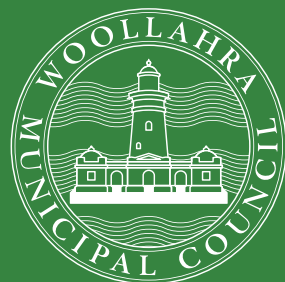


Woollahra Habitat Gardening Guide



Your guide to
improving and
supporting
biodiversity



Acknowledgement of Country

Woollahra Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to Elders both past and present and leaders emerging.



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This Habitat Gardening Guide will help you select suitable indigenous plants and habitat elements for your garden. The guide aims to assist the community to create urban habitat on private land to improve and support our local biodiversity.

Introduction

Native vegetation is important for the health of our environment and the wellbeing of our community. A healthy, biodiverse, and green neighbourhood provides habitat for local native animals, is critical for the retention of our natural heritage and helps mitigate the effects of climate change.

Woollahra's bushland parks and reserves provide valuable habitat, food and shelter for wildlife.

To help protect and restore this native vegetation Council has a dedicated team of bush regeneration specialists on staff and also supports a committed team of community Bushcare volunteers.

Bush regeneration is undertaken at key habitat areas, including Cooper Park, Parsley Bay Reserve, Gap Park, Trumper Park, and Harbour View Park.

If these areas of vegetation are not connected, it is challenging for wildlife to move between them. This puts pressure on populations, and in some instances has led to local extinctions of plant and animal species. When the bushland reserves connect with smaller parks, backyards, and street trees important corridors are created for native wildlife to move across our area.

Your garden can provide an important link to improve habitat connectivity in Woollahra, allowing wildlife to travel through the area freely, to feed, reproduce and thrive.

Small bird focus

Data from bird surveys and anecdotal evidence show a decrease in small bird populations in residential areas, and an increase in numbers of larger, more aggressive birds such as Noisy Miners and Currawongs. Small birds, such as the Superb Fairy-wren and New Holland Honeyeater, require dense vegetation to shelter from bully birds and predators.

This type of dense vegetation is now largely missing from private gardens and exotic plants, or native cultivars with large flowers, dominate instead. This creates an environment where small birds are outcompeted by larger birds leading to a decline in numbers.

Council's focus for private gardens is to support the reintroduction of locally native plant species that are suitable for small bird habitat. Specifically, mid-level dense shrubs, grasses, and ground covers, that are appropriate for the small size of many gardens in Woollahra. This type of vegetation will also provide habitat for lizards, pollinators, and small mammals.



Superb Fairy-wren



New Holland Honeyeater

What is an urban habitat garden?

An urban habitat garden provides natural food, shelter and water for native fauna using indigenous Australian plant species. In a good habitat garden, you can expect to see a wide variety of animals such as birds, lizards, butterflies, bees and other insects and perhaps possums, bats and frogs, either living in, or visiting the garden. Some small birds drink nectar from flowers, some eat seeds and others forage for insects, or a combination of these.

Woollahra's indigenous species can tolerate tough coastal conditions; they can grow in sandy soil and withstand strong, salty winds.



Indigenous verses native plants

Indigenous or locally native plants are the original plants that occur naturally (or occurred before European settlement), in a given location. They have adapted to the soil and climate conditions within the local environment and evolved alongside native wildlife, therefore providing the best possible food and shelter for native animals. Waverley's indigenous species can tolerate tough coastal conditions; they can grow in sandy soil and withstand strong salty winds. They are generally low to medium height, hardy and drought-tolerant, such as the Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae*), Coastal Flax-lily (*Dianella congesta*) and Heath-leaved Banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*).

