**Small Shrubs**

**Correa alba**  
White Correa

A very hardy, fast growing shrub with rigid narrow leaves which smell of lemon when crushed. The typical bushy, red flowers appear in both spring and autumn. The flowers' nectar is very attractive to honey-eating birds. This extremely hardy shrub has small, needle-like leaves most of the year. It can be lightly tip pruned to encourage a thickly leaved specimen. Tip pruning can be done all year round.

**Hibbertia scandens**  
Bettina Digby

A small mallee eucalypt found on shallow sandy soils. The bark is shed in long narrow strips to reveal silvery green trunks. The leaves are short, thick and glaucous, the creamy white flowers appear in spring to summer. An excellent small tree for a residential garden. Fast growing.

**Kerria japonica**  
Black Wife

A small shrub or semi-tall shrub suitable for shady, dumb positions. Produces clusters of cream ball-shaped flowers. The dark green leaves have an attractive silvery undersides.

**Acmena smithii**  
Lilly Pilly

A small, compact tree with small creamy white flowers in spring followed by cream berries in summer to autumn. Glossy dark green foliage which can be pruned to form a hedge. Moderately hardy, grows well in shade. A good screening species.

**Callicoma serratifolia**  
Scrubby Gum

White flowers in autumn to spring. A very hardy, straight-trunked tree with pink to grey bark. It produces scribbly patterned scribbly seed pods and is useful for Screening and wind breaking. Prefers a sunny aspect. Very attractive to nectar feeding birds such as Lewesian Honeyeater and Honeyeater. A member of the Proteaceae family and is therefore sensitive to phosphorus. Use only native fertilizers and avoid exposure to drop fertilisers.

**Grevillea speciosa**  
Red Spider Flower

Although this species is found throughout the Sydney coastal district, the local form is particularly attractive. The stunning flower display puts on a show in spring to summer. The leaves are bright green in colour and the pendulous red flowers, the size of a child's hand. Its attractive paper bark and interesting trunk make it an ideal specimen for a mixed border or as an interesting foreground plant in a mixed border. Height 15m. Width 1m.

**Calytricum citrinum**  
Crimson Bottlebrush

This extremely hardy shrub has small, needle-like leaves which make it a suitable small bird habitat particularly for protection from cats. It can be lightly tip pruned for an informal hedge. Its attractive paper bark and interesting twisted trunk can be exposed by pruning the lower branches of more mature specimens so they can be cut at ground level to produce multiple stems. The perfumed, light yellow, round clusters of flower appear in spring. Height 15m. Width 1m.

**Crimson Bottlebrush**

This small compact shrub is ideal for residential gardens as it produces abundant large, pale yellow flowers in spring and displays attractive bronzy new leaves most of the year. It can be lightly tip pruned to keep a compact shape. Prefers rocky sandstone soils rather than deep sands. Very hardy and moderately fast growing.

**Dianella rivularis**  
Bendah Rice Flower

A common, but variable plant in Sydney bushland, this small, compact shrub is ideal for a sunny spot in a cottage garden. The abundant, semi-globular heads of white flowers are borne mostly through winter and spring but then flowers are the same all year around. To encourage a thickly leaved specimen tip pruning can be carried out at any time. It is fast growing and moderately hardy but can become leggy after a few years. Height 1m. Width 1m.

**Dartstoma alba**  
White Correa

This extremely hardy shrub has small, needle-like leaves which make it a suitable small bird habitat particularly for protection from cats. It can be lightly tip pruned for an informal hedge. Its attractive paper bark and interesting twisted trunk can be exposed by pruning the lower branches of more mature specimens so they can be cut at ground level to produce multiple stems. The perfumed, light yellow, round clusters of flower appear in spring. Height 15m. Width 1m.

**Hardenbergia violacea**  
False Soraparitara

This attractive flowering vine has tall 10m long spear-shaped leaves and bears masses of purple flowers in late winter to spring. It is tolerant of shade, preferring to twist through other plants, its oblong leaves providing a sudden shock of colour amongst the green and looks most at home on a pergola or trellis with deep soil moisture. A vigorous, woody climber which has soft, pendulous stems and bears small white flowers that bloom in spring and are usually seen with common or Mexican honeysuckle. The spent flowers fall to the ground forming a soft carpet. This plant is tolerant of most soil types but prefers deep soil moisture. It prefers a sheltered position.

**Kerria japonica**  
Black Wife

This attractive flowering vine has tall 10m long spear-shaped leaves and bears masses of purple flowers in late winter to spring. It is tolerant of shade, preferring to twist through other plants, its oblong leaves providing a sudden shock of colour amongst the green and looks most at home on a pergola or trellis with deep soil moisture. A vigorous, woody climber which has soft, pendulous stems and bears small white flowers that bloom in spring and are usually seen with common or Mexican honeysuckle. The spent flowers fall to the ground forming a soft carpet. This plant is tolerant of most soil types but prefers deep soil moisture. It prefers a sheltered position.

**Rosa banksiae**  
Bank honey Myrtle

This very hardy shrub can be grown from a local specimen. If the plant is grown from a local specimen it will have inherited the ability to survive the coastal conditions and is more likely to survive in your garden. Locally sourced plant stock is referred to as being of local provenance. So ask your nursery for details on the origins of the plant.

