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Flowers from September to January. • Dies down to underground tuber after flowering or in dry conditions, to re-shoot in autumn. 	
<p><i>Carex</i> spp.</p>	<p>Sedge  </p>	
  <p>(RB) (GDN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 40cm – 1.2m high and 1m wide. • Brown flower spikes from August to April. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Poorly drained, wet soils but will tolerate drying out. 	

<p><i>Dianella</i> spp.</p>	<p>Flax-lily</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-lived tussock excellent for dry spots and around the base of trees. • Grows to 60cm high and wide. • Blue-mauve flowers from August to May, followed by purple berries. • Prefers full sun to semi-shade, well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil.
<p><i>Dichanthium sericeum</i></p>	<p>Silky Blue-grass</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive grass grows to 80cm high and 20cm wide. • Silky flowerheads from November to April. • Self-seeds readily. • Full sun and well-drained heavy clay soils. • Responds well to extra water in summer and a hard prune after flowering.
<p><i>Ficinia nodosa</i></p>	<p>Knobby Club-rush</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent plant for binding soil in moist areas. • Distinctive brown flowerhead for most of the year. • Grows 15cm – 1m high and 60cm to 2m wide. • Moist soils, tolerating dryness once established. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Lomandra</i> spp.</p>	<p>Mat-rush</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graceful tussock for, rockeries and embankments. • Many clusters of small, yellow flowers with purple bases from September to December. • Grows in most soil types. Performs best in well-drained soils. Will tolerate dry periods. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Microlaena stipoides</i></p>	<p>Weeping Grass</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fine-leaved lawn substitute in shady areas. • Variable growth to 1m high and 60cm wide. • Weeping flowerheads from September to November. • Full sun to semi-shade, performs best in shady sites. • Moist, well-drained soils.

<p><i>Poa</i> spp.</p>	<p>Tussock Grass   </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fast-growing tussock with delicate flowerheads from October to February. • Requires cutting back every few years to de-thatch old growth. • Tolerates a wide range of conditions, including waterlogging. • Prefers moist to slightly dry soils. • Full sun to shade.
<p><i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.</p>	<p>Wallaby Grass    </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tussock grass that flower in summer. • Grows 50 – 90cm high and 40cm wide. • Grow in well-drained soils. Copes with heavy basalt soil. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Excellent contrast plant in the garden.
<p><i>Stylidium</i> spp.</p>	<p>Triggerplant </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tufted plant to 25cm. • Pink flowering spikes up to 1m tall from September to December. • Prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soil. • Tolerates both wet and dry periods once established.
<p><i>Themeda triandra</i></p>	<p>Kangaroo Grass    </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 30cm – 1m high and 20 – 60cm wide. • Will tolerate most soils, but performs best in well-drained soils. • Grows in full sun to semi-shade. • Decorative flowerheads held above foliage from September to March.
<p><i>Tricoryne elatior</i></p>	<p>Yellow Rush-lily </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive plant especially when planted en masse. • Grows 30 – 50cm high and wide. • Yellow star-like flowers September to February. • Moist to dry soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.







































Small shrubs

Ideal shelter or feature plants, small indigenous shrubs provide colour, texture and layers within the garden. They also provide habitat and food, particularly for a variety of birds and butterflies.

Dillwynia cinerascens
Grey Parrot-pea

<p><i>Acacia acinacea</i></p>	<p>Gold Dust Wattle    </p>	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fine-leaved wattle with gently arching stems. • Grows 0.5 – 2.5m high and 2 – 4m wide. • Profusion of flowers from August to November. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Correa glabra</i></p>	<p>Rock Correa </p>	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell-like flowers appearing from February to September. • Grows 1 – 3m high and wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows in dry, well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Responds well to hard pruning after flowering.
<p><i>Daviesia leptophylla</i></p>	<p>Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea </p>	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open shrub with long, narrow foliage. • Grows 1 – 2m high and wide. • Attractive red and yellow flowers August to November. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i></p>	<p>Grey Parrot-pea  </p>	
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows to 1.5m tall and wide. • Adaptable, but ideal for dry, shady positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow and orange flowers from July to November. • Responds well to pruning after flowering.
<p><i>Eremophila deserti</i></p>	<p>Turkey Bush   </p>	
  <p>(GDN) (GDN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect branching shrub. • Grows 1 – 4m high and 2m wide. • Small drooping cream bell-shaped flowers from June to October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained stony or sandy soils. • Full sun.