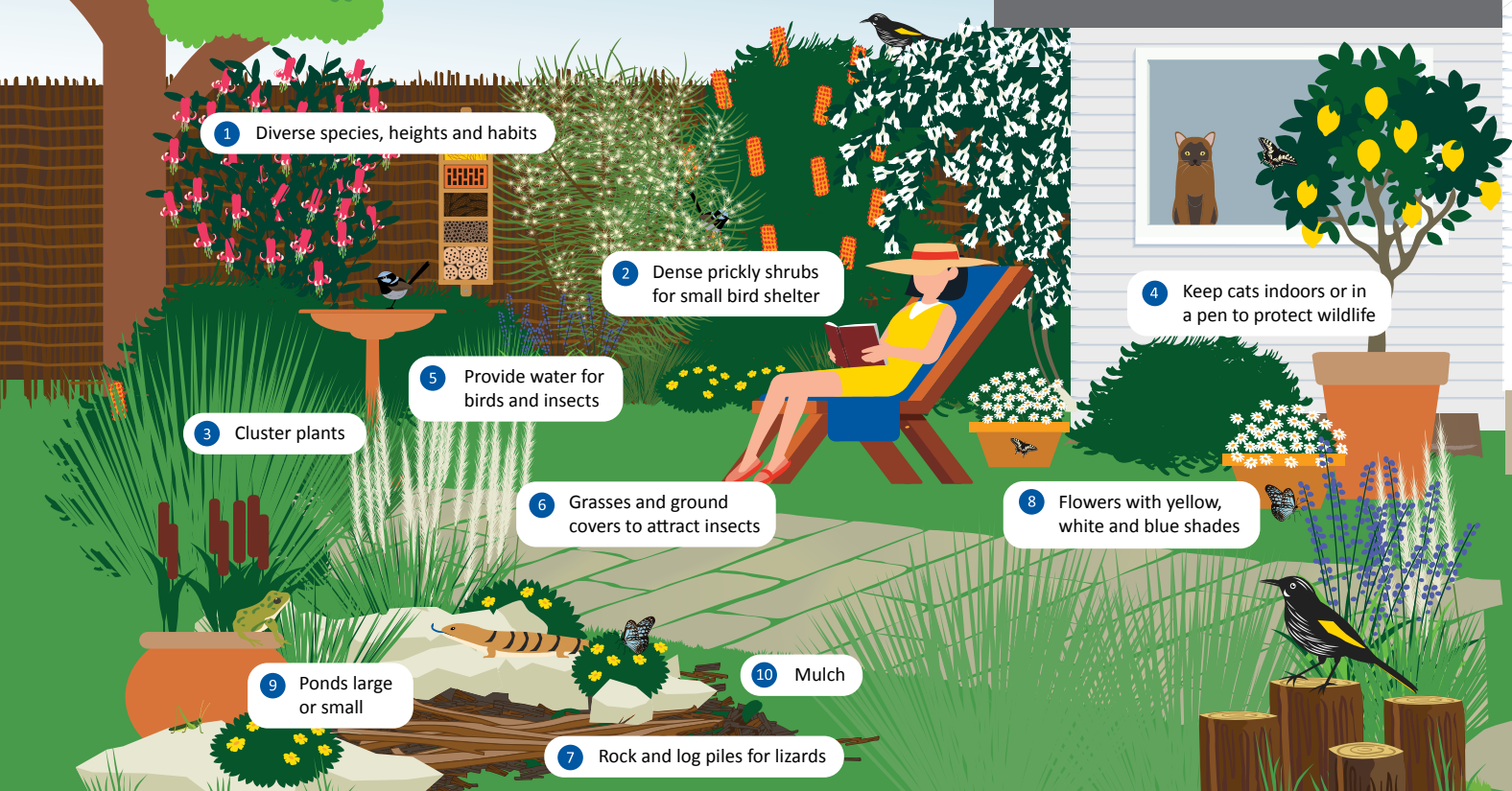
Many nurseries sell 'native' plants, which refers to any plant species that occurs naturally anywhere in Australia. They can include a grevillea species cultivated to produce large flowers all year round, or a eucalypt from Tasmania for instance. Just like plants introduced from another country, native plants out of place, have the potential to become an environmental weed or cause an imbalance in biodiversity relationships.



Sweet Wattle



Heath-leaved Banksia



Key features of a habitat garden

1. Diverse species, heights and habits

An important feature of a habitat garden is structural diversity – various plant species with different layers, heights and habits. Too many plants of a particular type will attract a limited range of birds and be detrimental to other wildlife. Avoid tall flowering trees like hybrid Grevilleas and Callistemons as these attract large, abundant, and often aggressive birds.

2. Dense prickly shrubs

Dense and prickly shrubs provide shelter and security for small birds like Superb Fairy-wrens. They provide safe nesting and roosting spots making it hard for predators such as cats and large birds to reach them.

3. Cluster plants

It is recommended, both in terms of small bird habitat and garden aesthetics to plant several of the same plant species together in 'clumps' or clusters. Planting in groups like this, (rather than spaced out with gaps between), will provide maximum habitat value.

4. Keep cats indoors

Pet cats can kill birds, and lizards. Keep your cat inside or in an enclosure, especially in spring when young birds are at risk.

5. Provide water for birds and insects

Provide a bird bath with shallow water and keep it clean and regularly topped up. Drop in a few stones or a branch, so lizards and insects can get in and out easily. Bird baths need to be inaccessible to cats, so make sure they are at least 1 metre above the ground, and near some shrubs where birds can hide if needed.

6. Grasses and ground cover

Native grasses add structure and density to the understorey all the way to the ground. They keep the soil cool and moist and provide a hiding spot for small insectivores like the Superb Fairy-wren, as they hop in and out from the safety to forage on open lawns.

7. Log and rock piles

Piles of rocks, logs or sticks provide shelter to lizards and make interesting features in the garden. Lizards love a sunny rock to bask on and as logs rot, they attract insect which is food for lizards and insectivorous birds.

8. Choosing flowers

Insects are attracted to yellow, mauve, blue, white and cream coloured flowers. Night-flying insects such as moths and beetles are attracted to small, scented flowers. Install plants that flower at different times, providing food and a visually attractive garden year-round.

9. Ponds

They can be as small or large as you like. Try an old plant pot with no holes and add native reeds to get started. Surround with grasses and sedges and wait for the frogs to move in.

10. Mulch

Mulching is very important to keep the soil healthy, improve the water holding capacity and suppress weeds. It also allows soil fauna to survive through hot weather. Mulch the ground to a depth of 10cm, but keep it 5cm from the stem, or trunk of plants, to prevent collar rot. Top mulch up annually.

Planning your garden

Sun

While many native plants thrive in all day sunlight, many understorey shrubs and ground covers will perform with less daily sunlight, such as dappled shade. Study how the sun passes over the area you want to plant throughout the year and check the planting guide for suitable plants.

Natural vegetation is made up of different structural layers or storeys, where different wildlife feed, shelter and nest.

