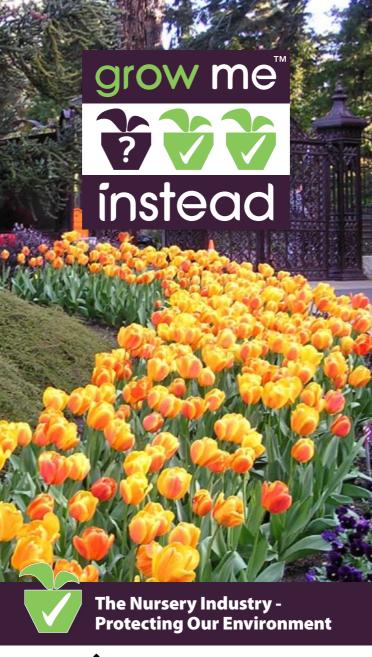


#### A Guide for Gardeners in Tasmania









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The 'Grow Me Instead' project was first initiated by the Nursery and Garden Industry of NSW & ACT (NGINA) as a voluntary partnership with its member nurseries to encourage the removal from production and sale of plants known to be invasive in the natural

This Tasmanian 'Grow Me Instead' has been produced by NGIA in conjunction with the Australian Government.

We sincerely thank all of the people who generously contributed their time and expertise and who provided a wealth of information towards the production of this booklet; with special thanks going to the members of the original Tasmanian Invasive Plant Stakeholders Committee



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  - Jonah Goldthorpe NRM South (Southern Tas Councils),
  - Elizabeth Schrammeyer Tasmanian Weed Society,
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- The many people and organisations who contributed photographs used in this booklet.

#### 2) Introduction from the Ministers

The nursery and gardening industry has joined with the Australian Government in the fight against invasive garden plants. In championing this initiative, Nursery and Gardening Industry Australia (NGIA) is taking a significant step forward in tackling one of the nation's most serious environmental problems – the spread of weeds.

The Grow Me Instead campaign is a great industry-driven initiative providing relevant local information to nursery operators and gardeners about plants which are potential weeds in their area and less invasive plants for gardeners to use.

This cooperation between the horticulture and nursery industries, the Australian Government and weed management bodies will help ensure horticulturalists and gardeners receive the information they need to combat the spread of weeds.

It is estimated that weeds cost the Australian agricultural industry around \$4 billion a year. The real cost of weeds to the environment is difficult to calculate, however it is likely to be at least equal to the cost to agriculture.

Of the almost 3000 introduced plant species now known to be established in the Australian environment, 65% are 'escaped' garden plants. An important step in preventing the spread of weeds is public education to help change attitudes and behaviours that contribute to the weed problem.

The Government is committed to investing in initiatives that have real on-ground benefits for the environment and for industry. We commend this initiative to you.

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# grow me

### 3) Introduction

The Nursery and Garden Industry in Australia employs about 45,000 people in some 22,000 businesses across the country. For many years the Industry has been conscious of their environmental responsibilities and they have been proactive in furthering educational programs, including those concerning invasive garden plants. Garden escapes are not a new issue: weeds have been around since the first settlers brought along reminders of 'home' to help them settle into a new and strange land. How strange the Australian landscape must have seemed then, and how natural it would have been for the settlers to want only the tried and true familiar garden plants of the British Isles. Despite the difficulties of creating a garden in the Antipodes, it took many years for the average Australian to appreciate the native flora of this great land.

Then, there were the early 'acclimatisation societies' who thought it a good idea to introduce plants and animals from the old country and also to spread Australian native plants from state to state.

Although great damage to the environment has occurred as a result of these indiscriminate introductions, this has not been solely the fault of the horticultural industry: certainly other industries have contributed. Graziers have imported new grasses and fodder crops and there were 'accidental' imports that came about unwittingly through inappropriate packaging, movement of plant and machinery, as seed in fodder and in ships' ballast.

However, the weed issue and who is actually responsible should not become a 'blame game'. Together we must seek to repair what damage we can and to work together as a community to prevent similar damage occurring in the future.

The Nursery & Garden Industry is actively participating in lessening the availability of invasive plants in Australia by preventing their production and sale. The Industry has recently established a greater understanding and cooperation with both State and Federal Governments, culminating in this important 'Grow Me Instead' booklet.

Greater awareness and education of the home gardener is a major part of the answer to this problem. By using the information in the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet as a guide and consulting with your local garden centre or plant nursery, you can help to minimise garden escapes and create a better environmental future for following generations of gardeners.

#### 4) What is Grow Me Instead?

The original 'Grow Me Instead' booklet developed by the Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT (NGINA) has now been extended as a national program by the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA), in partnership with the Federal Government, to reduce the numbers and impact of invasive plants in Australia.

An environmentally invasive plant' is just another term for a weed. Quite simply, a weed is any plant that poses a threat to the environment, adversely impacts human or animal health, or causes crop or stock losses. For most gardeners, many of the characteristics we most desire in garden plants are the same as those that make them weedy: i.e. plants that are fast growing and disease resilient and those which reproduce easily by the distribution of seeds or plant parts.

A modern definition of a weed is "a plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health and amenity".

Many of the plants that are now considered to be 'environmental weeds' were introduced by early settlers, or by gardeners and farmers who had little or no knowledge of their future impact on the native environment. It is only in recent years that this threat has become apparent.

Weediness is not confined to introductions from overseas. Some Australian native plants introduced from other regions may impact adversely on the natural environment. Non-indigenous (i.e. not local) species may invade and displace species natural to that area or they may cross pollinate to produce new species which may in time alter regional biodiversity. Cootamundra Wattle (Acacia baileyana) is a good example of the former, while many eucalypts are known to interbreed.

Introduced species may sometimes be controlled in a foreign climate by various vectors such as small animals, insects, diseases or climatic conditions such as frost, thus reducing potential invasiveness.

To gardeners, farmers or botanists, the term 'weed' may mean different things. Pasture weeds reduce the productivity of agricultural land and may also have negative effects on human and animal health. Environmental weeds cause various problems in natural areas and ecosystems and the cost of control for both farmers and government is estimated at billions of dollars per annum.



#### The purpose of this Grow Me Instead booklet...

is to identify common garden plants that have now become environmental weeds in your local area, and to suggest better, alternative plants that benefit garden diversity while lessening their potential to become weeds of the future.

Apart from nurseries, garden centres or the resources of the local botanic gardens, valuable information may be provided by the Bushcare division of your local council or shire or you may wish to check out their websites. Here you will find lists of declared weeds for the local area and contact details should you need further information regarding invasive plant identification and approved methods of disposal.

## It is important to reduce the spread of environmental weeds because...

better and more effective management of invasive plants will help to reduce the high cost of chemical control, and to reduce the amount of time and energy lost in management of weeds in productive land for food crops, grazing land, cut flowers and forestry. Weed management in public spaces and on natural heritage land is costly, laborious and at times seems overwhelming.

#### Invasive plants are defined and grouped as follows.

- 1. Noxious weeds are those legally declared as noxious plants by the various State or Territory Governments. The declaration of noxious weeds will vary from state to state and from region to region within a state. In general, most state legislation will say that declared noxious plants cannot be grown, sold or transported or transposed, and removal is required.
- 2. Weeds of National Significance ('WoNS') are some of the most significant weeds in Australia. All WoNS have been declared illegal for sale in each state of Australia.
- **3. Environmental weeds** plants that are or have the potential to impact the natural environment by destroying habitat or overrunning indigenous species and altering local biodiversity. Many of our worst environmental weeds are garden escapes.
- 4. Agricultural & Horticultural weeds are those plants that have a negative effect on crop or animal production. This may be through the infiltration of weed seed in grain crops, burrs in wool production or weeds which make animals sick or cause death. In the horticultural industry, weeds within cut flower, fruit and vegetable crops can harbour pests and diseases which reduce productivity.

# 5) Establishing the criteria for Grow Me Instead

It has been very important to establish a set of consistent criteria which could be adhered to across all regions and states.

#### A) The Invasive Plants

The Nursery & Garden Industry Tasmania, in consultation with its members, State and Federal Governments, and interested environmental groups has developed a list of 27 invasive garden plants. There are several weed lists in existence provided by a variety of environmental and conservation organisations that often include species which are problems only in their local area. As such, including all garden escapes in a national list was considered inappropriate. Therefore, the 'weediness' criteria for inclusion in 'Grow Me Instead' were determined as follows.

- 1. The plant must be shown to be invasive across more than one area or part of the state.
- 2. It can be either an Australian native or imported (exotic) species.
- The plant must be shown to or have potential to damage the environment, human or animal health or create stock or crop losses.
- 4. The plant must be proven to have naturalised in bushland to the detriment of the natural environment.

This 'Grow Me Instead' list is not definitive for each area or region of Tasmania. There may be other problem plants in your locality, most of these being included in lists prepared by your council or shire. In addition to the plants listed in 'Grow Me Instead', you should also be aware of your local problem plants.

