Live Bayside

Plant Bayside

Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

Bayside City Council
76 Royal Avenue,
Sandringham. VIC 3191.
Tel: 9599 4444

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

What are indigenous plants?

Indigenous plants are the original flora, or plants that occur naturally, in a given location. Because they have evolved to the conditions within the local environment, indigenous plants are well adapted to the soils, topography and climate of the local area. Indigenous species also help to maintain the ecological balance of the local ecosystem, as plants and animals depend upon one another in an often complicated interrelationship. In many instances, the loss of particular plants or animals from one area can result in the loss of other organisms in another.

The benefits of growing indigenous plants are that they:

- are perfectly suited to our local soils and climate, and many species will thrive without fertilisers or sprays
- require little maintenance to keep them looking healthy
- can withstand Melbourne's hot, dry summers and long dry periods with little or no watering
- grow quickly and often flower within the first season of being planted
- have greater resistance to disease
- attract and provide food and shelter for local native birds, insects and other animals
- reflect Bayside's natural character, preserving and enhancing a sense of local identity
- will save you money and water
- offer you an opportunity to grow a more sustainable garden
- contribute to the preservation of Bayside's natural biodiversity.

Indigenous or native plants

Many retail nurseries sell 'native' plants. This refers to any plant found in Australia, as opposed to an 'indigenous' plant that is specific to a region e.g. Bayside. Just like plants introduced from another country, native plants have the potential to become an environmental weed. For example the Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) from Western Australia was a popular native commercial nursery plant that is now aggressively invading bushland around Victoria. Hybridization is also a problem.

When two species crossbreed they can create a third species e.g. Horse x Donkey = Mule. Many native Correas have crossed with indigenous Correas to create hybrids that outcompete and displace indigenous Correas in the natural environment. It is therefore important to source your indigenous plants from your local indigenous nursery that use locally collected seeds or cuttings to ensure the genetic form of the plant is from the Bayside region.