Wind

Many of the plants indigenous to Woollahra will tolerate windy conditions. You can also consider creating a screen using hardy plants like Coastal Rosemary (*Westringia fruticose*) and Prickly-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca nodosa*) which grow on clifftops and can create a buffer for more delicate plants.

Soil

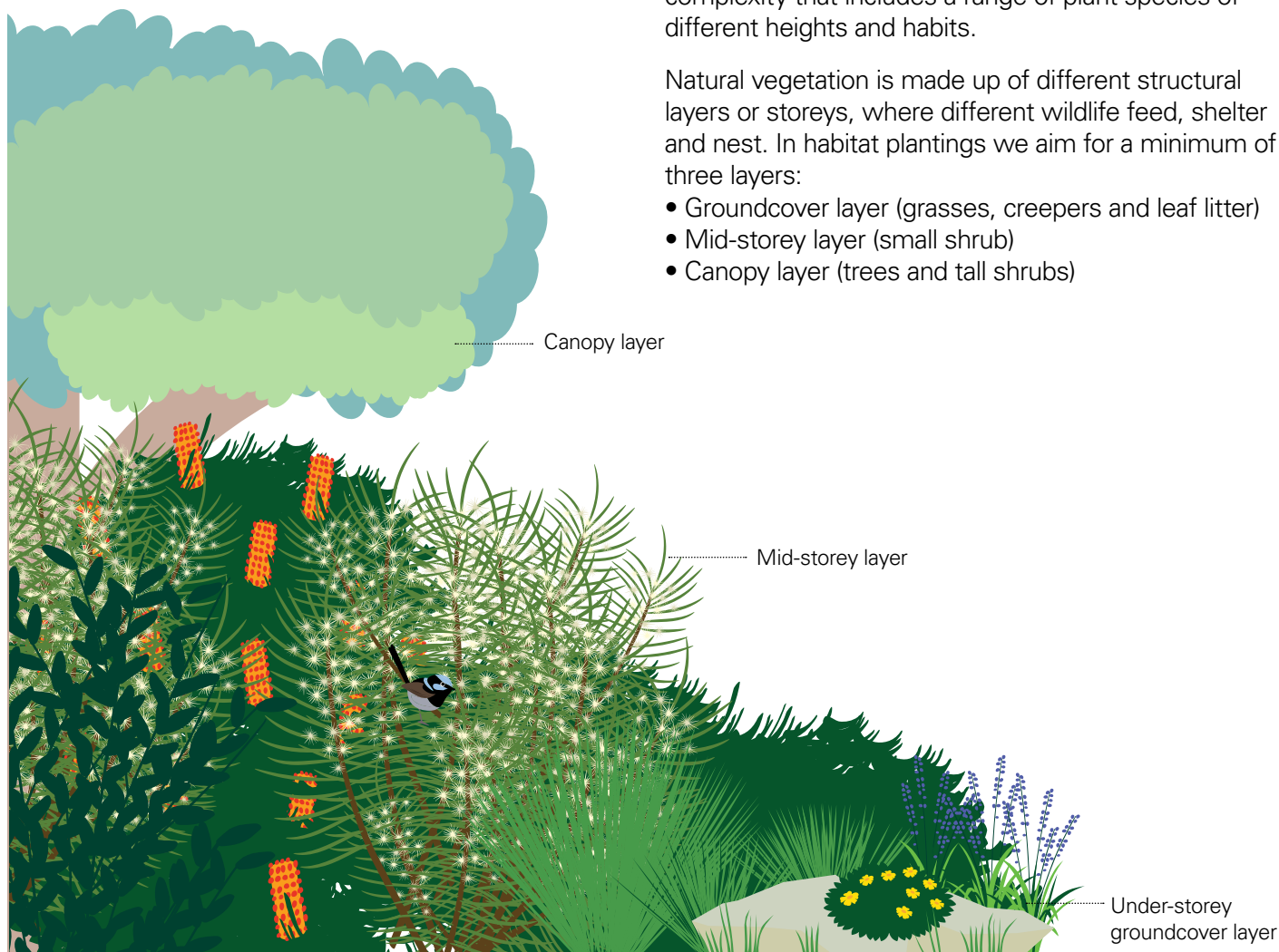
Local indigenous plants have evolved with our sandy soils, so you don't need to add soil to your garden to enrich it. If you need to add soil to a new raised garden bed, ensure you buy a native mix.

Structure

A key to creating a habitat garden is to create structural complexity that includes a range of plant species of different heights and habits.

Natural vegetation is made up of different structural layers or storeys, where different wildlife feed, shelter and nest. In habitat plantings we aim for a minimum of three layers:

- Groundcover layer (grasses, creepers and leaf litter)
- Mid-storey layer (small shrub)
- Canopy layer (trees and tall shrubs)



Planning your garden

Groundcover layer

The groundcover layer is made up of low spreading plants such as herbs, climbers, and grasses. This layer is usually the most diverse, it can consist of numerous plant species, even in a small space. There are many native climbers and creepers that are happy to rabble along the ground, including. Ivy-leafed Violet, Kangaroo Grass, Kidney Weed, Climbing Guinea Flower. This layer also includes leaf litter, logs and rock habitat elements and is utilised by small seed-eating and insectivorous birds, lizards, frogs, and insects.