#### B) The Alternatives

Not all of the alternatives would be suitable across the broad range of soils and climates of Tasmania. Therefore, consideration of these differences and adaptation to your local area or region will be necessary.

For this booklet to be of benefit in helping you select 'good' garden plants, it should be used as a guide to plant selection. In addition to the listed alternatives, there will be many other plant selections available to you at your local nursery or garden centre. Together with their help, expertise and guidance, you needn't have any fear that your garden will become an environmental hazard in the future.

Selection criteria for the 'non-weedy plants' included:

- Must be recognised as non-invasive.
- Must be readily available to the gardening public.
- Must be reliable garden plants.

We have endeavoured to recommend at least one Australian native plant alternative for all of the invasive species listed in the booklet.



#### The role of the nursery industry

In more recent years, the Nursery & Garden Industry has been environmentally responsible by encouraging the production of non-invasive plants that do not require copious amounts of reticulated water, fertiliser or other chemicals to thrive in the garden.

The Nursery & Garden Industry in Australia instigates accreditation programs among its members, and it continually strives to establish standards of excellence in plant production in order to provide trustworthy products.

The Nursery & Garden Industry provides information not only through publications such as the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet, but also through its education programs. Many educational and self-help programs are also offered by local nursery or garden centres.

Your local nursery or garden centre can assist you by:

- · Helping with identification of suspected 'weedy' plants;
- Providing information concerning local invasive plants;
- · Offering alternatives and environmentally friendly plants;
- Providing information concerning good weed management, disposal of unwanted plant material, further preventing the spread in your garden and neighbourhood.

On a broader scale the Nursery & Garden Industry can assist by:

- · Increasing public awareness through education programs;
- Promoting the sale of superior, alternative plants thereby reducing the number of invasive plants grown and sold;
- Working with government, with research organisations, the media and other key stakeholders to help reduce the distribution and sale of undesirable plants.

#### 6) What you can do!

By checking the plants in your garden with the help of the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet you may identify plants you should replace, while at the same time find others you may enjoy growing more!

Your **local** nursery or garden centre plant specialists will have additional suggestions of plants proven to be successful in your area. Plants purchased in another region, no matter how lovely they are, may not always prove hardy in yours. Furthermore, by purchasing plants from another region you may unwittingly introduce another environmental weed!

It is also a good idea to consider your garden setting and to then make a list of the plants to fill your specific house and garden needs. For example, aspects of the house exposed to hot western sun will benefit from a deciduous tree to provide summer shade and will allow penetration of winter sun, while privacy from neighbours can be provided by carefully chosen hedging plants. Or you may simply want to create beds or borders of colourful flowers and dramatic foliages to enhance your home décor. All of these wishes and needs are valid and they will vary between gardeners.

Garden plants provide many useful purposes, and in time they will become an integral part of your environment, chosen to suit the architecture of both your home and your personal lifestyle. Good garden cultivation is your contribution to establishing a special microclimate and will help to protect and preserve the local environment.

In recent times, many new plant varieties have been introduced through modern production methods and the work of plant breeders, resulting in plants which are attractive and hardy but which are non-invasive. These may be plants which are sterile or rarely produce seed. Many new varieties have low water needs or are tolerant of the air pollution found in the urban environment. In this way the Nursery Industry is contributing to the elimination of damaging or invasive species.

Purchasing plants from markets and other sources such as 'car boot sales', as well as plant swapping and trading between friends may also result in inadvertent movement of declared or noxious weeds.



#### Are you creating a weed problem in your area?

Are your garden plants 'jumping the fence'? Garden escapes are said to be one of the main sources of environmental weeds. Homeowners have a responsibility to protect natural resources.

Here are some simple ways to enjoy gardening without creating problems outside the garden fence.

- Recognise and remove plants known to be 'weedy' and destroy them responsibly, according to local council or shire regulations.
- Replace problem plants with non-invasive alternatives, as suggested by the 'Grow Me Instead' booklet or by your local nursery or garden centre. They will help identify any suspect invasive plants.
- When purchasing new plants for the garden read labels to establish good characteristics such as drought tolerance and non-weedy habit.
- Good gardening practices include removal of spent flowers that can set seed within your garden or spread to bushland.
- Do not dump green garden waste in neighbouring or public space as many plants can regenerate to become a nuisance.
- Do not dump spent cut flowers into the garden or on to adjoining property. Florists often use seed heads, vines and other plant parts that may establish in your garden.
- Never tip the water or plants from your aquarium into ponds, rivers or waterways. There are numerous, serious aquatic plants threatening rivers and waterways because of the thoughtless actions of some people.
- There are many good sources of information in regard to weeds and their control. See the back cover for a list.
- Think global act local. Consider plants local to your area. Your local council or shire will be able to provide a list of indigenous plants for your garden.
- Encourage friends and neighbours to become involved as custodians of their environment by following the same guidelines.

#### Native plants or imported species?

One of the most commonly asked questions at nurseries and garden centres is whether one should use native or exotic plants in the garden. There has long been discussion about this in gardening circles, and more recently the topic of using only locally indigenous or local area natives has become topical. The primary concern of most horticulturists is that gardeners should know the difference so that they may make informed choices.

Natives are, as the name suggests, those plants that occur naturally within Australia. Quite properly, they should be referred to as Australian native plants. Grevilleas, Eucalypts and Acacias are all examples. Of course, Australia is a big continent, so what is native to one area or region, may be very different to those found in another. Think for example, of native plants from the dry soils of Western Australia and compare them to the tropical rainforest plants native to Queensland – all Australian natives – but very different plants, with different growing requirements.

In recent years, plant breeders have hybridised many or been able to choose better or 'select' forms that have been sourced from plants growing naturally in the wild. Both hybrids and select forms will have improved characteristics to the parent species. It may be they flower more often or earlier in the season, they may produce better fruit, be disease resistant or they may have a longer life span.

Imported or so called 'exotic' plants are those originating elsewhere, not necessarily the 'exotic tropics' as some people may think.

Indigenous plants are plants that grow naturally in your local area. They are naturally occurring plants of the region and can be seen in local parklands, as remnant plants on roadsides or riverbanks and in local bushland.

Some Australian native plants become 'naturalised' or take over in an area where they would not normally occur such as Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) and Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*).

Of concern to some conservationists and indigenous plant enthusiasts is the possibility that some introductions may interbreed with local or indigenous plants, thus impacting on the local gene pool.

Most invasive plants are imported or introduced plants. One needs to be informed about these plant species which are the basis of the 'Grow Me Instead' program. However, it is fact that there are a far greater number of well behaved, imported garden plants that are not invasive.



Working on the known statistic that 27,000 plants have been imported into Australia and some 2,700 of these are listed as environmental weeds, it is estimated that approximately 10% of the imported plants in our gardens are invasive.

In modern horticulture, plants are bred, developed or selected for desirable traits such as hardiness, drought tolerance, long flowering season, larger flowers or fruits, their disease resistance and general appeal.

Of primary importance in selecting plant material for your garden is sourcing accurate information about the plant. We suggest that you ask for advice at your local nursery or garden centre.

Consult your local council or shire weeds officer if still in doubt!

Australian native plants have greater appeal today than in the past; they generally grow better because of the improvements made in their selection.

Indigenous species should be grown from seed sourced locally to be of best benefit in your locality.

Australian gardens today have become an eclectic mix of both native and imported plants, and can be complimentary to one another. Choosing one or the other is not the question; ultimately it is the gardeners choice!

Any plant should be acceptable to the Australian gardener so long as it is non-invasive and does not require copious amounts of water, fertilisers and other chemicals to survive

#### Gardeners' notes and checklists

Use this page to make notes, plant lists or questions to ask gardening experts.

## 7) Controlling weeds

#### Using herbicides

Many of the weed control techniques suggested on this and the following pages involve the use of herbicides. Herbicides are poisons, and should be handled with the greatest respect. They can be absorbed very easily through the skin, by breathing the vapours, and by ingestion (eating or drinking).

By law, herbicides must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's label. They should be kept well out of the reach of children, preferably secured in a locked cabinet. They should always be stored in the original labelled container.

#### **USE OF HERBICIDE: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

- Read the label before opening the container and follow the instructions.
- Wear protective clothing: long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves, eye protection.
- Always wear waterproof gloves. A respirator is advised when mixing or pouring the liquid.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while using herbicide. Keep children and pets away.
- Wash skin and equipment afterwards. Wash contaminated clothing separately.



Bushcare Officers take no risks

 Clean up any spills with large amounts of water; shovel up contaminated soil, dispose of it at the tip.

#### Types of herbicide

There are two widely used herbicides licensed for use at home: Glyphosate, sold under various trade names, including Roundup® and Zero® (which have different concentrations), and Triclopyr, sold as Tree, Blackberry and Woody Weed Killer (etc.).

#### How herbicides work

Glyphosate is a systemic, non-selective herbicide. It inhibits the action of an enzyme, preventing the production of an amino acid essential to plant life and growth. It must be applied to green leaves, or directly to the plant's sapwood, which lies under the bark.