<i>Eutaxia</i> spp.	Eutaxia  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 30 – 50cm high and 1m wide. • Yellow pea flowers August to November. • Adapts to most soils once established. • Full sun. • Responds well to pruning.
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fast-growing shrub that responds well to pruning to maintain a compact form. • Grows 1 – 2.5m high and 1 – 3m wide. • Attractive yellow flowers from August to February. • Prefers moist, semi-shaded position, but will tolerate a range of conditions.
<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	Rosemary Grevillea    
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense rounded shrub that provides excellent bird habitat. • Grows 30cm – 2m high and wide. • Prolific red and white flowers peaking in winter and spring. • Well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<i>Hakea decurrens</i>	Bushy Needlewood     
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-growing, prickly shrub that provides a safe habitat for birds. • Grows 2 – 5m high and 1 – 3m wide. • Masses of fragrant white flowers from May to September. • Moist to dry conditions. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo  
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attractive, fast-growing shrub. • Grows 1 – 2m high and wide. • Adaptable, but prefers a sheltered position in dry, well-drained soils. • Suitable for sandy soils. • Beautiful mauve flowers from September to December.

























<p><i>Myoporum petiolatum</i></p>	<p>Sticky Boobialla </p>
  <p>(RB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 2m high. • A dense, spreading shrub that can be pruned hard. • Masses of flowers from June to November. • Responds well to hard prune. • Full sun to semi-shade and well-drained soils.
<p><i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i></p>	<p>Grey Everlasting </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A showy shrub for a difficult spot. • Grows 1.2m high and 1m wide. • Clusters of yellow flowers October to January. • Well-drained dry soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Pimelea</i> spp.</p>	<p>Rice Flower  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 10 – 30cm high and up to 1m wide. • Fragrant, creamy flowers September to January. • Well-drained soil. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i></p>	<p>Large-leaf Bush-pea  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-growing and attractive shrub. • Grows 1 – 3m high and 50cm – 2m wide. • Large yellow and brown flowers from August to November. • Well-drained soils tolerating dryness once established. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Senna artemisioides</i></p>	<p>Silver Cassia </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attractive and easily grown shrub. • Grows 1 – 3m high and 0.5 – 1.5m wide. • Golden flowers from June to November. • Well-drained stony or sandy soils. • Full sun.






















Large shrubs

Ideal screening or feature plants, large indigenous plants provide food and shelter as well as adding layer and contrast within a garden.

Olearia lirata
Snowy Daisy-bush

<p><i>Acacia paradoxa</i></p>	<p>Hedge Wattle  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 2 – 4m high and wide. • This fast-growing, dense and prickly shrub is an ideal refuge for small birds. • Golden-yellow flowers from August to November. • Prefers full sun to semi-shade. • Dry to moist well-drained soils.
<p><i>Bursaria spinosa</i></p>	<p>Sweet Bursaria  </p>
 <p>(ES)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow-growing to 5m in full sun or semi-shade. • Grows 2 – 6m high and 2 – 3m wide. • Prefers dry, well-drained soils. • Masses of fragrant flowers from October to February. • Can be pruned for hedging.
<p><i>Callistemon sieberi</i></p>	<p>River Bottlebrush    </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large, weeping shrub that responds well to pruning. • Grows 3 – 10m high and 2 – 6m wide. • Cream of pink flowers from November to May. • Very adaptable but prefers moist to wet conditions. Will tolerate drying out. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Cassinia longifolia</i></p>	<p>Long-leaf Cassinia     </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aromatic shrub adaptable to most conditions. • Grows 2 – 4m high and 2 – 3m wide. • Umbrella-like clusters of white flowers from November to March. • Moist to dry soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> spp.</p>	<p>Sticky Hop Bush </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable form from open and spreading to erect and dense. • Inconspicuous flowers August to November, followed by attractive red, winged seed capsules. • Grows 1 – 3m high and wide. • Full sun to semi-shade and well-drained soils
