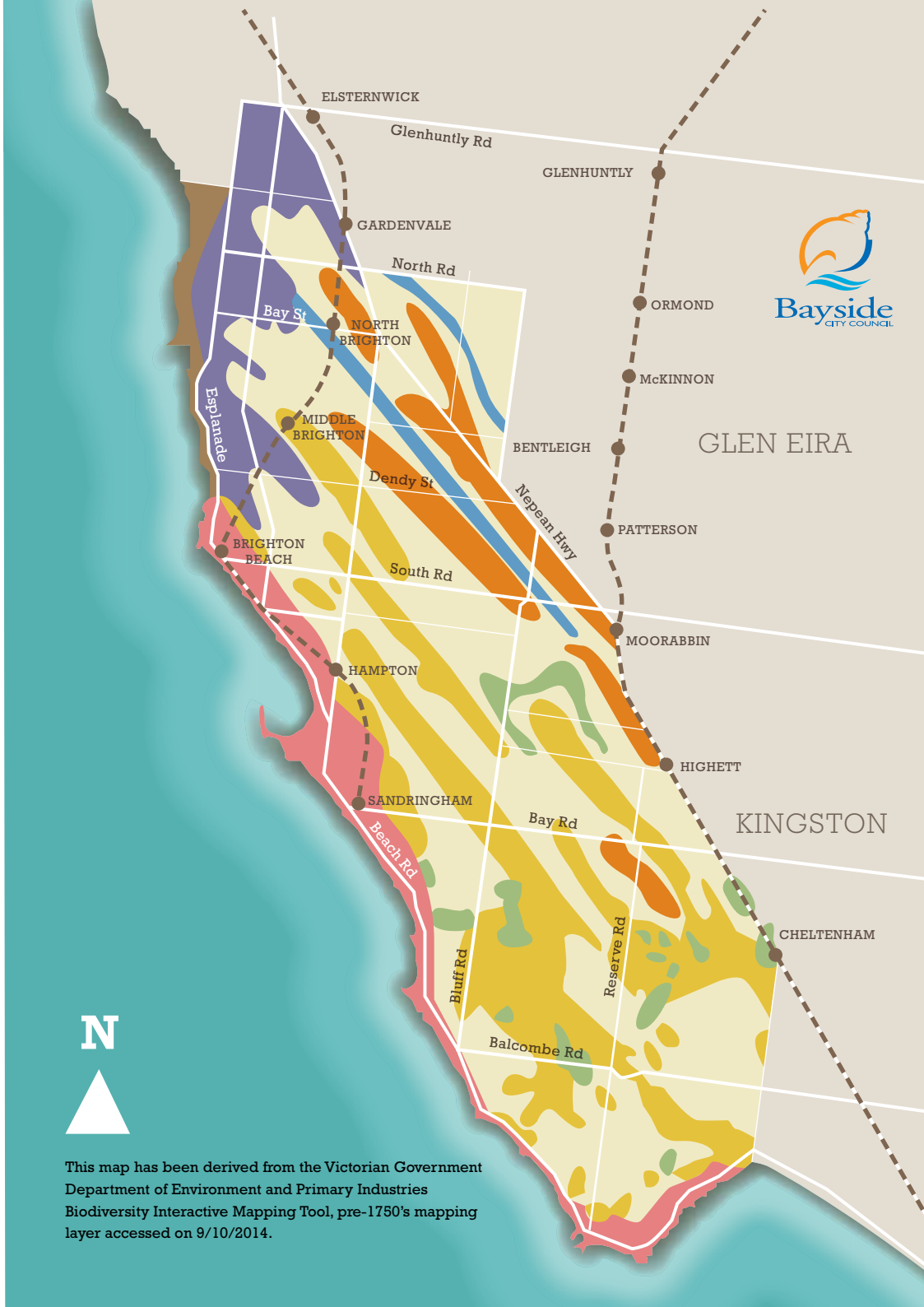
Indigenous plants in the garden

Many of Bayside's local indigenous plant species look great in any garden, providing spectacular displays of colour and texture throughout the seasons. Indigenous plants can be used successfully to create formal, bush-style or cottage gardens, contemporary garden designs or planted out in containers to create attractive courtyards or balconies.

Bayside's original vegetation communities

The vegetation of Bayside has changed dramatically since Europeans first settled in 1844. Well over 260 species have since disappeared, and many more are now considered rare or threatened, and of those species remaining, a number are considered rare. Large tracts of heathlands and woodlands were progressively cleared to make way for roads, market gardens, housing and industry. However, geological data, the location of remnant vegetation and historical field notes enable us to determine the location of Bayside's original vegetation communities. This information provides guidance as to the ideal location for various indigenous plants to thrive.

- Coastal Dune Grassland/Scrub
- Coastal Banksia Woodland/Dune Scrub
- Swamp Scrub
- Herb-rich Woodland
- Sedgy Swamp Woodland
- Heathy Woodland
- Heathy Scrub/Woodland
- Grassy Woodland