Triclopyr is a selective systemic herbicide for woody and broadleaf plants. It is a growth inhibitor which moves to the plant's roots, stops growth, and eventually leads to the death of the plant. Triclopyr can be applied to green leaves and to bark.

#### Herbicides, waterways and steep land

Some of the chemicals which are added to herbicides are not safe to use near waterways. They have the potential to seriously affect the quality of aquatic ecosystems. If you need to remove weeds, particularly trees, within 20 m of any kind of watercourse, even a drain that runs only when it is raining, you should seek advice and assistance from your local council's environmental management department.

#### Control of woody weeds

#### **CUT AND PAINT**

Suitable for small to medium sized woody shrubs up to 10 cm in diameter (or larger if using a chain saw). See below for trees.

- Clear around the base of the plant.
- Cut the stem horizontally as close to the ground as possible, using secateurs, loppers, or a saw. Make sure there is no soil on the cut.
- Apply herbicide to the cut stem immediately. Squeeze, not squirt if using an applicator.
- Ensure there is no runoff of poison.
- Use as little herbicide as possible.



#### **TIPS**

- Make cuts horizontal to prevent herbicide from running off the stump. Sharp angled cuts are hazardous.
- Apply herbicide immediately after cutting within a few seconds, before plant cells close and translocation of herbicide ceases.
- If plants resprout, cut and paint the shoots after sufficient regrowth has occurred.
- Stem scraping can be very effective on certain woody weeds, e.g.
   Japanese Honeysuckle, Blackberry, vines and rhizomatous plants.

#### STEM INJECTION

A method for weedy trees and large shrubs

- Use a cordless drill (9 mm bit), hammer and chisel, or brace and bit.
- Below any branches, drill or chisel holes round the base of the tree, into the sapwood, angled down at 45°, and at 5 cm intervals.
- Make the holes about 40 mm deep.
- Within a few seconds of drilling each hole, fill it with herbicide.
- Use this method only when falling branches, as the tree dies, will not be a safety hazard.





#### HAND REMOVAL OF WEEDS

Suitable for seedlings, herbaceous weeds, many grass species.

- Before starting work, remove and bag seeds and fruit, and place in bin.
- If the weed has a tap root, push a narrow trowel or long knife deep into the ground beside the root. Loosen the soil. Work round the root and then work the plant out gently.
- Many plants which will not regrow from their roots (e.g. many grasses) can be crowned: see diagram to the right. Hold leaves and stems together, and use a knife to cut through all the roots below the 'crown'.
- Plants with bulbs, corms or tubers (e.g. Watsonia) may need deep digging to ensure complete removal. Bag bulbs, corms and tubers and send to the tip; do not compost.



#### STEM & LEAF WIPING

This method is suitable for plants with bulbs, tubers, corms or rhizomes, e.g. Watsonia.

- Remove and bag any seed or fruit.
- Using a weed wiper, start at the base and wipe all the stems and/or leaves with a dilute mix of herbicide.
- If leaves have soil on them, wipers must be regularly washed out.





Take great care when wiping: do not allow the herbicide to touch your skin or to run off into the soil, or to get on a non-target plant.

There are many control methods which are specific to certain weeds – e.g. large infestations where spraying, or covering to exclude light may be options. Contact your local nursery for up to date techniques.

#### WHEN TO TREAT WITH HERBICIDE

- Apply herbicide when the plant is actively growing.
- Do not apply herbicide when the plant is under stress: extreme heat or cold, drought, waterlogging, or disease.
- Choose early morning or late afternoon in summer.
- Do not apply when wet or windy weather is anticipated.
- For many plants, especially bulbous plants and those which sucker, the best time is from summer to autumn.
- Treat deciduous plants in late spring or summer, when in full leaf.

#### Control of ground covers, vines & scramblers

#### SCRAPE AND PAINT

This method is suitable for vines and scramblers with woody stems.

- Using a knife, and starting from the base, scrape 20 to 100 cm of leafy stem to expose the sapwood below the bark.
- Within seconds, apply herbicide to the scraped area.



#### **TIPS**

- Do not ringbark the stem: scrape about one third of the diameter.
- Stems larger than 1 cm in diameter can be scraped on both sides.
- Vine curtains can be cut at chest level, then again at about 30 cm. Scrape or cut and paint these stumps.
- Blackberry can be cut back to 1 m if there are plenty of leaves; then scrape and paint the cut stems.
- Pulling vines (especially twiners) out of trees and shrubs may do a lot of damage. They can be left hanging to die.

#### By Law

Herbicides must be used according to the label, or according to Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permits. If the plant on which you wish to use the herbicide is not named on the label, contact APVMA for permit information (www.apvma.gov.au).

#### THE DIG OPTION

On previous pages you will find advice on using herbicides to control weedy plants: often this causes minimal disturbance and less germination of seedlings.

However, if you have the energy and want to minimise herbicide use, you can often take the dig option, making absolutely sure that you remove all the parts of the plant from which it can regrow.

#### **TIPS**

- Seedlings and small plants may be pulled by hand when the soil is moist.
- Try to stager weed removal. Large areas of exposed soil are an open invitation to weed invasion and erosion, carrying weed seed into the bush.
- Mulch bare soil, and stabilise it by planting bush-friendly plants into it as soon as possible.



#### **Trees & Shrubs**

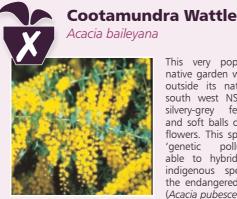


Photo: Lorna Rose

This very popular Australian native garden wattle is invasive outside its natural region of south west NSW. It has fine silvery-grey feathery foliage and soft balls of golden-yellow flowers. This species can cause 'genetic pollution', being able to hybridise with other indigenous species, such as the endangered Downy Wattle (Acacia pubescens), putting it at further risk of extinction.

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- The seeds are carried by ants, small mammals and humans and are very long lived in the soil.
- They have a high rate of germination especially after a bush fire or soil disturbance.

Avoid growing any weedy wattles. Visit your local garden centre or a specialist native plant nursery to source endemic, local wattle species.



This wattle is endemic to Tasmania and has proved adaptable in both coastal and tableland areas. This large shrub or small tree to 6 m high bears cream ball-shaped flowers profusely in spring. Extremely hardy, shade loving and will tolerate severe frosts.

Photo: Habitat Plants

#### 8) The weeds and their alternatives

## Leptospermum 'Copper Sheen'





This Australian native cultivar grows to 2 m high and wide. The young foliage is a bronzy-purple colour and the stems are reddish. In spring, fragrant creamish-yellow flowers with greenish centres smother the shrub and provide a 'snow topped' effect. Grows well in full-sun or semi-shade and will tolerate coastal conditions. Can be used as a hedge if pruned while still young.

Photo: Macbird Floraprin

# Rhododendrons Rhododendron hybrids and cultivars except R. ponticum



A visit to a Rhododendron garden in Tasmania is a gardener or travellers delight! With so many stunning spring/summer flowering cultivars to choose from, a visit to your local garden centre will reveal the locally recommended cultivars. Select from alpine rhododendrons with small leaves, wiry stems, and clusters of tiny flowers; shrub rhododendrons, including those up to 4.5 m high or tree rhododendrons with a single trunk and a large head of foliage.

Please note: Avoid growing the species *Rhododendron ponticum* as it is now invasive in similar climates around the world.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





The white poplar is a rounded broad-leaved deciduous tree growing up to 12 m high. It is distinguished by the blue-grey leaves with white undersides and white bark. Leaves turn a brilliant yellow in autumn. It has male and female flowers on separate trees. After flowering in October, the unfertilised female flowers become white wind borne 'fluff' which spreads widely causing respiratory irritation to some people.

White poplar may be mistaken for Silver birch.

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• White poplar spreads by suckers which may from dense thickets in gullies and along streams. Suckering is stimulated by soil disturbance damaging roots.



A deciduous medium-sized graceful tree providing light shade in summer. It will grow 6 to 15 m high by 5 to 8 m wide. It may have one or several main trunks and will grow in sun or part-shade in a moist position. The bark is brown when young but gradually develops to silverywhite when mature. Often planted in a grove.

Photo: Fleming's Nurseries



fast-growing, evergreen, upright tree with a moderately dense canopy. Native Tasmania, this species can reach 25 m. Coastal trees tend to be smaller than those inland. Adult are broad-lanceolate with wavy edges. White flowers appear in autumn to mid winter. An important food source and habitat for Koalas.



Evergreen, moderately fastgrowing coniferous trees that are mainly used for hedging and windbreaks. There are several popular cultivars available including 'Naylors Blue', with blue-grey foliage and 'Castlewellan Gold' which has golden-yellow young foliage that matures to bronze-green with age. Seek advice at your garden centre for the best cultivar for your garden.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



#### **Sycamore Maple**

Acer pseudoplatanus



Along-lived, vigorous, deciduous tree that reaches 30 m high. This hardy species seeds profusely and can naturalise in fertile forests as well as roadsides, creeks and wetlands

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Produce masses of 'winged' seeds which are readily carried by wind.
- Seeds germinate rapidly in gardens, guttering, gaps in paving and driveways etc.
- Wind transfers them from garden to bushland, parks and reserves.