**Schefflera arboricola**  
False Sarsaparilla

A small, compact tree with small creamy white flowers in spring followed by cream berries in summer to autumn. Glossy dark green foliage which can be pruned to form a hedge. Moderately hardy, grows well in shade. A good screening species.
**Groundcovers**

A long cultivated soft leafed fern, this plant is an ideal groundcover in shaded or partly shaded damp areas. It can also be grown in the crevices of rock outcrops or cliffs. Although the leaves may die back during extended periods without water, its hardy rhizomes remain alive to produce delicate, curled leaf fronds that persist until the next spring. Suits a variety of conditions except for hot, dry exposed areas especially on slopes or where soil erosion is a problem. Also useful for creating a cooler soil environment and microclimate for other shrub species.

**Adiantum aethiopicum**

An erect, tufted plant suitable for wet, damp or dry areas. Very hardy and fast growing, requiring no maintenance. The flowers are a brown, globular mass of stamens and style and are followed by small, dark brown seeds. Suitable for use as a lawn substitute requiring no maintenance. The local council for information on the control of particular species.

**Kidney Weed**

A small creeping weed with kidney-shaped leaves suitable for use as a lawn substitute requiring no mowing or as a groundcover between pavers. Small white flowers appear in spring to summer. It prefers semi shaded moist areas but will grow in sandy areas. Seed can often be obtained from nurseries for sowing in spring.

**References**


**Grevillea Windmill**

A small tree with paperbark bark and masses of white flowers over the canopy in summer. It is attractive to honey-eating birds and the dense foliage attracts small bird habitats. This fast growing shrub is especially suited to coastal locations.

**Carpotrochus glaucescens**

**Adiantum aethiopicum**

**Kidney Weed**

**Large Shrubs**

**Swamp Banksia**

**Old Man Banksia**

**Handy hints for growing local native plants**

**Preparation**

The key to long-term success with your native garden is thorough preparation. There is no substitute for good weed control. Carry out a thorough weed control programme before planting. Produce rich black soils by adding organic matter to the soil and incorporating it into the top 20cm of soil. This will allow for better water retention and aeration of the soil. Prepare the soil by removing any perennial weeds and by ensuring the soil is free of rocks and roots. Keep the area free of weeds and mulch to prevent evaporation and heat stress.

**Pruning**

Contrary to popular belief many native plant species respond to regular pruning. Pruning simulates the cutting of leaf and long loss shrub species would have experienced as they were browsed by kangaroos and wallabies. The rule of thumb is to prune only green or early year’s growth. This will encourage branching and build a bushier shrub.

**Watering**

One of the main problems associated with the Eastern Suburbs is the water stress on sandy soils, where the water beads and rolls along the surface of the soil. This can be solved by digging long periods of dry weather when the sandy soil completely dries. To prevent this happening there are two options:

• Firstly, you can dig around the plants with organic matter to break up the activity of micro-organisms in the soil and increase the soil’s water holding capacity. Mulch the surface with leaf litter, wood chips or compost and allow the earthworms to do all the hard work. This is an excellent way of recycling your garden waste, improving your plants nutrient and water holding properties.

• Secondly, you can apply a wetting agent to the soil. Wetting agents are known as surfactants and help water spread more evenly through the soil surface. A good wetting agent will break down the water repellent of the soil, increase its water holding capacity and will remain active in the soil for up to a year.

Be careful not to over water your newly planted seedlings. Over watering leads to the plant establishing a shallow root system. This results in the plant surviving dry periods and as the plant grows older it will be susceptible to blowing over in windy conditions.

**Choosing species**

- Choose the plant according to its expected size at maturity and suitability for the location.
- What appears to be a large space may appear very much smaller with a few plants in bloom.
- Plant tall species to the back and smaller to the front to give structure and depth to the garden.
- What appears to be a large space may appear very much smaller with a few plants in.
- Large leaved plants will appear bolder and come forward in your design so use them as feature plants in your garden design.
- Large leaved plants will appear bolder and come forward in your design so use them as feature plants in your garden design.
- Large leaved plants will appear bolder and come forward in your design so use them as feature plants in your garden design.
- Large leaved plants will appear bolder and come forward in your design so use them as feature plants in your garden design.

**Mulching**

If you keep your garden well mulched, weeding can be kept to a minimum. Annual weeds are removed before they can seed or on top of the mulch. Weeds can be eliminated in time. Mulch will also reduce the need for watering. Mulch can be obtained from your local nursery, landscape supplier or retailer and should be spread to a depth of about 20cm. At this depth it need only be replaced every second or every year. It is important to make sure mud does not build up against the plant stem as this can lead to fungal infection and insect attack.

**Fertilising**

Local native plants do not require fertilising as they have evolved adaptations to extract the nutrients they need from the soil. Breeding mall and leaf litter will provide most of the required nutrients. An application of slow release fertiliser at the rate of 100kg per hectare of planting for the top soil surface once a year can be beneficial. Use a fertiliser specifically designed for use on native plants. Do not use regular garden fertilisers as they contain phosphorus levels that can damage native plants.