Mid-storey layer

The mid-storey layer is made up of shrubs of varying heights and habits between 0.5m – 4 m high including Banksia, Wattle, Grevillea, Tea-tree and Hakea. Small and medium, insectivorous and honey-eating birds and insects utilise this layer for food and shelter. Many bird species will use this layer for nesting to be off the ground and away from predators such as cats.

Canopy layer

The canopy layer is made up of trees and large shrubs. Larger carnivorous birds, and mammals such as possums and bats utilise this layer. It is not recommended to plant trees over 3 or 4 metres high if you are trying to create small fauna habitat.

Design

Native gardens can have many different looks; tropical, natural, formal, or cottage. Native plants respond very well to tip pruning, and regular pruning can in fact create a denser thicker shrub, which is beneficial to small birds.

With the mid-story and ground cover vegetation layers in mind, plan your planting with the taller plants towards the back, near a fence or wall and smaller plants to the front, closer to the lawn. A limited version of this can still be achieved with a narrow garden bed.

Courtyards and balconies

In your courtyard or balcony, you can create a potted, vertical or hanging garden to create a cool, green biodiverse small space.

Use large, glazed ceramic and plastic pots, as large pots are slower to heat up and dry out, whilst non-glazed terracotta and cement pots dry out quickly. Fill with a good quality native potting mix and top with natural mulch. Create vertical gardens on fences and walls or plant native creepers, such as climbing Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia scandens*) or Native Sarsaparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*) to grow over them. Check the species list at the end of this Guide for plants suitable for pots.



Example of structure and texture in a habitat garden.



Group pots together for protection.

Attracting small birds, lizards and beneficial insects



Small birds

- Superb Fairy-wrens and New Holland Honeyeaters were once abundant in the gardens of Woollahra. They still occur along the coastal and foreshore areas such as Christison Park and Gap Park, hiding and nesting in the dense native bush of Westringias, Banksias, Wattles and Lomandras. We also get many migratory small birds such as the Silvereye, stopping over on their journey north for the winter, or south for the summer.
- Small birds utilise the mid and lower storeys of vegetation (see page 8). Aim to create a mix of shrubs or small trees of varying heights (less than 4 metres), grasses and groundcovers. Dense and spiky plants make excellent shelter and nesting sites for small birds. If you are not keen on including spiky plants in your garden, you can achieve the same result by keeping shrubs well pruned so they are thick.
- Remember to choose a variety of species (if possible, at least three plants of each species), that flower at different times of the year to ensure year-round food and colour in your garden.
- Plant shrubs, groundcovers, vines, and scramblers at a density of 1 to 2 plants per m², while native grasses, sedges and herbs should be planted more densely at 6 to 8 plants per m². Planting at this density will increase the speed at which your garden develops as a valuable habitat and will also help to minimise weed invasion.
- Install a bird bath, at least 1 metre high, near the shrubs and keep it clean. Always add a rock or branch to a bird bath so lizards and insects can get in and out.

Lizards

- Blue tongues can grow up to 60cm and live for 20 years. They have a blue tongue to flash at predators to scare them away.
- Plant native groundcovers, vines, or creepers to cover your fences and walls as well as using them in the groundcover layer in the garden, to provide lizards good places to hide as they move around. Plenty of leaf litter and mulch is great habitat for insects, which are a food source to lizards.
- Include rocks, bark, and logs in your garden for lizards to sun themselves on and hide in and under. Place your rocks and logs near some dense bushes or shelter so the lizard can quickly hide if a predator comes along. If you don't have fallen branches, logs, or rocks, try PVC pipes, stacks of bricks, or even old tin roofing as sheltering spots for lizards.
- Provide a shallow bowl of water in a protected spot, and keep the water and bowl clean. Use some sticks or rocks as a ramp to make it easy for lizards to get out. This applies to ponds also.
- Keep your cat indoors as much as possible, as they are natural hunters and will eat lizards and skinks if they can catch them. Whilst lizards can 'drop' their tails as an escape strategy, this is not good for them, and it takes a lot of energy to grow a tail back.



Example of habitat garden.

Attracting small birds, lizards and beneficial insects

Butterflies, bees and beneficial insects

'Beneficial insects' will pollinate fruit and vegetable crops and feed on common garden pests such as aphids, caterpillars, and other grubs; and attracting them to your garden will minimise your need for pesticides.

Ladybirds, lacewings and praying mantis feed on scales, mealybugs, aphids, moth eggs and small caterpillars, while butterfly larvae feed on beetles, caterpillars, and aphids. Butterflies and other insects provide food for birds, microbats, lizards, and other wildlife, which in return can help keep your garden clear of pests.

There are over 2000 species of native bees, and they are excellent pollinators. Most native bees are solitary, meaning they don't nest in groups like European honeybees. Teddy Bear and Blue-banded bees, nest in shallow burrows in the ground or even in soft mortar between bricks. Other bees use or make nests in holes in dead wood or in plant stems. To provide nest sites for native bees to lay eggs, leave some of the dead wood stems on your trees and shrubs, and some patches of bare ground in your garden.



Blue Banded Bee



Blue Triangle Butterfly



What to avoid

Avoid fruit producing plants such as Lilly Pillies, that attract larger carnivorous birds such as Currawongs who will eat the eggs and chicks of smaller birds.

If you are transforming your current garden into a native one, avoid rushing the process. A staged approach over time is very important as existing vegetation, even if exotic, may be providing habitat to some wildlife. Blitzing a garden may result in wildlife abandoning your garden for years or being exposed and preyed upon if the vegetation is removed too quickly.