Removal of these invasive plants is both difficult and costly.

# **Eastern Flowering Dogwood** Cornus florida

A highly ornamental deciduous small tree to 9 m high with mid-green leaves which turn red and purple in autumn. This species grows best in part-shade to full-sun and prefers moist, well-drained soils. Masses of white to pink bracts (flowers) appear on bare branches during spring. Grows best in moist soils and responds favourably to mulching. Several cultivars are available including pink flowering 'Rubra' and the weeping cultivar 'Pendula'. Look for these and other cultivars at your local garden centre.

## Liquidambar, Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua



An impressive, conical-shaped, deciduous tree to 21 m high that produces some of the most spectacular autumn foliage you will see. The large glossy green maple-shaped leaves turn shades or red, yellow, purple and orange during autumn. Its small white flowers are insignificant, however they are followed by distinctive, spiky, woody seed capsules. Suitable for larger gardens in a full-sun position.

# **Cut Leaf Plane, Oriental Plane** Platanus orientalis 'Digitata'

A deciduous large tree to 25 m high. It is fast-growing and most suitable for street planting or large gardens. The large dark green leaves are deeply lobed and turn golden yellow/brown in autumn. A hardy, drought tolerant tree that thrives in an open position in full-sun.





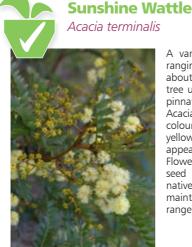


A fast-growing, multi-stemmed upright shrub or small tree growing to 6 m. Masses of scented creamy-white peashaped flowers appear in early spring. Flowers are followed by downy green seedpods that turn brown with age. Once grown for its ornamental value, it has now become invasive across large expanses of Tasmania.

Photo: M Fagg - ANBG

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• Seed pods eject seeds that are long-lived. Seeds can also be transported by animals, ants, machinery and soil movement.



A variable plant in habit and ranging from a small shrub about 1 m in height to a small tree up to 6 m high. Attractive pinnate foliage typical to many Acacia's. Masses of cream-coloured, pale yellow or golden yellow ball-shaped flower heads appear from autumn to winter. Flowers are followed by woody seed pods. This Tasmanian native is frost tolerant, low maintenance and will grow in a range of different locations.

Photo: Habitat Plants

#### **Lemon Bottlebrush** Callistemon pallidus



Native to Tasmania, NSW, ACT and Victoria. It is an upright, hardy shrub to 3 m high by 2 m wide with slender spreading branches. The fresh lemon coloured flower spikes present a pleasing contrast to the greygreen foliage. This frost-hardy plant will grow in moist soils in full-sun or part-shade. It can withstand moderate exposure to salt laden winds. A desirable specimen or screen plant.



A fast-growing and evergreen tree to 9 m high. Although it is an evergreen, it can be semi-deciduous in cooler climates. Foliage is fern-like. Lightly perfumed, pink-purple pea-flowers with dark burgundy veins appear in late winter through to spring. This plant performs best in full-sun in a freely-drained position.





This evergreen shrub to small tree can grow to 6 m high. It has round, glossy leaves and is very common in coastal environments owing to its salt tolerance.

Photo: Lorna Rose

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Its succulent orange fruits are spread by birds into many coastal regions, including swamp forest, dunes, and sea-cliff scrub.
- Its canopy will smother all other vegetation.
- Can grow prostrate, rooting where branches touch the ground.



This plant is native to Tasmania and is a beautiful ornamental species with striking yellow flowers in spring. A medium shrub to small tree growing to 8 m with deep green, glossy and deeply veined leaves. This species will grow on rocky hillsides and is also salt hardy and suited for coastal gardens.

Photo: Habitat Plants

#### **Mexican Orange Blossom**

Choisya ternata



This is a very hardy, drought tolerant, bushy shrub to 2 m high, with glossy dark green leaves and pure white fragrant flowers in spring. It requires little attention other than a light pruning to shape. It is an excellent plant for hedges, in a border, as a specimen plant or in pots. It prefers full-sun however will do well in semi-shade. Tolerant of light frosts and is water wise once established.

Photo: Lorna Rose

#### **Evening Glow Coprosma** Coprosma 'Evening Glow'



A very hardy non-invasive plant that grows to a height of 1.2 m. The colourful golden foliage changes to rich orange and pink-red shades in autumn and winter. Grows best in a well-drained, full-sun to part-shade position. It will tolerate coastal conditions and is ideal for small gardens, tubs, rockeries and general landscaping. This plant has a low water requirement once established.

Photo: Green Hills Propagation





This is an erect, evergreen shrub or small tree from South Africa to 4 m high. Pea-shaped flowers are blue, lilac and white and appear from October to December, Each flower develops a small pod that contains a single dark brown seed. The 'P' in Psoralea is silent and the name is pronounced as if it begins with the 's'. It grows along streams and in wet places.

#### **HOWIT SPREADS**

• This species is extremely hardy and produces prolific amounts of seed that aid in its naturalisation. Mass germination occurs after fire. It shares many of the invasive characteristics of broom.

## **Hopbush, Varnish Leaf Hopbush**

Dodonaea viscosa ssp. viscosa



Commonly called 'Hopbush' because of the colourful fruits resembling the fruits used in brewing. It is a hardy, fastgrowing, evergreen tree up to 3 m high. Small, yellow-green flowers appear from spring through to autumn. Flowers are followed by green winged fruit capsules in summer. They require a light, well-drained soil in a sunny position. A purple foliaged form is also available. Most will tolerate moderate frosts and withstand extended dry conditions.

# **Ceonothus, Blue Pacific** Ceanothus papillosus 'Blue Pacific'

This attractive evergreen shrub has masses of rich deep blue flowers in dense clusters during spring. It is a hardy and rapid growing shrub to 3 m high by 2 m wide. Thrives in full-sun and well-drained soils.

# **Native Rosemary** Westringia fruticosa x eremicola 'Wynyabbie Gem'

This bushy Australian native shrub has masses of small, mauve flowers along the stems for most of the year. It grows to 2 m high by 2 m wide. It prefers full-sun for best flowering and tolerates most soils. It can be used as a low hedge and is suitable for growing in containers. Responds well to regular pruning to maintain compact shape. Frost, salt and drought tolerant.





Cytisus scoparius



This shrub to 4 m high is a declared noxious weed in SA. WA, and parts of NSW, VIC and Tasmania.

It has bright yellow type flowers that persist over summer.

#### **HOWIT SPREADS**

- Each flower produces a pod of five to eight seeds, the summer ripened seeds explode from the pod as a scattering mechanism.
- Seed is carried by livestock, humans and the movement of soil or by floodwaters.
- The seeds are viable for a long time contributing to succeeding generations of plants.
- Avoid growing the Cape Broom (Genista monspessulana) or Spanish Broom (Spartium junceum) for the same reasons.
- This plant can arrive in your garden as an uninvited guest.
- Please resist the temptation to let it remain and dig it out!

# **Coral Plant** Russelia equisetiformis 'Tangerine Falls'

This small evergreen shrub to 1.5 m high is grown for its showy pendant clusters of orange tubular flowers which appear from spring to late autumn along its wiry rush like stems. Its pendulous habit makes it ideal for hanging baskets, decorative tubs and spilling over a wall. Ideal in full-sun to part-shade.



A hardy, Australian native evergreen shrub that grows to 2 m high by 3 m wide. Pendant spider-like flower clusters of red, yellow, orange or pink are borne in spring through to summer. The flowers attract honey eating birds and other marsupials. This drought hardy species will grow in full-sun to semi-shade in a wide range of soil types.

Photo: Macbird Floraprin

# Wild Fuschia Correa species and cultivars Native evergin size from in size and flower from are favourith birds. Some flowers while with protruc Correas are hardy. They soil and prospecies flow

Native evergreen shrubs ranging in size from prostrate to medium in size and form. Most *Correas* flower from winter to spring and are favourites of nectar-seeking birds. Some have bell-shaped flowers while others are tubular with protruding stamens. Most *Correas* are drought and frost hardy. They require well-drained soil and prefer full-sun. Some species flower in semi shade.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





A hardy, evergreen shrub with large densely haired leaves to a height and width of 1.8 m. Columnar flower spikes stand high above the foliage and contain thousands of tiny flowers ranging in colour from pale blue to violet and occasionally in white. Following flowering, each of the thousands individual florets produce a four

segmented fruit called a nutlet. A single seed is contained within each of the four nutlets.

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• Each flower spike can produce hundreds and thousands of seeds. The seeds have poorly developed wings that may help the seed to be wind dispersed over short distances.