<p><i>Melicytus dentatus</i></p>	<p>Tree Violet </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered in scented, bell-shaped flowers from September to November. • Grows 2 – 4m high and 1 – 2.5m wide. • Followed by violet berries. • Full sun to semi-shade. • Requires well-drained soils and responds to extra watering.
<p><i>Olearia lirata</i></p>	<p>Snowy Daisy-bush  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft open shrub. • Grows to 2 – 5m high and wide. • Profuse clusters of white, daisy-like flowers September to December. • Moist, well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Rhagodia</i> spp.</p>	<p>Saltbush   </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2m-high scrambling shrub. • Responds well to pruning. • Inconspicuous white flowers from December to April, followed by dark-red berries. • Well-drained soils and full sun.
<p><i>Solanum laciniatum</i></p>	<p>Large Kangaroo-apple  </p>
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-growing shrub benefits from pruning. • Grows 1 – 3m high and 1 – 3m wide. • Attractive purple flowers September to March. • Distinctive yellow-orange berries. • All well-drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Viminaria juncea</i></p>	<p>Golden Spray </p>
  <p>(ES)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An open shrub with drooping branches. • Grows 2 – 5m high and 2m wide. • Fragrant, yellow flowers from October to February. • Adaptable to poorly drained soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.



Trees

Trees provide excellent shade and shelter, and contribute to biodiversity through the provision of wildlife corridors and habitat.

Eucalyptus melliodora
Yellow Box

<p><i>Acacia implexa</i></p>	<p>Lightwood</p> 
 (RB)  (RB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrives in dry, sunny spots with shallow soil. • Will also tolerate moist, well-drained soil types. • Grows 5 – 15m high and 4 – 7m wide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full sun to semi-shade. • Cream flowers from October to November.
<p><i>Acacia melanoxylon</i></p>	<p>Australian Blackwood</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 5 – 30m high and 4 – 15m wide. • Cream, ball-shaped flowers from July to October. • Grows best in deep, moist soil, but is adaptable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerates some dryness once established. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Acacia pycnantha</i></p>	<p>Golden Wattle</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spreading tree, although pruning while young encourages denser growth. • Grows 3 – 10m high and 3 – 5m wide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large golden flowers from June to November. • Full sun and dry, well-drained soils.
<p><i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i></p>	<p>Drooping Sheoak</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 4 – 11m high and 3 – 6m wide. • Fast-growing and graceful tree. • Male flowers from March to December produce a golden effect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers full sun and well-drained soils. • Drought tolerant once established.
<p><i>Banksia marginata</i></p>	<p>Silver Banksia</p> 
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking feature tree or excellent screening plant. • Grows 1 – 6m high and 1 – 4m wide. • Bright yellow flower spikes from September to April. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained local soils, but tolerates being wet in winter and dry in summer. • Grows in full sun to semi-shade.

<p><i>Callitris glaucophylla</i></p>	<p>White Cypress-pine </p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slender conical tree with single straight trunk. • Grows 7 – 20m high to 5 – 10m wide. • Woody cones September to January. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained soils, tolerating extended dry periods. • Full sun.
<p><i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i></p>	<p>River Red Gum   </p>
 <p>(TN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 12 – 50m high and 15 – 35m wide. • Large, open spreading tree. • Flowering November to March. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damp, deep, well-drained soil. Tolerates very wet and dry periods once established. • Full sun.
<p><i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i></p>	<p>Yellow Gum   </p>
 <p>(NF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An upright tree with spreading crown. • Grows 10 – 20m high and 6 – 20m wide. • Profuse flowers from May to September. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained soil, tolerating dry once established. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i></p>	<p>Yellow Box   </p>
 <p>(CC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grows 10 – 30m high and 8 – 25m wide. • Perfumed flowers from September to February. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained, deep soils. • Full sun to semi-shade.
<p><i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i></p>	<p>Red Ironbark   </p>
 <p>(CC) (AB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough, black bark, bluish foliage, very ornamental. • Grows 10 – 30m high and 10 – 20m wide. • Profuse cream flowers from May to February. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-drained soils, tolerating extended dry periods. • Full sun to semi-shade.

