KING ISLAND
LOCAL PLANTING GUIDE

Cradle Coast NRM

January 2013

Cradle Coast NRM has collated information to create a local planting guide for each of the nine municipalities in the Cradle Coast region.

The guide lists plants which are common throughout the region and identifies local (endemic) plants found in select areas.

To assist with the selection of plants that are suitable to your needs, the guide identifies the vegetation community, soil type, purpose and propagation of each plant species.

All listed plants are easy to propagate from seed or are available to purchase from native plant nurseries.

BENEFITS OF LOCAL SPECIES PLANTING

Local or indigenous plants are the original native plants occurring naturally in a specific area, and there are many benefits in using them to revegetate the local landscape.

Indigenous plants have adapted over thousands of years to the conditions of a geographic area, thus are ideally suited to the particular climate and soil conditions of a site.

Local fauna species have also adapted to specific vegetation, and are often reliant on local plants for their survival.

Planting a mix of indigenous overstorey, understorey and groundcover species creates a more biologically diverse environment.

Indigenous plants provide many environmental benefits as well as fulfill farm purposes such as the provision of shelter, wind breaks, soil erosion control, provide timber for fence posts and firewood.

The benefits of local plant species:

relatively lower inputs to establish and maintain;
tolerant of local environmental conditions;
maintenance of the ecology and biodiversity of an area;
provide a balanced and suitable habitat for native fauna ;
contribute to the productivity of farm enterprises;
maintain the unique character of the landscape; and
prevent and reverse degradation of land.

KING ISLAND MUNICIPALITY

KING ISLAND

Scientific name	Common name	Vegetation community									Soil type							Purpose					Propagation		
		Coastal	Rainforest	Wet Eucalypt Forest	Dry Eucalypt Forest and Woodland	Grassy Vegetation	Heath	Sedgeland and Wetland	Riparian	Montane Vegetation	Well drained soil	Poorly drained soil	Sandy soil	Loamy soil	Clay soil	Poor soil	Fertile soil	Low flammability	Erosion control	Shelter belts	Bush tucker	Water Wise	From seed	From cuttings	From division of plant
Ground Covers																									
Carpobrotus rossii	Pigface	o									o		o	o		o		o	o		o	o	o		o
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common Everlasting				o						o		o	o	o		o					o	o		
Hibbertia procumbens	Spreading Guineaflower				o		o				o		o			o			o					o	
Tetragonia implexicoma	Bower Spinach	o											o					o	o		o		o		
Grasses, Lillies, Sedges																									
Austrostipa stipoides	Coastal Spear Grass	o									o		o			o			o				o		
Baloskion tetraphyllus	Tassel Rush		o		o	o	o		o		o	o	o	o	o		o		o					o	
Carex appressa	Tall Sedge				o			o	o			o							o				o		o
Carex fascicularis	Tassel Sedge								o		o	o		o		o	o						o		
Dianella tasmanica	Tasman Flax Lily		o	o					o		o	o	o	o	o				o				o		
Diplarrena latifolia	**Butterfly Flag Iris**						o			o		o													o
Ficinea nodosa	Knobby Club Sedge	o					o	o	o				o		o				o				o		o
Gahnia grandis	Cutting Grass	o	o	o	o						o	o	o	o	o		o		o				o		
Juncus pallidus	Pale Rush								o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o			o				o		o
Juncus kraussii	Sea Rush	o						o			o	o		o	o	o			o				o		
Poa labillardierei	Tussock Grass			o			o	o	o	o	o		o	o	o	o			o			o	o		o
Poa poiformis	Coastal Tussock Grass	o									o		o	o		o			o			o	o		o
Climbers																									
Billardiera longiflora	Climbing Blue Berry	o		o							o		o	o	o				o				o	o	
Clematis aristata	Old Mans Beard		o	o	o						o			o			o						o		

*Note that plant species in bold are endemic to this municipality

The format and some of the species information in this planting guide is based on the Understorey Network Plant Species Lists.