A native, hardy, compact, bushy form of Westringia with grevgreen foliage and a mass of bluemauve flowers that extend over long periods. It stays compact and requires only a light prune annually. Growing to 1.2 m high by 1 m wide, this species is useful for low hedging and borders. Prefers well-drained soil and thrives in full-sun to part-shade. Will tolerate frost, dry and even severe coastal conditions.



This is an open, rounded large shrub to 3.5 m high. In late spring, mauve flowers develop in small, cylindrical spikes on short, lateral branches or at the base of leafy branches. Flowers sporadically during summer. It prefers full-sun and can tolerate dry and coastal condition.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



A small, rounded shrub from 1 to 2.5 m high. Elliptical leaves, dark green, 2-5 cm long on distinctive reddish stems. Fluffy cream-coloured ball-shaped flowers appear in spring. It is a low maintenance drought hardy plant. Thrives in a range of environments, however prefers a sunny well-drained position.



#### **Butterfly Bush, Summer Lilac**

Who would think that this plant with its delightful name would environmental become an weed?

Arching stems carry sprays of gold-throated, fragrant tiny mauve flowers in spring and summer. As the name suggests, it attracts butterflies.

A tough, vigorous plant from 3–5 m high, it was commonly planted as a quick growing privacy plant.

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Seeds are spread by wind and water.
- Dumping of garden prunings that may easily take root.
- This plant grows readily in damp areas to create shady thickets crowding out natural species and destroying habitat.



Buddleias are usually summer flowering shrubs and considered too vigorous for the average garden, however, Buddleia 'Spring Promise' is a smaller noninvasive hybrid. It has masses of long slender stems of white delicately scented flowers from the middle of winter through to spring. This species can be grown in full-sun or part-shade. It grows quickly and will tolerate relatively dry conditions when established.



Famous for their trusses of single or double highly fragrant flowers in white, soft yellow, various shades of pink and mauve to purple from spring to early summer. They thrive in cool-climate gardens and are easily grown in well-drained, sandy soils. They perform best when planted in full-sun or light-shade. Ask at your local garden centre for the best Lilacs recommended for your garden.

Photo: Delwyn Thomas

# **Snowball Tree** Viburnum opulus sterile



This is a popular, large 'old world' deciduous shrub to 3 m high by 3 m wide with hydrangea-like large rounded heads of white flowers in spring that resemble snowballs. The maple-like leaves colour brilliantly in autumn in shades of yellow-red or redburgundy depending on the soil and local conditions. This plant is sterile



Although this species of Fuchsia has become an invasive weed, don't be deterred from growing other Fuchsias! This erect, vigorous shrub to 3 m high is native to South America. It has pendulous scarlet and purple bell shaped flowers and has escaped from gardens into surrounding areas. It has become established amongst grassland, in drainage lines, on townsites and growing on wasteland.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

#### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Seeds are spread by birds in their droppings and in water.
- Broken stems can easily root in fertile soils from dumped garden waste.

#### **Fuchsia**

Fuchsia hybrids and cultivars (other than F. magellica and F. corralina).



These plants flourish is grown in strong filtered light with plenty of fresh air. They do not like too much heat and need to be protected from frosts and hot winds. They must be kept moist, but not wet and need protection from the strong afternoon sun. There are more than 100 forms available ranging from small to tall shrubs with many suited to hanging baskets. All have pendulous blooms in various shades of pink, red, purple, lilac and white with many bi-colours. Ask at your local garden centre for the best cultivars for your garden.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



Evergreen shrub with arching branches to 2 m high. Shiny, dark green glossy foliage with mauvepink tubular flowers. Suitable as a screening or specimen plant, this hardy, water wise and noninvasive shrub thrives in full-sun to part-shade. Ask your local garden centre for this and other recommended cultivars.

Photo: Macbird Floraprin



A versatile evergreen shrub to 0.9 m high. It has dark green glossy leaves and exquisite, highly fragrant white flowers from late spring to early summer. Spot flowering often continues throughout the autumn months. This Gardenia prefers full-sun or part-shade and thrives in rich organic well-drained soils. To maintain compact growth, keep trimmed after flowering.

Photo: Machird Floraprint





Unfortunately this very striking old fashioned plant has become an environmental weed. Although it is an herbaceous perennial, it was commonly grown and sold as an annual. Clusters of pink, purple or white hanging bell-shaped flowers are borne on tall upright flower stems. The leaves form a dense rosette of hairy basal leaves. It invades wet forests, riparian and alpine areas where it replaces native berbs

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• It produces prolific amounts of seeds which readily germinate within the garden and adjoining disturbed bushland.

Please note: This species is extremely toxic to humans and livestock.



Formerly known as Hebe formosa. This true Veronica is endemic to Tasmania. It grows on rocky hillsides from sealevel to altitudes of 1200 m. A perennial shrub ranging in height from 0.5 to 2 m. In late spring and early summer it blooms profusely and is covered with many small flowers varying in colour from pale lilac to violet blue. It will grow in most soils, prefers part-shade to full-sun, and is frost-hardy. Suitable for cottage gardens and rockeries.

Photo: Habitat Plants



The foxglove-like flowers of these cottage garden style plants appear mainly in summer. Flowers are borne at the end of erect flower spikes in a range of colours including blues, reds, whites and bi-colors. Best grown in full or half-sun in moist welldrained soil. Cut plants back hard after flowering. Ask at your local garden centre about the wide selection of Penstemon hybrids for your garden.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

## **Delphinium** Delphinium species and hybrids

Best known for their tall spikes of beautiful flowers, this group of both annuals and perennials range in height from 30 cm to 2 m high depending on the species. The flowers are borne in spring and summer in a range of colours including pale or deep blues, purples, whites or lilacs. Plant Delphiniums in an open airy position in full-sun in moist, fertile, well-drained soil. The 'Butterfly' delphinium and the species grandiflorum are popular cut flowers.





Photo: Macbird Floraprint

The Yarrow is a weedy herb from western Asia and Europe. Historically used by herbalists as an anti-inflammatory. A perennial herb with erect pink or white flowers throughout summer and autumn. It has a low growing, spreading habit to 75 cm high, sprouting many new plants from rhizomes (roots). The foliage is usually finely divided with a fern-like appearance. It has become invasive on roadsides and in bushland.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

 Yarrow produces thousands of seeds in every growing cycle.
 These seeds readily germinate even in poor, dry soils. It is sometimes seen in disturbed Bushland near houses.

There are many alternative herbs available at your local garden centre.



An attractive, tufted Australian native perennial herb with soft, linear leaves to 0.6 m high. The erect pale blue or occasionally white flowers appear in spring and summer on long slender stems. Individual flowers are in the form of open bells. Excellent for a massed display in a well-drained soil in full-sun or part-shade. As the plants are shallow rooted, the soil should be kept moist but not water-logged.

Photo: Habitat Plants



One of several hundred sages available in cultivation. This is a medium shrubby form to 1.5 m high by 0.9 m wide. Scarlet-red flowers appear in well-spaced whorls from spring through to autumn. The leaves are soft and downy with finely serrated edges and emit a distinctive pineapple aroma when crushed.

Ask at your local nursery or garden centre for advice about many superior and non-invasive Sages.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint:



An evergreen clump-forming herbaceous perennial to 75 cm high with distinctive coloured and lobed leaves arising directly from the roots. The striking red rose-like flowers with yellow stamens appear on erect stalks from late spring to autumn. Flowers are bright, papery and long lasting.



### **Agapanthus**

Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A clump-forming plant with deep green strappy leaves. Used as a border plant, to stabilize low banks and planted by farmers around properties as a fire retardant.

They are known to invade roadsides, bushland and waterways. Agapanthus are grown for their hardiness and striking blue, blue-purple and white flowers heads on 1 m stems. Flowers appear in November and December.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Often spread by dumping garden waste.
- Each flower head can develop hundreds of seeds which are spread by wind, water and soil.

TIP: Removing spent flower heads immediately after flowering can avoid seed spread.

Ask at your local nursery or garden centre for advice about **many superior** and non-invasive varieties of Agapanthus.

### **Liriope, Evergreen Giant** *Liriope muscari 'Evergreen Giant'*



An evergreen, clump-forming perennial with grass-like, arching, linear leaves to 0.6 m high. Purple flowers appear on tall spikes from summer well into autumn. It can be used as an edging plant, specimen plant or mass planted in garden beds. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade and requires minimal care once established.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



A popular and hardy evergreen perennial plant with arching, strappy foliage up to 1.2 m long. During spring and summer there are masses of nodding, starshaped, bright blue to purple flowers which are followed by glossy, deep blue berries. It thrives in a sunny to partly shaded positions in a range of soils. Grow well in rockeries, gardens and containers. There are many hybrid Dianellas that are worth considering in your garden. Seek advice from your local garden centre.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

# Kangaroo Paw Anigozanthos species Thes pere rang occu whice leave sun soils. low rattra flow cut fresh

These tufted, native sword-leafed perennials are available in a wide range of flower colours. Flowers occur in clusters on raised stalks which emerge from the base of leaves. They grow best in full-sun and thrive in well-drained soils. Kangaroo paws are hardy, low maintenance plants that will attract birds to the garden. The flower stems make wonderful cut flowers that can be used fresh or dried.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





This white lily with large spathes is widely used as a cut flower. However, the plants of the Arum Lily will engulf gutters, streams, waterways and wetland bogs. It is now a widespread environmental weed. The green form called 'Green Goddess' is also invasive and can be found clogging up natural waterways.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• These plants produce prolific amounts of seed that wash down gutters and streams and readily germinate. Birds and small mammals also disperse the seeds through their droppings. These plants produce several small rhizomes (roots) that are easily spread in contaminated soil. Any moist soil will be quickly infiltrated.