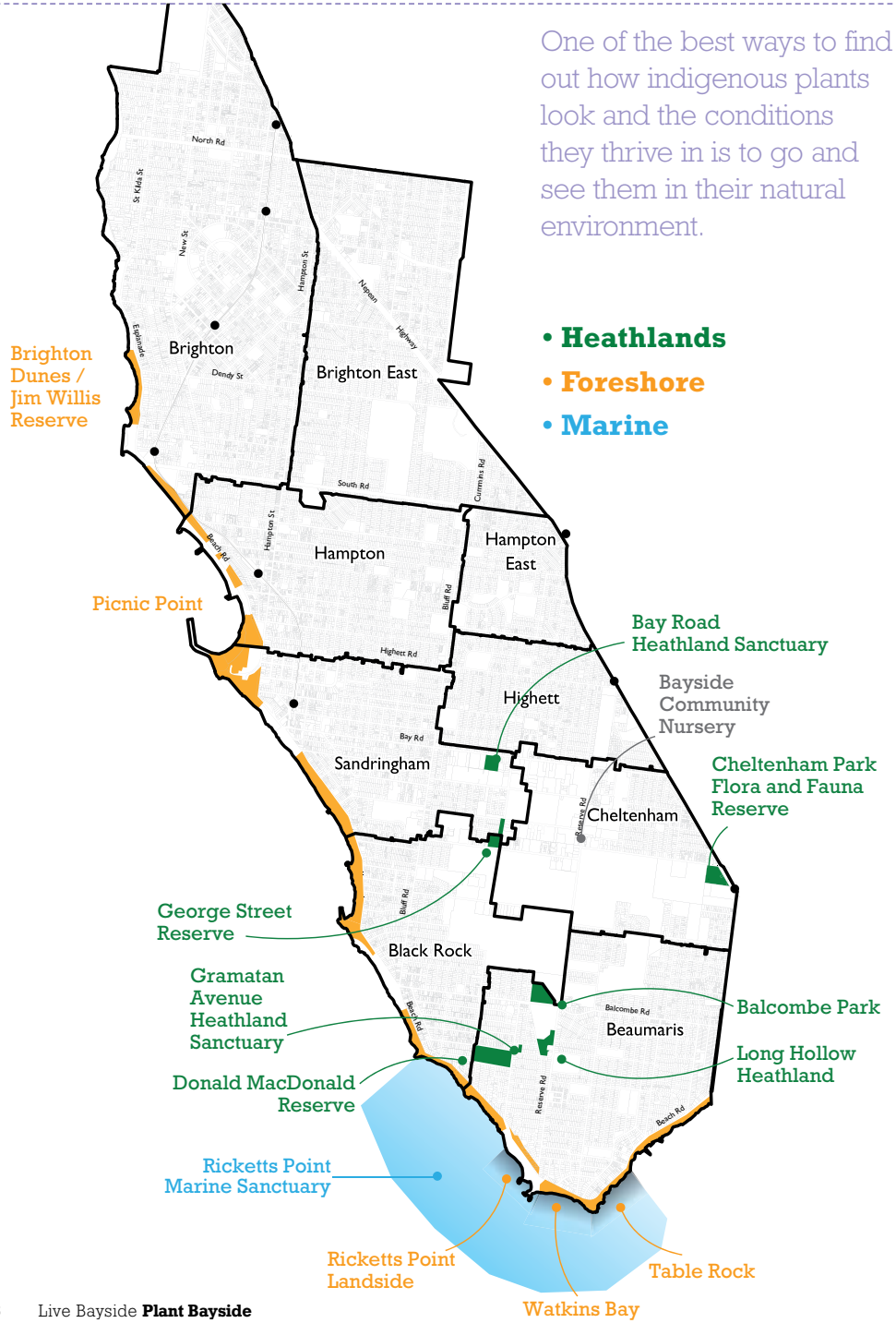


This map has been derived from the Victorian Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries Biodiversity Interactive Mapping Tool, pre-1750's mapping layer accessed on 9/10/2014.

Bayside's Natural Bushland Reserves

One of the best ways to find out how indigenous plants look and the conditions they thrive in is to go and see them in their natural environment.

- **Heathlands**
- **Foreshore**
- **Marine**



Get involved and learn

Many of Bayside's bushland reserves are supported by a local 'Friends Group'. Volunteers meet regularly at the reserves to collect seed, plant and help conserve the area. It's a great way to learn about indigenous plants, help maintain Bayside's unique vegetation communities and meet wonderful people in your local community. Visit:**www.bayside.vic.gov.au/getting_involved**

Bayside Community Plant Nursery

The place to buy healthy indigenous plants for your Bayside garden. A great range of plants available as well as expert advice and guidance on indigenous plant selection and maintenance.

Open to the public from 10am to 12 noon on Thursdays and Saturdays. The nursery only sells plants from April to October each year as this is the best time to plant.

319 Reserve Road
Cheltenham
Tel: 9583 8408

The nursery also has a volunteer program that contributes to the propagation and running of the nursery and new volunteers are always welcome. For further information contact the nursery on 9583 8408.

Garden Design

Creating your indigenous garden.

If you are starting from scratch or redesigning a garden bed, one of the best things you can do is observe your garden for a year. This will give you an accurate picture of your garden through all the seasons when light and shade and moisture can vary enormously. Regardless of whether you have the patience to do this or not, the starting point with garden design is to do a site analysis of your garden. It allows you to identify the pros and cons, limitations and possibilities for your garden. It is also important to work with your site. If you know a section of your garden is shady and damp, select plants that are suited to those conditions rather than trying to change the site.

Create layers within your garden to add interest.

Main considerations

Indigenous plants can be used to beautiful effect in almost any style of garden. When deciding where and what to plant consider the garden as a whole, taking into account such things as:

1. **The style of garden** you are trying to create, and how you would like it to fit into your local landscape or neighbourhood. Examples include a bush garden, contemporary garden or cottage garden. If you already have an existing garden featuring exotic plants, think about how indigenous species could work with them.
2. **How you use your garden** – consider including features such as a bench under a tree to sit and relax, or a path that meanders through different areas within the garden.
3. **Design elements** such as feature trees and the inclusion of different layers of shrubs, grasses, flowers and groundcovers. Consider the colours and textures of flowers and foliage and how they will work together in the garden.
4. **Habitat elements** such as bird baths placed near prickly shrubs (for shelter), nest boxes in large trees, large rocks for lizard lounging, or a pond with refuge logs for frogs.
5. **The function, mature size and growing requirements** of each plant. Ideally, plants with similar growing requirements should be grouped together to maximise growth and efficiency of water use.