UNDERSTOREY NETWORK

Planting a mixture of local species creates a more biological diverse environment

Photo Greg Jordan

Acacia verniciflua - Varnished Wattle

Scientific name	Common name	Vegetation community									Soil type							Purpose					Propagation		
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Shrubs																									
Acacia sophorae	Coastal Wattle	o									o		o			o						o	o			
Acacia suaveolens	Sweet Scented Wattle	o					o				o		o			o				o			o			
Acacia verticillata	Prickly Moses	o		o	o		o				o	o	o	o	o	o	o			o			o			
Aotus ericoides	Golden Pea	o		o		o					o		o			o							o			
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	o		o	o		o				o	o	o	o	o	o							o			
Bauera rubioides	Dog Rose			o			o					o							o				o			
Bursaria spinosa	Prickly Box				o						o		o	o	o	o	o			o		o	o			
Calytrix tetragona	Fringe Myrtle	o									o		o											o		
Casuarina monilifera	**Necklace Sheoak**	o					o						o	o		o				o		o	o			
Coprosma quadrifida	Native Currant			o	o						o	o	o	o		o	o				o			o		
Correa alba	White Correa	o					o				o		o	o		o		o						o		
Correa backhousiana	Velvet Correa	o		o							o		o		o									o		
Dodonaea viscosa	Hop Bush	o			o						o		o			o				o		o	o			
Leptospermum lanigerum	Wolly Tea Tree	o		o					o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o			o			o			
Leptospermum scoparium	Common Tea Tree	o			o		o					o	o			o				o		o	o			
Leucophyta brownii	Coastal Cushion Bush	o									o		o				o						o	o		
Leucopogon parviflorus	Currant Bush	o									o		o		o				o							
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark	o		o					o			o			o		o						o			
Melaleuca squamea	Swamp Honey Myrtle	o					o	o		o	o	o		o		o							o			
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark			o			o		o			o	o										o			
Myoporum insulare	Coastal Boobialla	o											o					o					o	o		
Olearia argophylla	Native pear			o							o								o				o	o		
Olearia lirata	Snowy Daisy Bush			o							o												o			
Pultenaea daphnoides	Native Daphne	o	o		o						o												o	o		
Rhagodia candolleana	Coastal Saltbush	o						o			o	o	o	o					o				o			
Tasmannia lanceolata	Mountain Pepper		o	o						o	o					o	o				o		o	o		
Trees																										
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood	o	o	o	o				o		o	o		o			o			o		o	o			
Acacia mucronata	Willow Wattle		o	o								o			o					o				o		
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheoak	o			o						o		o	o		o	o			o		o	o			
Atherosperma moschatum	Sassafras		o	o							o			o			o						o			
Casuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak	o			o						o		o	o		o				o		o	o			
Eucalyptus globulus	King Island Blue Gum	o		o	o						o	o	o	o	o	o	o						o			
Eucalytpus viminalis	White Gum			o	o				o		o		o	o	o	o	o					o	o			
Nematolepis squamea	Satinwood		o	o	o				o						o	o	o		o	o			o	o		
Pittosporum bicolor	Cheesewood			o						o	o			o		o	o		o	o						
Pomaderris apetala	Dogwood	o	o	o	o				o		o	o	o	o	o	o	o						o			

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Local plants offer many maintenance, environmental and productivity advantages

TESTING FOR SOIL TYPE

A simple soil texture test can be carried out using the ribbon technique to identify the soil type before planting. This texture test is a simple soil classification comprised of sandy, loam and clay categories. Repeat 2-3 times for consistent results.

1. Dig a hole about 15cm deep and take a small hand-ful of soil.

2. Add enough water to make a ball. If you can't make a ball, the soil is very sandy.

3. Feel the ball with your fingers to find out if it is gritty (sand), silky (silt) or plastic/sticky (clay).

4. Reroll the ball and with your thumb gently press it out over your forefinger to make a hanging ribbon. Sandy soils form a ribbon length up to 25mm.

5. If you can make a short ribbon your soil texture is loamy, a mixture of sand and clay. Loamy soils form a ribbon length between 25mm to 50mm.

6. The longer the ribbon, the more clay is in your soil. Clay soils form a ribbon longer than 50mm.

References

Australian Plants Society Tasmania North West Group 2005, Grow local: a guide to local native plants suitable for gardens in the Cradle Coast region, Australian Plants Society Tasmania North West Group.

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Understorey Network, Plant Species Lists, http://www.understorey-network.org.au.

PO Box 338
1-3 Spring Street
Burnie Tasmania 7320

Phone: 03 6431 6285
Fax: 03 6431 7014
E-mail: nrm@cradlecoast.com
www.cradlecoastnrm.com.