Please don't collect rocks and logs from the park or bush, as these are already someone's habitat.

Avoid using chemicals, pesticides, non-organic fertilisers, or snail pellets in your garden. If a lizard eats a poisoned bug or snail, it can become sick and die. Lizards also won't hang around if there aren't any bugs or snails to eat in your garden.

Caring for wildlife

Reduce pesticide use

Pesticides, even natural ones, kill a wide range of insects including those that are a food source for birds, and can also harm lizards and frogs. 'Environmentally friendly' and 'organic' insecticides such as pyrethrum, garlic spray, and snail pellets, still harm wildlife. Aim for a naturally balanced garden ecosystem that does not need pesticide interventions.

Cats

Install a cat run so that your cat can safely go outside without harming wildlife or keep it indoors. Collars with bells are not necessarily effective in warning birds of a cat's presence, as cats can be very stealthy.

Fruit tree nets

Tree netting is a popular way to protect fruit from wildlife, but the netting can be deadly for birds and wildlife who get caught in it. WIRES recommend using a wildlife friendly white mesh, the colour best seen by animals at night, and have a mesh size of less than 5mm. You can also use individual fruit protection bags.

Don't feed the birds

The birds that are often fed are usually those that do not need our help, such as Rainbow Lorikeets, Kookaburras or Magpies. Some of these birds can be aggressive and predatory to smaller native birds and by feeding them we may increase their numbers. Many foods provided by people, such as fatty meat, bread and honey water mixes, are very bad for birds and cause health issues. Feeding can encourage huge numbers of birds to congregate in a small area and can spread disease amongst a population.

A bird-friendly garden can provide sufficient food that is natural and beneficial for a diverse bird community.



Suburb Fairy-wren



Blue-tongue Lizard



Brushtailed Possum

Caring for wildlife

Pests

The introduced Indian (Common) Myna and the native Noisy Miners, who are one of Australia's most aggressive native birds, have benefited from changes to the urban landscape that include more open lawns and hard surfaces with less shrubs. Planting a garden with plenty of dense shrubs can help reduce these birds visiting your garden.

To deter pest animals (including foxes) from your garden don't leave pet food outside, clean up any food scraps from BBQs quickly and keep the compost bin securely covered.

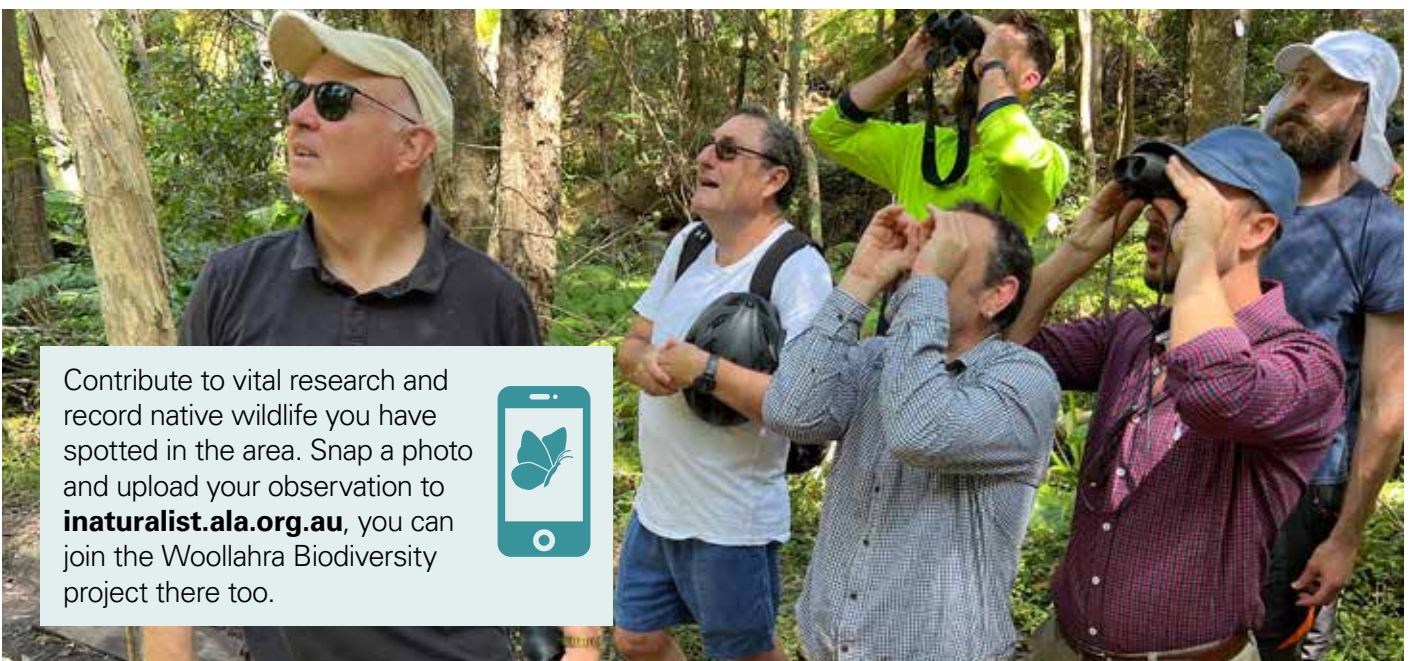
Microbats

There are at least five species of microbat in Woollahra, three of which are listed as threatened in NSW.