Before you start to plan your new garden remember to look up for powerlines and check for services below ground. It may be a wasted effort to plant extensively in easements where access for maintenance and other works may be required.

Habitat Gardening

One of the many benefits of indigenous plants is that they can attract a large range of wildlife, including insects, birds and lizards. With some thoughtful design, you may be surprised at the types of animals you can attract to your garden, even in suburban areas.

Select a variety of plants to create a complex and natural structure, including large trees, small and large shrubs, groundcovers, grasses and sedges. Plants that produce flowers and seeds provide food for many of our native birds and mammals, whilst prickly shrubs provide them with a refuge in which to build their homes or escape from predators. Dense prickly shrubs and mature trees such as *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and *Leptospermum continentale* (Prickly Tea-tree) can provide homes for a large range of insect, bird and mammal species.

Dead trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for many of our native fauna. Take notice of any wildlife that visits your garden before you remove any dead trees or shrubs, as they may be providing a source of food or habitat.

In addition to dead shrubs and trees, leaving a few logs (particularly those containing hollows), sticks and leaves on the ground can provide habitat for many local insects and lizards.

Attracting birds

Australia has a rich and diverse range of bird species found nowhere else in the world. Indigenous gardens provide a safe haven for our native birds. Many bird species will prey on garden pests such as caterpillars and aphids, contributing to non-chemical pest control in the garden. To create a bird attracting garden consider the following points.

Shelter

Birds need shelter from predators such as cats and Noisy Miners. By providing prickly or dense plants at various levels in your garden you can provide a safe place for them to retreat to and create nesting sites.

Water

A reliable water source, particularly in summer, will attract birds to your garden. A birdbath on a pedestal next to a dense or prickly shrub will help birds feel secure.


Hedge Wattle


Birdbath

Bird Icons
The following bird icons appear in the Indigenous Plant List pages 28-60. The icon appears with those plants that provide food or shelter for different bird groups.

Honeyeaters
such as Spinebills, Wattlebirds and Honeyeaters

Large Birds
such as owls, Tawny Frogmouth and Kookaburras.

Small Birds
such as Wrens, Robins and Fantails

Parrots
such as Rosellas, Lorikeets and Cockatoos

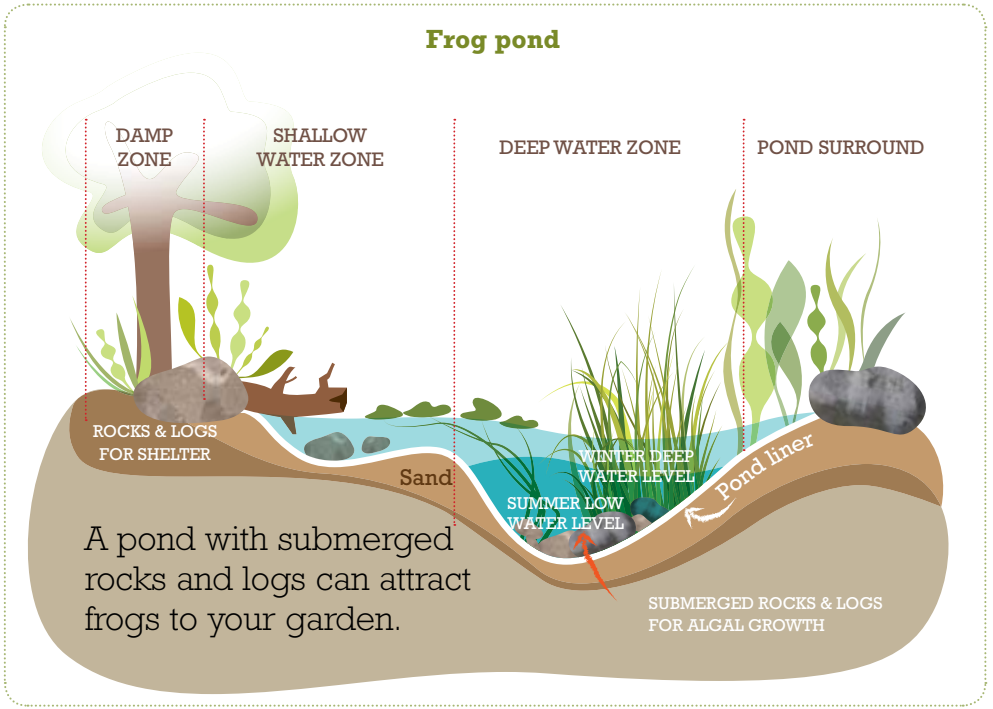
Frogs

What could be lovelier than being serenaded to sleep by singing frogs? They also feast on mosquitoes, flies and slugs. An excellent non-chemical pest controller in the garden.