Although these are popular cut flowers, the use of this plant must be discouraged for the home garden. Its spread must be stopped.



This is a small tufted perennial rush with long strap-like green leaves to 1 m high. This tall, slender, yellow flower spike appears from the leaf base in the early growing season and persists for many weeks. As the spike matures, the structure is replaced by a tan, fruit-bearing shaft, composed of attractive clusters of small nutlets. This species is extremely hardy and tolerant of climatic extremes and most soil conditions. Widely grown for soil stabilisation.

### **Purple Flag Iris, Native Iris**

Patersonia occidentalis



An attractive, native plant with strappy dark green foliage to 0.75 m high. Large mauve/purple showy flowers appear on raised stems in spring and summer. The flowers are short-lived but on mature plants there will be a procession of them. This wonderful Tasmanian native that will grow in full-sun to semi-shade locations and in moist soils. Extremely water wise and frost-hardy.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### Calla Lilies Zantedeschia elliottiana and rehmannii



Though closely related to the Arum Lily, they are not regarded as invasive. Calla Lilies are available in a wonderful range of colours of pink, cream and burgundy to purple-black. With care in the selection of growing position and cultivation, they will provide a wonderful show of flowers in the garden or in containers. When picked as cut flowers for a vase or bouquet Calla's make a wonderful and artistic statement.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



### **Climbing & Ground Cover Plants**

This very useful group of plants was often used to cover unsightly objects and provide green barriers. Unfortunately we now know that the attributes that make them useful can also provide them with a means to grow outside their given area and invade nearby bushland. There are many alternative less invasive plants available. Please consider from the list opposite or ask your local garden centre for other alternatives.



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

A widely planted ornamental, this species was unsuspectingly used to cover brick walls, sheds or was used as a ground cover beneath trees. It is extremely hardy and can survive in full-sun to shade. Easily distinguished by its dark green lobed leaves. Without pruning control, it smothers everything, debilitates trees and sets large quantities of seed.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Tenacious and invasive aerial roots cling to trees smothering the bark. Trailing stems will easily take root and spread along the ground. When the plant is allowed to mature to the shrubby adult form, the small umbels of white flowers are followed by a prolific amount of blue-black berries which are quickly spread by birds. Aerial roots may destroy mortar joints on walls.
- Clippings easily take root when dumped on unused ground or in bushland areas.

### **Purple Appleberry** Billardiera longifolia

An elegant Tasmanian native climbing plant. Flowers are pale greenish-white in colour and are followed by showy purple-blue berries that dangle in profusion during autumn. An ideal specimen for a low wall or trellis. Grows best in a partly sunny, sheltered position. A hardy plant once established that will attract birds and bees to the garden.

### **Wonga Wonga Vine**

Pandorea pandorana



This is a vigorous, hardy Australian native twining plant. The flowers are tubular and creamy-white with purple or brown markings in the throat. A number of selected colour forms of this species have been brought into cultivation, the most common is 'Snowbells' with pure white flowers and 'Golden yellow-bronze Showers' with flowers. Flowering occurs mainly in spring but may persist into summer.

### **Banksia Rose** Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'



This climbing rose produces long slender twining canes with masses of tiny, double, yellow flowers in spring. It is one of the most popular climbing roses because of the beautiful spring blooms and absence of thorns. Flowers best in full-sun. This species is drought hardy and frost tolerant.



### **Asparagus Ferns**

Asparagus aethiopicus 'Sprengeri' Asparagus plumosus and plumosus 'Nana'



Photo: Delwyn Thomas

Multi-branched prostrate and/or climbing herb from the lily family that form a dense underground mat of rhizomatous roots. The fern-like branches grow to 0.6 m high and up to 2 m wide with a covering of small sharp spines. These natives from South Africa have small white-pink clusters of flowers in late summer which ripen to bright red, orange or black fruits.

### **HOW THEY SPREAD**

• By dumping of garden waste. The seeds are readily dispersed by birds and small mammals.

Although Asparagus Ferns are highly invasive environmental weeds, some species are still in production. These 'ferns' will overtake natural species by developing dense thickets that deprive other plants of light and nutrients as well as destroying habitat.

Please note: All other Asparagus species except the cultivated Asparagus officinalis have the potential to become invasive weeds.

### **Creeping Boobialla**

Myoporum parvifolium



An Australian native, this evergreen hardy plant forms a dense, weed suppressing ground cover that will easily cover one square metre. This species thriven if grown in freely-drained soil and full-sun. The flowers are white or pink and occur from winter to summer. Sweet fleshy fruits provide food for native birds.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### Mt. Tamboritha Grevillea, Prostrate Woolly Grevillea

Grevillea lanigera 'Mt. Tamboritha'



A highly attractive prostrate ground cover Grevillea with narrow pointed silvery grey foliage and masses of red and yellow spider flowers over a long period from winter to spring. Prefers full-sun to part-shade and grows best in well-drained soils. Will tolerate coastal, medium frost and drought conditions. Grows to 0.5 m high by 2 m wide. Attractive to nectar feeding birds.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **Prostrate Rosemary**Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'



A low growing or prostrate form of rosemary to 0.5 m high with a mass of lilac-blue flowers from late summer, right through winter and into spring. An aromatic culinary herb and one of the most beautiful and useful ground-covers. It is perfect for mass planting on retaining walls and in garden beds, or as a specimen in a pot. Hardy, water wise and very well suited to coastal plantings.

Photo: Delwyn Thomas





Formerly known as Sollya heterophylla.

A vigorous, evergreen, climbing plant growing to a height of 4 m. It may be a dense shrub or a climbing plant. Dainty drooping clusters of blue or white flowers are mainly carried in spring and summer, producing fleshy, green cylindrical berries that darken with age.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

• This species produces copious amounts of seeds which are eaten by birds and foxes and spread in their droppings. It can smother native ground covers and shrubs and can invade adjoining bushland.



This sterile form of the popular Bluebell creeper is a small dense shrub that will twine along posts or walls. It has small blue flowers in summer and thrives in full-sun or light shade in freely draining soils. Ideal for containers, this form cannot set fertile seed so is a safe alternative.



An evergreen, non-invasive, climbing shrub to 6 m high. It has glossy, deep green, leathery leaves on twining stems and is not aggressive in its habit. Like all Jasmines it has an abundance of pure white, highly scented flowers that appear in late summer.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

## Wonga Wonga Vine Pandorea pandorana This is a vig Australian na The flowers creamy-white brown marki A number of forms of this brought into most comm with pure v 'Golden Shov bronze flo occurs mainly persist into su

This is a vigorous and hardy Australian native twining plant. The flowers are tubular and creamy-white with purple or brown markings in the throat. A number of selected colour forms of this species have been brought into cultivation, the most common is 'Snowbells' with pure white flowers and 'Golden Showers' with yellow-bronze flowers. Flowering occurs mainly in spring but may persist into summer.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



This spreading perennial ground cover to 50 cm was widely cultivated because of its dense green foliage and small blue flowers. It has spread and successfully established in moist and damp areas such as wet gullies and creek banks. Although it does not produce seed in Australia, it spreads by runners and by fragments carried in water or in relocated soil. It forms dense mats suppressing all other plants. A variegated form may also be invasive

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Although it does not produce seed in Australia, it spreads by runners and by fragments carried in water or in relocated soil.
- The spread of this plant has been aided by gardeners who have spread cuttings into the bush.



An attractive evergreen perennial with a spreading prostrate habit. Leaves are green, soft in texture with funnel form flowers in blue to violet appearing in late spring to autumn. Suitable as a ground cover, spill-over plant in rockeries and is ideal in large containers or hanging baskets. Reaching a height of about 20 cm, it will spread to 2 m wide. Prefers a moist well-drained site and is frost tolerant.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### Happy Duo Hardenbergia, **Native Sarsaparella**

Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Duo'



This is a vigorous, popular and generally hardy Australian native plant that grows to about 1 m high by 1 m wide. The pea shape purple and lavendersuffused white flowers appear in late winter and early spring. It can be used as a ground cover and will also climb on a support. It prefers an open sunny position and can tolerate light to moderate frosts.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **Molonglo Grevillea** Grevillea juniperina 'Molonglo'

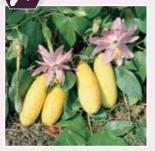
An excellent native ground cover plant with attractive fine needlelike foliage. It will spread to 2 m wide and is fast-growing, hardy, frost and drought tolerant once established. Spider flower clusters are yellow-apricot in winter through to spring. It is ideal for rockeries and steep banks. Plant in full-sun to semishade for best results

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



### **Banana Passionfruit**

Passiflora mollissima



A rampant climber more popular for its large pink flowers than the oblong, yellow fruit. It can spread to 20 m smothering anything in its way. It produces little edible pulp, considered less tasty than the pulp of the black passionfruit.