Microbats roost in caves, cliff crevices, tree hollows and in urban areas may resort to roosting in buildings. They feed at night on flying insects such as moths, and one local species the Gould's Wattled Bat *Chalinolobus gouldii*, also feeds on the ground for cockroaches and other crawling insects. During summer and autumn evenings, microbats can eat several hundred insects an hour! So it's important we ensure there is a plentiful supply.



Large Bentwing Bat



Contribute to vital research and record native wildlife you have spotted in the area. Snap a photo and upload your observation to **inaturalist.ala.org.au**, you can join the Woollahra Biodiversity project there too.



Planting Guide

Use the species list (page 16) to select indigenous plants suited to your planting location, based on the style of garden you'd like to create.

The best time to plant is from autumn through to early spring as it will give the seedlings time to establish before the harsh summer temperatures stress them. Using 'tube stock', seedlings in small tube-like pots, is not only the most economical option, but these plants will generally outgrow more mature plants, as they will adjust to their new environment more quickly.

Preparation

Before planting prepare the area by removing weeds, loosening any compacted soil and pruning any nearby plants to make light for the new plants. Check sydneyweeds.org.au for weed identification and best removal techniques.

How to plant

Now that the area has been prepared, you're ready for planting. Follow the step-by-step guide (opposite page).

Example of pruned Westringia

Watering

Watering heavily once per week, encourages stronger root growth and greater drought tolerance than watering in small amounts more often. Maintain this level of watering for six to eight weeks. Once the plants are established, watering can be less frequent, and as needed during dry spells.

Fertiliser

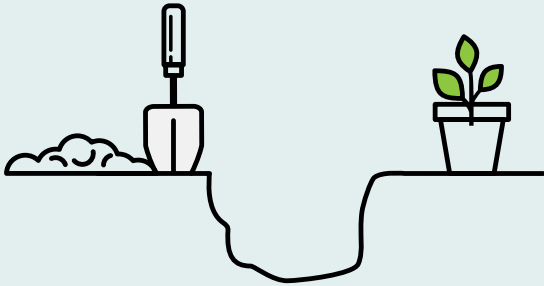
Indigenous plants generally do not require fertilising as they have adapted to suit our local soils. Sometimes however, garden soil can become depleted and specific native plant fertiliser which is slow release and low in phosphate can be used.

Pruning

Tip pruning is recommended for native plants to encourage bushy growth and stop them looking straggly. Nip off the tip of the branch using fingers or secateurs seasonally, including immediately after flowering, to promote lateral growth. Screens and hedges need regular light pruning all over to help keep them bushy right down to the ground.



7 steps to plant your native garden



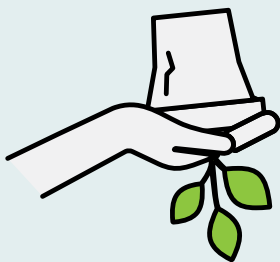
1.

Dig a hole twice as wide and slightly deeper than the pot. Push back the mulch so you can see where the soil starts so it doesn't fall into the hole.



2.

Loosen the plant in the pot. You can do this by gently squeezing the tube or tapping the side of the pot with a small spade.



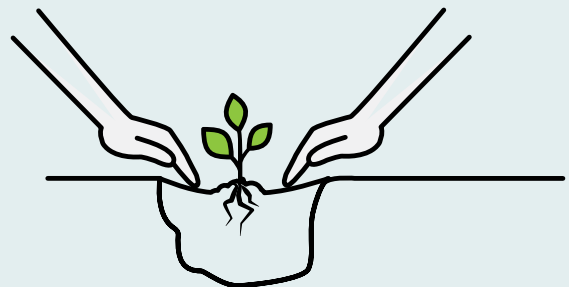
3.

With your hand over the soil at the top of the pot and the plant stem between your fingers, turn the plant in the pot upside down and gently pull the pot off. If the roots are tightly bound, loosen them gently with your fingers. Pulling the plant upwards by the stem will damage the fragile surface roots.



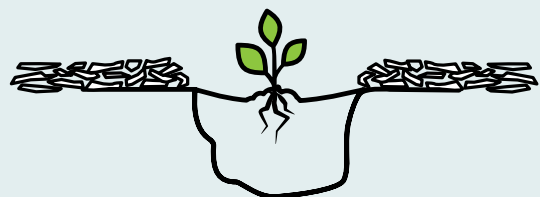
4.

Turn the plant up the right way and place it into the hole (without the pot). Hold the plant so that it is standing upright and straight in the middle of the hole, while you fill in the rest of the hole with the soil you saved (make sure you fill with soil, and not with mulch). Use your fingers to push the soil into the hole firmly so there aren't any air pockets.



5.

Gently push down the soil so that your plant is in the middle of a shallow crater. This will help to trap water and send it straight to the plants' roots where it is needed.



6.

Spread mulch around your plant. Leave space around the plant stem as the mulch can cause the stem to rot.



7.

Gently water your plant. Water enough to fill the crater, leave it until it has all been absorbed, then repeat a couple of times.






Species list

It is important to use locally native plants that are suitable for local wildlife. Don't be tempted by the hybrid plants such as the large flowered brightly coloured grevilleas at the nursery. These are not only unsuitable for small birds, but they attract large and aggressive honeyeaters such as Noisy Miners.





