You can attract frogs by installing a pond in your garden, especially if you live near a wetland or waterway. It is illegal to collect frogs from the natural environment. You need to create a permanent, frog-friendly garden and hope they move in.

Building a frog pond

Locate your pond in a low-lying section of the garden that has around 70% shade. You can buy ready-made ponds or dig you own and line it with a heavy-duty pond liner. Ensure your pond has varying depth that includes a shallow entry point and a deeper section (30-50cm) to place potted aquatic plants. Cover the bottom with washed gravel. Add rocks and logs to create climbing spots. Allow your pond to fill with rainwater and then add your plants.



A pump should not be necessary as tadpoles and eggs can be destroyed. Avoid floating surface plants such as Azolla and Duckweed as they can quickly cover a pond reducing light and oxygen levels. Do not introduce fish into your pond as they will snack on tadpoles.

Plants to attract frogs

Deep water zone:	Shallow water zone:	Damp zone:	Pond surround:
Water Millfoil *(Myriophyllum crispatum)*	Common Sedge *(Carex tereticaulis)*	Marsh Club-sedge *(Bolboschoenus medianus)*	Spiny-headed Mat-rush *(Lomandra longifolia)*
Nardoo *(Marsilea drummondii)*	Tassel Sedge *(Carex fascicularis)*	Swamp Stonecrop *(Crassula helmsii)*	Flax-lilies *(Dianella spp.)*

For a more extensive range of plants visit the Bayside Community Plant Nursery or look for the frog icon in the Indigenous Plant List pp 28-60.

Frogs

Butterflies

Butterflies are a welcome addition to any garden and are easily attracted with a few simple design principles.

To attract butterflies put out a dish of damp sand and a flat rock to bask in the morning sun. Provide sheltered, shady positions throughout the garden to retreat during the heat of the day. Butterflies prefer flat flowers, such as daisies, that are easy to land on to extract nectar. They are attracted to a range of coloured flowers, in particular, blue, yellow and red.


Australian Painted lady

Look for the butterfly icon in the Indigenous Plant List (pp 28-60) for plants that provide food and shelter for butterflies.

Butterflies

Utilising runoff

In the natural environment rain slowly filters through the soil into the groundwater table and eventually enters our rivers and streams. The flow rate is slowed down and excess nutrients and pollutants are removed. This process results in clean water entering our waterways. In Bayside's urbanised landscape, many of our surfaces, such as roads, have been sealed and are impervious to water. Consequently when it rains, large volumes of water rapidly enters out stormwater system carrying litter and pollutants, and enters our creeks and rivers, and eventually Port Phillip Bay. Stormwater runoff represents a valuable resource that can be utilised by gardeners.

Downpipe diversion

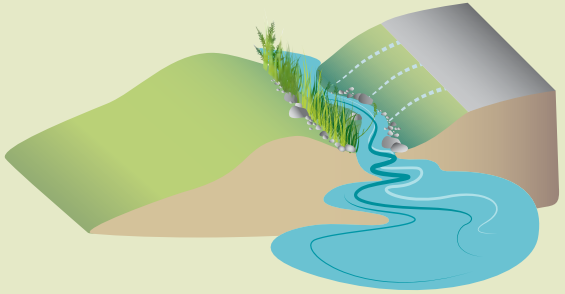
By diverting one or more downpipes around your property you can direct stormwater onto your garden beds or lawn. A downpipe diversion can easily be fitted to your downpipe by a licensed plumber.

Landscaping

If you are paving consider creating a space between that will enable water to percolate into the soil. Granitic and sand paths require more maintenance than concrete but will allow water to seep into the ground.

Swales

Water can be directed onto your garden beds by gently sloping the surface of driveways and patios towards your garden beds or lawn area. Consider building a swale (vegetated channel) positioned to move runoff from your hard surfaces to your garden or a small wetland.



Raingardens

A raingarden is a gravel filled trench designed to receive stormwater directly from a disconnected downpipe or runoff from surrounding hard surfaces. Water entering a raingarden is slowed and filtered helping to protect our waterways. Raingardens consist of layers of soil for filtration, gravel for drainage, and plants that can tolerate both extreme wet and dry conditions. There are many different types of raingardens from planter boxes to a trench.