Photo: Macbird Floraprin

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Birds and bats eat the fruit and spread seeds to rainforests and fertile areas where they readily germinate. The vines will smother native vegetation.
- Stem fragments can easily strike upon contact with soil and cause further infestation.





Seedling grown Black Passionfruit produce perfectly acceptable fruits and do not have the suckering problems of the grafted forms. Fruits may be consumed by birds resulting in the possible spread into nearby bushland areas. To prevent this, don't grow it unless you intend to eat the fruit.

Photo: Fir0002



These large, spring flowering Clematis make a dazzling display. The vine tendrils become covered in flowers which are large and luscious, 15–18 cm wide. There are a multitude of colours available ranging from purples, blues, pinks and whites. These varieties grow to a compact 2.5 m high. Many vines invade and take over the garden, but not these. Perfect to soften harsh edges, posts, pergolas, fences and walls.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint:

### **Bougainvillea, Paper Flower** *Bougainvillea glabra 'Magnifica'*



This summer flowering climber can be grown as a climber up a wall or trellis or grow as a mounding ground-cover. The most attractive purple flowers (actually bracts or modified leaves) are borne on mass. This plant performs best in full-sun and requires well-drained soil. There are many improved hybrids available for you to choose from — whites, pinks, yellows and even some variegated forms. Dwarf varieties are also available.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





This semi-deciduous scrambling or climbing shrub will grow to 8 m high. It has profuse tube-like, fragrant and nectar filled flowers through summer aging from white to yellow. Small shiny black berries follow the flowers in autumn. It was once frequently cultivated in gardens, however, the common honeysuckle is now a serious weed of moist conservation areas

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- The seeds are dispersed by water and birds. The stems root down where they touch the ground forming new shoots.
- It is also dumped on bushland and roadside edges.



climber vigorous scrambler grows from 2 to 5 m wide or high. The large golden-yellow flowers most commonly seen in late spring and summer, however it continually flowers through the year. It tolerates a wide range of climates, including exposure to salt-laden winds.



These large, spring flowering Clematis make a dazzling display. The vine tendrils become covered in flowers which are large and luscious, 15–18 cm wide. There are a multitude of colours available ranging from purples, blues, pinks and whites. These varieties grow to a compact 2.5 m high. Many vines invade and take over the garden, but not these. Perfect to soften harsh edges, posts, pergolas, fences and walls.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint:

# Azores Jasmine Jasminum azoricum An climb has g leaves not a all Jas of pu flowe summ

An evergreen, non-invasive, climbing shrub to 6 m high. It has glossy, deep green, leathery leaves on twining stems and is not aggressive in its habit. Like all Jasmines it has an abundance of pure white, highly scented flowers that appear in late summer.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





A favourite of gardeners living in coastal areas because of their bright, sunny, daisy style flowers and their ability to withstand coastal conditions. Older varieties are considered very invasive, particularly in residential areas near coastal and mallee environments where they will spread along roadsides from seeds blown from nearby gardens and dumped garden waste.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Produce abundant seeds that are spread by wind and water.
- Spread by dumping of garden waste.
- Also spread by runners which prevent native ground covers from growing.

Avoid any seed grown plants!



### **Gazanias - sterile varieties**

It is safe to grow the new sterile Gazania hybrids listed opposite. They have been specially bred as non-invasive and are relatively drought tolerant with improved growth habit, foliage, flower colour and size without viable seed set.



Look for these wonderful, hardy, sterile Gazania hybrids at your local garden centre. They thrive in coastal conditions and can be grown as an annual in frost prone areas. Deadhead frequently to encourage flower production.



### **Montezuma**

has distinctively striped, large flowers in earthy tones of orange and brown. Also has high pest and disease tolerance.



### **Sunset Jane**

has large, honey coloured, fully double blooms over grey-green foliage, it can withstand dry conditions and is suitable for coastal plantings.



### **Sahara**

has large, fully double yellow flowers and silver grey foliage.



### Sun about

has double, bright yellow flowers.



### **Avalon**

this single flowered variety with bright yellow flowers spreads well.

Photos: Ramm Botanicals



### **Berried Plants**

Gardeners often choose trees and shrubs with showy persistent berries for winter colour in their gardens when flowers are scarce. Unfortunately these berries often attract birds and small mammals that unwittingly aid the spread of these unwanted plants into bushland and open spaces.





Photo: Macbird Floraprin

A native east Australian tree that grows 12 m high by 7 m wide. It has coarse grey bark and glossy green elliptical leaves. The small, white, highly fragrant flowers occur in spring and early summer. Flowers are followed by orange-tan berries in autumn, which can persist for several months. It is a hardy and adaptable plant which can withstand extended dry periods once established.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

 It has become very invasive in home gardens and bushland, colonising moist areas such as gullies and areas of disturbed soil. It grows rapidly and quickly competing with native vegetation. Its berries are attractive to birds and can be carried quite far from the parent plant. It has become an environmental weed in high rainfall areas of Tasmania.

### **Lemon or Yellow Bottlebrush**

Callistemon pallidus



Photo: Macbird Floraprint:

Native to Tasmania, NSW, ACT and Victoria. It is a widely grown ornamental plant which performs exceptionally well in cultivation. It is an upright, hardy shrub to 3 m high by 2 m wide with slender spreading branches making it an ideal specimen or screen plant. The fresh lemon coloured brushes present a pleasing contrast to the grey-green foliage. This frost-hardy plant will grow in moist soils in full-sun or part-shade and will withstand moderate exposure to salt laden winds.

### Native Frangipani Hymenosporum flavum



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A fast-growing, evergreen tree to 9 m high with glossy, rich green, oval leaves. In spring this Australian native plant bears terminal clusters of very fragrant, tubular, cream flowers that age to a golden yellow. Ideal for small and large gardens, parks and road sides. Flowers best when grown in the open but will tolerate some shade. Protect young seedlings from frost. This tree will benefit from watering during extended dry periods.

### **Lilly Pilly** *Acmena smithii minor*

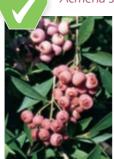


Photo: Macbird Floraprint

A dense-foliaged, medium tree that grows 8–10 m high by 6 m wide. The leaves are glossy green. Flowers are creamy-white in spring–summer followed by fleshy fruits, white to purple in colour. This is an extremely hardy plant that will grow in full-sun to partial shade. It is most often used for hedging and topiary where it can be trimmed to shape. New growth is glossy bronzered in colour, maturing to mid-green. Generally considered to be resistant to Lilly Pilly Psyllid.



### Himalayan Honeysuckle, Pheasant Berry

Leycesteria formosa



A multi-stemmed upright deciduous shrub to 4 m high from temperate Himalayan regions. The stems smooth, round, hollow and bamboo-like. Also known as Elisha's Tears, it is fastgrowing and vigorous. Leaves are large, soft, heart-shaped at the base and taper to a pointed apex. The new growth is red. The white tubular flowers in summer and autumn grow in long drooping lantern-like spikes, partly concealed by deep reddish-purple bracts. These bracts, which resemble leaves, are found at the base of the flowers. The fruit is a round purplish-black fleshy berry containing more than 100 small seeds.

Photo: Wouter Hagens

Introduced by birds deep into fragile and sensitive moist bushland.

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Spread mainly by animals which excrete the seeds in their droppings. It can form thickets, create dense shade and displace native vegetation.
- This plant can also spread by water, machinery, the movement of soil, and by garden waste dumping.

## Derwent Speedwell Derwentia derwentiana This native high species prefers colit will thrive and f is a frost tolerant, robust herb or su height of 1.5 m. blue flowers are clustered into den at the end of each are an attractive process appear in if the conditions flower for up to 6

This native high country perennial species prefers colder climates where it will thrive and flower prolifically. It is a frost tolerant, compact, erect and robust herb or sub-shrub reaching a height of 1.5 m. The white to pale blue flowers are spectacular and clustered into dense, colourful heads at the end of each branch. The buds are an attractive pink to lilac colour. Flowers appear in summer, however if the conditions are right it can flower for up to 6 months.