A note about heights – Maximum height indications relate to plants in ideal conditions in a natural setting. In a garden setting plants often don't reach the maximum height.

Use the key for the following tables




















































	Beneficial insects & invertebrates
	Native bees
	Butterflies
	Lizards
	Butterfly larvae
	Small birds

	Frogs
ESBS	Plant of the critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub community
	Can be grown in a pot or container
	Sunny position
	Dappled light / part shade position
	Shady position








































Ground Covers & Climbers

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Climbing Guinea Flower <i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	GC	Yellow flowers Ground cover or climber	Sep – Jan	  	 	
False Sarsparilla <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	GC	Purple flowers Very hardy, ground cover or climber ESBS plant	Sep – Oct	  	 	
Native Violet <i>Viola hederacea</i>	GC	White and purple edible flowers Suitable for no-mow lawn	All year	  	 	
Wild Geranium <i>Pelargonium australe</i>	0.5M	White flowers with purple veining Perennial	Oct – March	  	 	
Wonga Wonga Vine <i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	GC	Prolific white flowers Ground cover or climber	Sep – Nov	  		





















Grasses & Sedges

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Blue Flax Lily <i>Dianella caerulea</i>	0.5M	Blue flowers, edible purple berries Very hardy, spreads readily via rhizomes as well as seed	Sep – Nov	   	 	
Coastal Flax Lily <i>Dianella congesta</i>	1M	Blue flowers, edible purple berries Very hardy, spreads readily via rhizomes as well as seed	Sept – Feb	   	 	
Common Rush <i>Juncus usitatus</i>	0.5M	Very fine stems, small, brown, clustered seed heads Tolerates periods of wet and dry		   	 	
Kangaroo Grass <i>Themeda australis</i>	1M	Rusty red flower head Hardy fast growing native grass	Sept – Mar	   		
Knobby Club <i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	1M	Weeping sedge with seed heads Very hardy, salt tolerant, tolerates periods of wet and dry		 	 	
Lemon Scented Grass <i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	1M	Clumping grass with a lemon scent	Sept – May	  		
Long-Hair Plume Grass <i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	1.5M	Pale fluffy flower head ESBS plant	Sept – Nov			
Red-Fruit Saw-Sedge <i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	1.5M	Forms grass-like tussock, large dark flower heads Tolerates periods of wet and dry		   	 	
Short-Hair Plume Grass <i>Dichelachne micrantha</i>	1M	Pale fluffy flower head	Sept – Nov			
Spiny Head Mat Rush <i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	1M	Prickly flower heads Very hardy ESBS plant	Sep – Nov	  	 	

































Small Shrubs

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Coastal Rosemary <i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	2M	White flowers Good hedge plant	Most of the year	  	 	
Forest Phebalium <i>Phebalium squamulosum</i>	2M	Yellow, cream flowers Suitable as low hedge when pruned	Sept – Oct	  	 	
Fringe Myrtle <i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	1.5M	Pink, white flowers Well drained soil, does well in raised beds Short-lived	Sept – Nov	  	 	
Grey Spider Flower <i>Grevillea buxifolia</i>	1.5M	Grey flowers Well drained soil	Aug – Apr	  	 	
Heath Myrtle <i>Baeckea imbricata</i>	1M	White flowers Can grow in damp areas ESBS plant	Sept – Feb	  	 	
<i>Homoranthus flavesceus</i>	1M	Yellow flowers Horizontal growth, suits rockery or understory planting	Nov – Feb	  		
Native Fuchsia <i>Correa reflexa</i>	1M	Red and green flowers Tolerates extended dry periods once established	May – Nov	 	 	




































Small Shrubs *continued*

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Pink Spider Flower <i>Grevillea sericea</i>	1.5M	Pink flowers Fast growing	Aug – Dec		 	
Red Spider Flower <i>Grevillea speciosa</i>	2M	Red flowers Fast growing	Aug – Nov		 	
Thyme Honeymyrtle <i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i>	1M	Purple flowers Flowers frequently Long-lived	Nov – Jul		 	
Weeping Baekea <i>Baeckea linifolia</i>	2M	White flowers Weeping habit	Dec – Feb		 	
White Correa <i>Correa alba</i>	1M	White flowers Salt tolerant	Apr – Jun		 	





































Medium Shrubs

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Dagger Hakea <i>Hakea teretifolia</i>	3M	Prickly leaves Very prickly shrub	Aug – Oct			
Fern-Leaf Banksia <i>Banksia oblongifolia</i>	2M	Yellow flowers Grey green leaves Slow growing	Mar – Aug		 	
Finger Hakea <i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	3M	Cream-white flowers Good hedge plant	Sept – Oct			
Hairpin Banksia <i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	2M	Yellow-orange flowers, dainty leaves Requires well-drained soil, produces many flowers	Apr – Aug		 	
Heath-Leaved Banksia <i>Banksia ericifolia</i>	3M	Orange-red flowers Salt tolerant, large flower spikes Good screening plant ESBS plant	Apr – Aug		 	
Large-Leaf Hop-Bush <i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	2M	Green or reddish fruit Very hardy Fast-growing, short lived	Jun – Oct		 	
Myrtle Wattle <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	3M	Yellow flowers Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing Short lived 4–10 years	Jun – Oct		 	
Peach Blossom Tea-Tree <i>Leptospermum squarrosum</i>	1.5M	Pink flowers Prickly leaves Salt tolerant	Mar – Sep			
Prickly Moses <i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	2M	Pale yellow flowers, spiky leaves Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing Short lived 4–10 years ESBS plant	Apr – Oct			
Sago Bush <i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	2M	Cream-white flowers Foliage emits pleasant fragrance after rain	Aug – Nov			
Silky Hakea <i>Hakea sericea</i>	3M	Prickly leaves Very prickly shrub	Jun – Sep			