For a list of indigenous plants appropriate for raingardens refer to page 20.

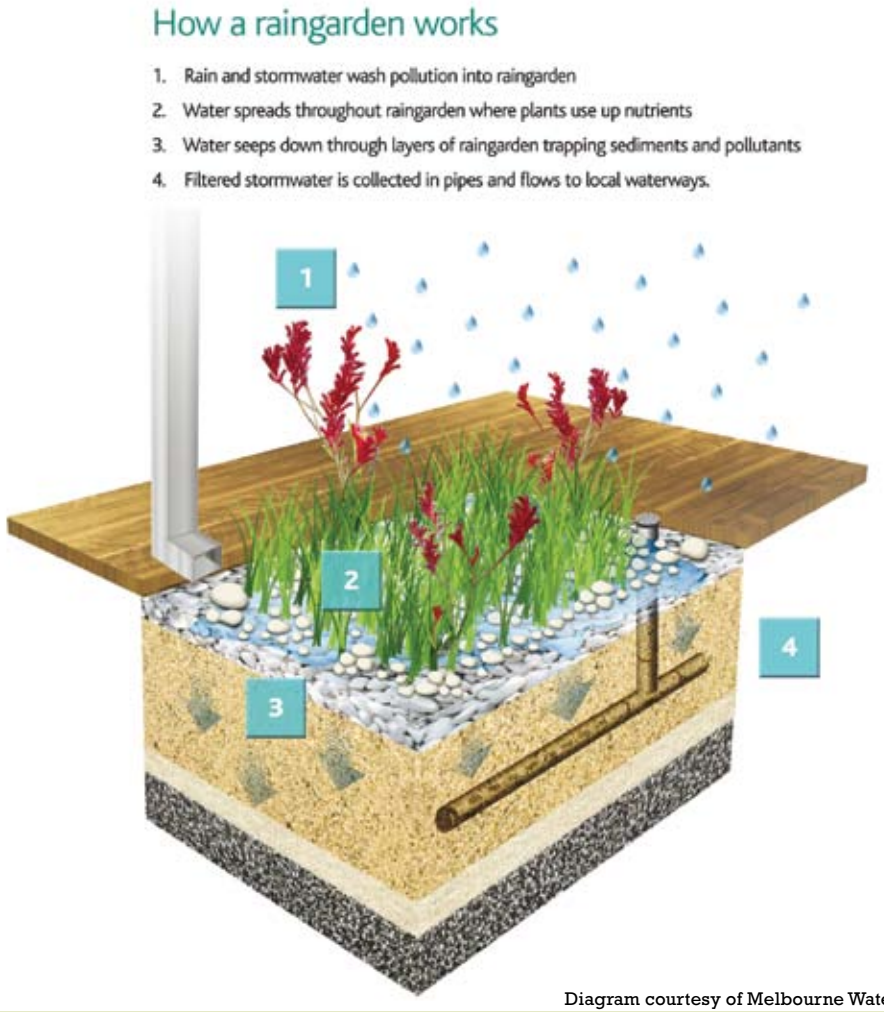


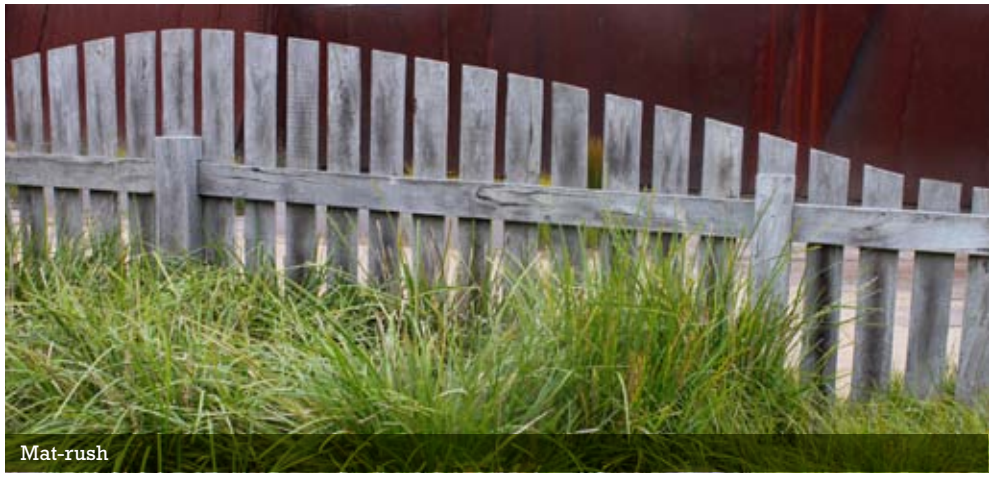
Diagram courtesy of Melbourne Water

For excellent and detailed instruction sheets visit:
www.melbournewater.com.au/raingardens

Designing with indigenous plants

Indigenous plants can be used to create a natural garden, can be grown in pots, arranged formally to enhance a traditional garden, or be used as cut flowers. In fact, there is probably an indigenous plant for every use in your garden. The following list provides examples of how some indigenous plants can be used to landscape your garden.