Introduced species

When an animals or plant thrives and invades an area where they do not naturally occur, they are known as an introduced or invasive species. They may be weeds such as Blackberry or ivy, or pest animals such as rabbits or Indian Mynas.

Introduced animals

Many introduced animal species are able to thrive in our suburbs and become invasive pests. Pest animals in Moonee Valley include Indian Myna birds, European Red Foxes, European Rabbits and roaming cats. These pests are highly adaptable, have a generalised diet and have high reproduction rates.

Even your garden is impacted! Pest animals can compete with native animals for food and shelter, as well as spread weeds and disease. Small native mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds are particularly susceptible to predation by cats and foxes.

Keeping your cat indoors can help them live a long and healthy life. For more information visit safecat.org.au

Introduced plants

Weeds are introduced plants that cause a problem when they out-complete indigenous plants for light, water and space. In a short time they can replace indigenous plants, removing a food source and home for native wildlife.

Invasive plants can include 'native' plants. 'Native' plants are Australian in origin, but they can be from anywhere in Australia. Just like plants introduced from another country, native plants have the potential to become invasive when grown outside their natural area. For example, the Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) from Western Australia is now invading bushland around Victoria.

For an extensive list of invasive species in Victoria visit: environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals



(RH)

Pest animals

ANIMAL	PROBLEM	MANAGEMENT
 <p>(JB)</p> <p>European Rabbit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage indigenous vegetation and prevent regeneration. • Burrows can cause soil erosion and undermine structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce harbours by restricting access under structures, uplift thick vegetation and remove piles of rubbish. • Install rabbit-proof fencing to protect garden beds and newly planted trees. • Engage a licensed pest controller.
 <p>(TN)</p> <p>European Red Fox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prey on native animals. • Injure or kill poultry or small pets. • Carry disease and parasites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not leave pet food accessible, including meat, bones, biscuits and grain. • Keep pets secure from foxes, especially poultry, rabbits and guinea pigs. Foxes easily prey on pets up to 5.5kg. • Cover compost bins and clean up fallen fruit.
 <p>Indian Myna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compete with native wildlife for food, water and hollows. • Kill chicks and eggs of native birds. • Harass pets and steal their food. • Carry bird mites that may infest your roof and insulation. • Block downpipes and roof gutters with their nests. • Form large, noisy groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block holes in roof and eaves to prevent nesting. • Cover compost bins, secure rubbish bins and remove uneaten pet food. • Do not put out birdseed. • Remove suitable vegetation such as exotics and replace with native alternatives.

Weeds

What is a weed? When a plant thrives and invades an area where they do not naturally occur, they are known as a pest plant, weed or invasive species.

It is estimated that two-thirds of the established weeds in Australia are escaped garden plants. It is important to know which garden plants are a problem in Moonee Valley and avoid planting them or consider removing them if they are already in your garden.

Garden waste can be safely disposed of in your green waste bin or at the Transfer Station.

The following section contains a small sample of common weeds in Moonee Valley.

Weedy plants can spread when garden cuttings and lawn clippings are dumped in reserves and waterways. Weed seeds and cuttings can be carried many kilometres by wind, water, vehicles, clothing, pets and native animals.



When you are removing weeds, be sure to target their removal before they set seed. This is particularly important with grass species.

Common weeds include Morning Glory and English Ivy.

WEED ❌

CHARACTERISTICS AND REMOVAL

REPLACEMENT ✅

Agapanthus
Agapanthus praecox
subsp. *praecox*



Spread by seed and dumped garden waste

- Hand-weed small plants.
- Cut off flowerheads before they set seed.
- Dig out large plants.

Spreading Flax-lily
Dianella admixta



Blue Periwinkle
Vinca major



Spread from plant parts

- Remove plant including roots.
- Spray with herbicide.

Purple Coral Pea
Hardenbergia violacea



Broom
Genista spp.



Spread by seed dispersal

- Hand-weed.
- Slash thickets and spray with herbicide.

Grey Parrot-pea
Dillwynia cinerascens



Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster spp.



Spread by birds

- Hand-weed.
- Cut large trees and paint stumps with herbicide.

Wedge-leaf Hop Bush
Dodonaea viscosa spp.