Medium Shrubs *continued*

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Silver Banksia <i>Banksia marginata</i>	2M	Yellow flowers. Grows well in windy locations, good screen Fairly fast growing, long lived	Feb – Jul	  	 	
Swamp Banksia <i>Banksia robur</i>	2M	Yellow-golden brown flowers spikes Large ornamental leaves Well-drained moist soil	Jan – Jul	  		
Sweet Wattle <i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	2.5M	Creamy-yellow flowers Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing, Short lived - 4–10 years ESBS plant	Apr – Sept	  		
Sydney Golden Wattle <i>Acacia longifolia</i>	4M	Yellow flowers Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing Short lived - 4–10 years ESBS plant	Jun – Oct	  		
Tantoon Tea-Tree <i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	2.5M	White flowers Suited to areas that are temporarily inundated	Sep – Dec	  		
Toothed Daisy Bush <i>Olearia tomentosa</i>	2M	White or mauve flowers Compact mounding shrub	Sep – Feb	  		
White Kunzea <i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	2.5M	White flowers, honey- like fragrance Can grow on rock shelves and shallow soils ESBS plant	Sep – Nov	  		
White Spider Flower <i>Grevillea linearifolia</i>	2M	White flowers Can grow in moist conditions Fast growing	July – Oct	  		

Tall Shrubs

Species	Height	Description	Flowering	Habitat value	Position	Pots
Ball Honey Myrtle <i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>	5M	White-yellow flowers Corky or papery bark, will grow in damp conditions ESBS plant	Sep – Nov	  	 	
Christmas Bush <i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i>	6M	White flowers in October, pink-red sepals in December Requires well-drained soil	Nov – Jan	  	 	
Coast Tea-Tree <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	5M	White flowers Very hardy, salt and wind tolerant ESBS plant	Aug – Oct	  		
Native Broom <i>Viminaria juncea</i>	5M	Yellow flowers Prefers moist soil, fast growing	Sep – Nov	  	 	
Sickle Wattle <i>Acacia falcata</i>	5M	Pale yellow flowers Fast growing, nitrogen-fixing Short lived 4–10 years	Apr – Aug	  		
Sunshine Wattle <i>Acacia terminalis</i>	5M	Yellow flowers Fast growing, nitrogen-fixing Short lived 4–10 years ESBS plant	Feb – Oct	  		
Sweet Bursaria <i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	5M	White flowers, prickly branches Very hardy	All year	  		
Willow Leaf Hakea <i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	5M	White or yellow flowers Fast growing, good screen	Jun – Nov	  	 	

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Waverley Council for sharing the content and design of this Habitat Gardening Guide with us.

Their original content has been adapted slightly for accuracy in Woollahra Council area.

The following publications were of assistance in the development of this guide.

Monash Council –
Gardens for Wildlife Guide

Canterbury and Bankstown City Council –
Your Native Garden Book, specifically the
How to Plant Guide

City of Sydney Council –
Creating Habitat for Urban Wildlife

Lake Macquarie City Council –
Backyard Habitat Planting Guide

Photo credits

Page 5: New Holland Honeyeater –
photo by Caroline Jones FLICKR

Page 10: Example of habitat garden –
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Page 11: Blue Triangle Butterfly –
photo by Bogdan Krajewski

Page 13: Large Bentwing Bat –
photo by Les Hall

Page 14: Pruned Westringia –
photo by Kath Gadd – **malleedesign.com.au**

Further Reading

The following sites were used as a reference in the creation of this guide and also provide excellent further reading.

Australian National Botanical Gardens – **anbg.gov.au**

Aussie Bee – **aussiebee.com.au**

Backyard Buddies – **backyardbuddies.org.au**

Birds in backyards – **birdsinbackyards.net**

Department of Primary Industries –
weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=3

Gardening with Angus – **gardeningwithangus.com.au**

NSW Department of Planning and Environment –
environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/sydney-nature/wildlife

NSW Flora Online (PlantNET) –
plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Bats – **sydneybats.org.au/microbats**

Sydney Weeds – **sydneyweeds.org.au**

Nurseries that stock local native plants

Randwick Community Nursery

2B Barker Street, Kingsford NSW 2032

randwick.nsw.gov.au

Sutherland Community Nursery

345 The Boulevard, Gymea NSW

sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

Indigigrow

Corner of Bunnerong Road & Yarra Road,
La Perouse Public School

La Perouse NSW 2036

indigigrow.com.au

Marrickville Community Native Nursery

142 Addison Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204

innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery

22 Wisdom Street, Annandale NSW 2038

innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Wildflower Nursery

9 Veno Street, Heathcote, NSW, 2036

sydneywildflowernursery.com.au

IMAGE: False Sarsparilla (*Hardenbergia Violacea*)
as a ground cover.





woollahra.nsw.gov.au
sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au