Coast Tea-tree



Mat-rush

Hedges and borders

Many indigenous plants are responsive to pruning and can therefore be grown to form a hedge:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Correa alba	White Correa	48
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	50
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	51
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	54

Small shrubs that can be pruned to shape:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Correa alba	White Correa	48
Correa reflexa	Common Correa	48
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia	50
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Leucophyta brownii	Cushion Bush	51
Oleria axillaris	Coast Daisy-bush	55
Viminaria juncea	Golden Spray	55

Many indigenous tussock forming species are ideal to use as border plants:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dianella spp.	Flax-lillies	40 & 41
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Patersonia occidentalis	Long Purple-flag	42
Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock-grass	42
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo-grass	43

Feature trees

Some indigenous plants make ideal specimen trees for feature planting in a lawn or garden bed. Some species suitable for a large garden are:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia implexa	Lightwood	57
Banksia integrifolia	Coast Banksia	58
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	59
Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana	Coast Manna-gum	60

The following species perform well as individual trees in a smaller garden:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping She-oak	58
Eucalyptus pauciflora	Snow Gum	59

Groundcovers

These plants look great in rockeries or to fill space beneath a shrub layer:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	32
Carpobrotus rossi	Karkalla	33
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Disphyma crassifolium	Rounded Noon-flower	34
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	35
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman	36
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	37


Kidney-weed


Karkalla

Lawn alternatives

Native lawns, once established, require much less water and fertiliser than traditional lawns. The various species tolerate light to heavy traffic, so ask your nursery which is best for your situation.

Some species suitable as a native lawn include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush	35
Rytidosperma spp.	Wallaby-grasses	43
Microlena stipoides	Weeping grass	41

Screen plants

Screen planting is often necessary to create privacy, conceal undesirable views or buffer wind and noise:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acacia sophorae	Coast Wattle	53
Acacia melonoxylon	Blackwood	57
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	59
Leptospermum laevigatum	Coast Tea-tree	60
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark	54
Myoporum insulare	Common Boobialla	54


Small-leaved Clematis (on fence)

Hop Goodenia (the shrub underneath)

Shady conditions

Indigenous plants that perform particularly well in the shade include:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	32
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	40 & 41
Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed	34
Dillwynia glaberrima	Heath Parrot-pea	49
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	37

Raingardens

In this situation plants need to be drought tolerant but cope with being periodically inundated when it rains. The following plants perform well:

Botanical name	Common name	Page no.
Dianella spp.	Flax-lilies	40 & 41
Ficinia nodosa	Knobby Club-sedge	45
Juncus spp.	Rushes	45
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	46
Lepidosperma spp.	Sword-sedges	46
Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock-grass	42

Planting for nature strips

Bayside residents are permitted to plant out their nature strips with indigenous grasses, groundcovers and low growing shrubs listed in the Bayside Nature Strip Planting Guidelines. (subject to Council or VicRoads consent).

A minimum of 500mm must be kept clear from the kerb to allow people to safely exit their cars. Plants (except street trees) must be maintained at a maximum height of 600mm. Corner blocks are limited to ground cover plants to a maximum height of 250 mm within 9 metres either side of an intersection to ensure a clear line of sight for motorists and pedestrians. A minimum of 1.5 metres from the property line is to be kept clear to allow for pedestrian access, mail, paper and other deliveries.

Residents can request Council plant a street tree on their nature strip.

Fine gravels such as granitic sand can be laid to a depth of 75mm. Mulch or bark chips can also be used. These must be level with the footpath and weed free. Mulch also needs to be kept on the nature strip and not spill onto the footpath.

If you would like to plant out your nature strip you will need to ensure you prune plants so they don't protrude beyond the boundary and don't exceed the height restrictions. You will be responsible for keeping your nature strip free of weeds, rubbish and any tripping hazards.