English Ivy
Hedera helix



Spread by plant parts taking root or birds spreading seed

- Dig out plant including roots.
- Spray with herbicide.






Small-leaved Clematis
Clematis microphylla



WEED ✘

CHARACTERISTICS AND REMOVAL

REPLACEMENT ✔

<p>Galenia <i>Galenia pubescens</i></p>  <p>(RB)</p>	<p>Spread by seed</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-remove small infestations. • Spray with herbicide.
<p>Common Mallow <i>Malva neglecta</i></p> 	<p>Spread by seed</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-weed small infestations. • Spray with herbicide.
<p>Mirror Bush <i>Coprosma repens</i></p> 	<p>Spread by birds and dumped garden waste</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-weed small plants. • Cut large trees and paint stumps with herbicide.
<p>Moth or Cruel Vine <i>Araujia sericifera</i></p> 	<p>Seed spread by wind and water</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-remove. • Cut large stems and paint with herbicide.
<p>Pampas Grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i></p> 	<p>Seed spread by wind</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dig out plant including root mass.

<p>Bidgee-widgee <i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i></p> 
<p>Austral Stork's-bill <i>Pelargonium australe</i></p> 
<p>Golden Wattle <i>Acacia pycnantha</i></p> 
<p>Small-leaved Clematis <i>Clematis microphylla</i></p> 
<p>Mat-rush <i>Lomandra</i> spp.</p> 

WEED ✘

CHARACTERISTICS AND REMOVAL

REPLACEMENT ✔

Prickly Pear
Opuntia spp.



Spread by animals eating fruit and plant parts taking root

- Dig out small infestations.
- Spray with herbicide.

Sweet Bursaria
Bursaria spinosa



Salsify
Tragopogon porrifolius



Seeds spread by wind

- Hand-weed making sure to get the tap root.
- Spray with herbicide.

Chocolate Lily
Arthropodium strictum



Sweet Pittosporum
Pittosporum undulatum



Fleshy seed often spread by birds and animals

- Hand-weed.
- Cut large stems and paint with herbicide.

Australian Blackwood
Acacia melanoxylon



Thistles
Onopordum spp. and *Silybum* spp.



Seeds spread by wind and water and attachment to animal fur

- Dig plant out including long tap root.
- Spot spray with herbicide.

Sticky Everlasting
Xerochrysum viscosum



Wandering Tradescantia
Tradescantia fluminensis



Spread by dumped garden waste

- Hand-weed.
- Spray with herbicide.

Nodding Saltbush
Einadia nutans



Further reading

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A Gardener's Guide to the Original Flora. Australian Plant Society, Keilor Plains Group Inc, 2012.
apskeilorplains.org.au/book.html

Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area. Marilyn Bull, Hyland House, 4th Edition, 2014.

Melbourne's Wildlife: A Field Guide to the Fauna of Greater Melbourne. Museum Victoria, CSIRO Publishing, 2006.

Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia. Leon Costermans, Reed New Holland, 2009.

Land of Sweeping Plains: Managing and Restoring the Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia. N.Williams, A.Marshall & J.Morgan. CSIRO Publishing 2015.
publish.csiro.au/book/7219

Environmental Weeds: A Field Guide for SE Australia. Kate Blood, Blooming Books, 2009.

Bush Invaders of South-East Australia. A. Muyt, R.G. and F.J. Richardson, 2001.

Weeds of the South-east: An Identification Guide for Australia. F.J. and R.G. Richardson, R.C.H. Shepherd, 2011.

Wild Neighbours: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife. Ian Temby, Citrus Press 2005.
catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/3509808



Useful websites

Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association
iffa.org.au

Australian Plant Society, Victoria
apsvic.org.au

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
fncv.org.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia
sgaonline.org.au

Weeds Australia
weeds.ala.org.au

Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning.
delwp.vic.gov.au

Native nurseries

Newport Lakes Native Nursery

2 Lakes Drive,
Newport
Tel: 9391 0044

Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-operative

Yarra Bend Road,
Fairfield
Tel: 9482 1710

CERES Permaculture and Bushfood Nursery

Stewart and Roberts Streets,
Brunswick East
Tel: 9389 0111

Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9280 0738	Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 0741	Español	Spanish	9280 0744
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All other languages 9280 0747

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