Photo: Morwell National Park



A slender, upright shrub to 1 m with tubular flowers from late autumn to late spring. Densely packed flowers up to 2.5 cm long are arranged singly in the leaf axils around the stem and assume a cylindrical brush-like appearance. Common Heath has many colour forms including pure white, pale pink, rose pink, crimson, scarlet and rare double flowered forms.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint:





strong filtered light with plenty of fresh air. They do not like too much heat and need to be protected from frosts and hot winds. They must be kept moist, but not wet and need protection from the strong afternoon sun. There are more than 100 forms available ranging from small to tall shrubs with many suited to hanging baskets. All have pendulous blooms in various shades of pink, red, purple, lilac and white with many bi-colours. Ask at your local garden centre for the best cultivars for your garden.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint



These common garden shrubs grow from prostrate to 4 m high and were commonly used as hedging plants due to their vigorous nature. They produce clusters of white flowers during spring and summer followed by red berries which persist on the branches for months after flowering. These plants have become widespread weeds in bushland and farming land. Prostrate forms sold as ground covers or rockery plants do not appear to be invasive.

Photo: Delwyn Thomas

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

 Unfortunately the berries often attract birds and small mammals that unwittingly aid the spread of these unwanted plants into bushland and open spaces.

Please note: Cotoneaster and Firethorn (*Pyracantha* species) are often confused with each other. Cotoneaster are similar to the Firethorn but lack thorns



A coastal native shrub with an incredibly variable habit from 0.5 to 6 m high. It benefits from tip pruning and shaping when young. The bright, pale yellow bird-attracting flowers occur in cylindrical spikes to 10 cm from spring to autumn. Will tolerate frost, coastal and drought conditions. This quick growing plant is also a potential windbreak and fire retardant. Also available in dwarf forms. Look for 'Mini Marg' and others at your local garden centre.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### Japanese Camellia

Camellia japonica hybrids and cultivars.



Photo: Macbird Floraprint

These sought after and showy winter flowering shrubs have glossy evergreen foliage and are extremely hardy with few pests or diseases. Although there are some sun-hardy varieties available, most prefer partshade. There are innumerable cultivars available in a range of colours from the purest white to deep rich pink, reds and bicolours. A recent introduction is a cream-yellow form. A visit to your local garden centre will reveal the delights and extent of the range available. They are water wise once established and respond well to mulching. The foliage is sought after by florists and is used in every facet of flower arranging.





Native to Tasmania, NSW, ACT and Victoria. It is an upright, hardy shrub to 3 m high by 2 m wide with slender spreading branches. The fresh lemon coloured flower spikes present a pleasing contrast to the greygreen foliage. This frost-hardy plant will grow in moist soils in full-sun or part-shade. It can withstand moderate exposure to salt laden winds. A desirable specimen or screen plant.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint





Originally from Europe, this almost completely deciduous shrub grows to 4 m high. It has serrated, pinnate leaves and heads of lacy, cream flowers in summer through to early autumn. The flowers are followed by shiny, purple-black berries. This plant has become very invasive of roadsides, old gardens and disturbed bushland

Photo: Robert Chin

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Spread mainly by birds, which excrete the seeds in their droppings.
- Tends to develop suckers (new plants) from roots around the parent plant.
- It can also be spread by water, machinery, the movement of soil, and by garden waste dumping

Please note: The berries of this plant are known to be poisonous.

### Photinia Photinia glabra 'Rubens'



A dense evergreen shrub to 5 m. New leaves are bright red, showy and mature to dark green. An ideal hedging plant that responds well to pruning. Thrives in full-sun to part-shade. New quick growing cultivars are 'Super Red', 'Super Hedge' or the fast growing 'Super Bronze'.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### Victorian Mint Bush. Victorian Christmas Bush

Prostanthera lasianthos

The largest of the native mint bushes and is widely distributed in many parts of south-eastern Australia including Tasmania. It is a tall shrub or small tree to 4.5 m high with toothed lancedshaped foliage. The lightly scented flowers are mauve or pink in clusters and appear from winter through to early summer. Flowers are followed by seed vessels turning bright green, then bronze. This plant is variable in flower colour and ultimate height depending on location. Grows in a wide range of environments and tolerates frosts and cold climates.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint

### **Purple Leaved Plum, Blireana** Prunus x blireana

Deciduous, vase shaped tree growing to around 5 m high. This hybrid is sterile, so does not produce fruit. It has slender, arching branches. double mauve-pink flowers in spring and reddish-purple leaves which turn purplish-green in summer. It prefers full-sun in well-drained soils. This frost tolerant species is commonly used as a street tree.

Photo: Macbird Floraprint







A large prickly deciduous shrub or small tree to 10 m that was previously grown for hedges or cheap barrier fences. These plants form a dense, impenetrable thicket and can dominate the under story of bushland. Now prevalent along roadsides invading natural bushland and unproductive farmland.

### **HOW THEY SPREAD**

• This plant produces copious bunches of scarlet red fruits spread by birds, small mammals and machinery.



This hardy Tasmanian native shrub grown to 4 m high. Its dense, prickly branches provide protection for smaller birds against predators. The flowers are creamy-white, sweetly scented and borne in dense terminal panicles. Flowers are usually seen in mid summer, around Christmas and are followed by attractive seed capsules. It prefers a sunny or lightly shaded situation in reasonably drained soils.

Photo: Mallee Native Plants

### Japanese Flo Malus floribunda

**Japanese Flowering Crab Apple** *Malus floribunda* 

An attractive deciduous tree to 5 m high and wide. Single flowers are mildly fragrant and borne in abundant clusters from mid-spring. The reddish-pink outer of the petals fades to pink and the inside of the petals fades to white followed by small insignificant yellow and red crab apples Once established, this species can tolerate drought. Grows best in full-sun.

Photo: Fleming's Nurseries

## Malus ioensis 'Plena' A se 6 n flor dou pro app by gree tree full red are tree tree

**Betchel's Crab Apple** 

A sought after deciduous tree to 6 m high with excellent spring floral display. Mildly fragrant double rose-like flowers with prominent yellow stamens appear in late spring followed by a sparse quantity of small, green crab apples. This small tree prefers well-drained soils in full-sun to partial shade. The rich red and orange autumn colours are an additional feature of this tree. An ideal feature tree.

Photo: Macbird Floraprin





This evergreen shrub or small tree is slow growing when young but can reach a massive 20 m at maturity. Glossy, darkgreen leaves are spiny and sharply toothed. Bright-red winter berries occur only after pollination between male and female plants.

Photo: Flemina's Nurserie

### **HOW IT SPREADS**

- Birds and small mammals ingest berries and the seed is dispersed.
- Plants can spread by suckering and layering.

Seedlings and maturing plants are difficult and costly to remove. While red berried plants add interest and texture to the garden, it is best to avoid these species that so readily naturalise in bushland.



A shrub or small tree to 15 m, this Tasmanian native is common in the under-storey of forests in many parts of the lowlands. Often associated with watercourses, it can sometimes occur in dry places. In cultivation they are generally hardy and appreciate adequate drainage and full-sun to part-shade. They have dark green leaves with toothed edges and grayish hairs on the underside. Large cream heads of flowers in spring.

Photo: Habitat Plants

## Sweet Viburnum Viburnum odoratissimum Evergreer or small are large Flowers a and fragra by bright an inforr Grows in and can Used as arrangem vase life.

Evergreen, fast-growing shrub or small tree to 6 m. Leaves are large, shiny and leathery. Flowers are white, star-shaped and fragrant in clusters followed by bright red fruit. Suitable as an informal hedge or screen. Grows in full-sun to semi-shade and can be clipped or pruned. Used as cut foliage for flower arrangements and has a long vase life.

Photo: Lorna Rose



This large shrub is similar in looks to holly, with mid-green, finely toothed leaves and small white flowers that are highly scented in the evening Osmanthus will grow to 4 m and will grow well in shady areas.

Photo: Lorna Rose



### Gardeners' notes and checklists

Use this page to make notes, plant lists or questions to ask gardening experts.		
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### 9) Further information and additional resources

There are many areas of information regarding invasive plants and it can become overwhelming! Here are some useful sources of information to help you learn more about invasive plants.

- **1. Your local nursery or garden centre -** Most employ trained nursery professionals or qualified horticulturists who are knowledgeable in regard to all aspects of plant selection.
- Your local council or shire Have information about plants considered invasive in your local area and some good indigenous alternatives.
- **3. Australian Government -** Weeds in Australia Website. An excellent website with a good range of information, references, lists, databases and pictures and other resources. Visit www.weeds.gov.au for more information.
- **4. Weeds Australia via the Australian Weeds Committee** A national website resource created by the Australian Weeds Committee to promote access to key weed policies, regulations, current issues, national initiatives, research, extension, training and personnel. Visit www.weeds.org.au for more information.
- 5. Nursery & Garden Industry Tasmania (NGIT) Natural Resources TAFE
  4a Bounty Street
  WARRANE TAS 7018
  Ph. +61 3 6244 7977 Fax. +61 3 6244 7977
- **6. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) -** The Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is the national peak body for the nursery and garden industries in Australia. Their website provides useful information on invasive plants. Visit www.ngia.com.au and www.lifeisagarden.com.au for more information.