If you live on a major arterial road e.g. Bluff Road, you will need to obtain a ''Works within the Road Reserve Permit'' from VicRoads **(Tel: 13 11 71).** If you live on a local road contact Council **(Tel: 9599 4444)**.

For further information visit: **www.bayside.vic.gov.au**

Planting and Maintenance

There are four important elements to successful planting:

•Plant selection •Site preparation •Planting technique •Maintenance

Plant selection

When it comes to selecting indigenous plants for your garden always consider which species are most appropriate for your site. For example, a Swamp Gum is well suited for planting in a gully situation but would not do well if planted on a dry hilltop. To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown. The Bayside Community Plant Nursery will be able to help you with selecting suitable plants.

Also consider how plants may interact with each other, especially the impact large trees may have in your garden as they mature. If they are not carefully selected and positioned, large trees may shade out sun-loving plants underneath them, impact nearby buildings or plumbing with their vigorous roots, or create problems with leaves dropping in gutters.

When choosing plants from a nursery, remember that tall plants in larger pots will not necessarily give you better results. Tubestock (plants in 15cm tall plastic tubes) will generally catch up with and outgrow larger, more mature stock. They are also easier to establish in difficult sites with poor soils.

When ordering a large numbers of plants from the Bayside Community Plant Nursery, stock should be ordered well in advance.

Site preparation

To find the ideal spot for your plant, consider its soil, moisture and sunlight requirements and potential size when fully grown.

Soil

Bayside's predominantly sandy soils tend to be free draining and low in nutrients, while lower lying areas contain higher organic content and moisture-holding capacity. Sandy soils can be improved by adding compost or other organic matter.

Remember that indigenous plants have adapted to local conditions, so selecting the right plant for your soil conditions will greatly improve your chances of success.

If you need to bring soil into your site, remember that imported soils can bring new weed seeds and diseases to your neighbourhood, so always use locally obtained soils if possible.

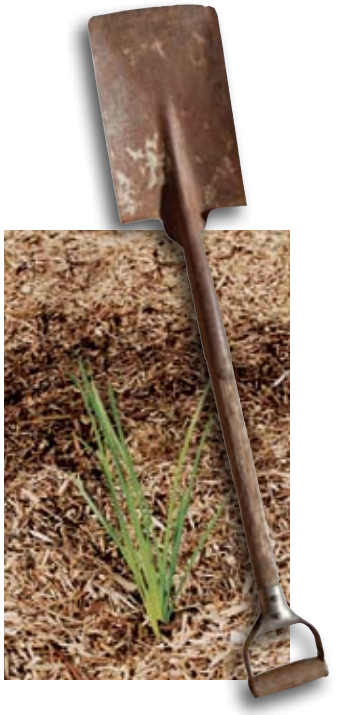
Pre-planting mulch

Good quality mulch should be spread over your garden to a minimum depth of 10cm prior to planting. Covering the soil surface with mulch can improve soil structure, nutrient availability and water retention, and prevent future weed growth. If you are on a bush block it is important to identify existing indigenous vegetation to ensure you do not mulch over the top of it.

Ensure that the mulch you select is made from a sustainable resource. Chipped waste wood and green waste mulches are generally a good option. Always ensure that any green waste has been well composted before use to kill any weed seeds that may be present.

Weeds

Weeds should be controlled prior to planting to reduce competition and post-planting maintenance. There are a range of techniques and products that can be effective in controlling weeds, including both chemical and non-chemical methods.



Mulch improves soil and helps to prevent weed growth.

Planting technique

Once your site is well prepared you can begin planting. Generally, planting after the first heavy autumn rain is the best time for dry or exposed sites. For frost prone areas, spring may be a more appropriate time for planting. Try to avoid any planting during the summer period.

Step 1

Prepare the planting hole

The planting hole should be approximately twice the width of the plant container and slightly deeper. Remember to dig the hole into the soil below the mulch – if you plant straight into the mulch your plant will dry out and die.

Step 2

Pre-soaking

Give your plants a thorough pre-soaking in a bucket of water prior to planting. In dry soils, fill the hole with water and allow it to drain before planting.

Step 3

Prepare the plant

Any particularly long or coiled roots protruding through the bottom of the pot can be pruned with sharp secateurs before removing the plant from the pot. Some root disturbance is tolerable but be careful not to damage living roots. When planting good quality tubestock, it is not necessary to 'tickle', or tease out the plant's roots.

Step 4

Remove the plant from the pot

This is best achieved by turning the pot upside down and striking the rim gently against a solid object.

Step 5

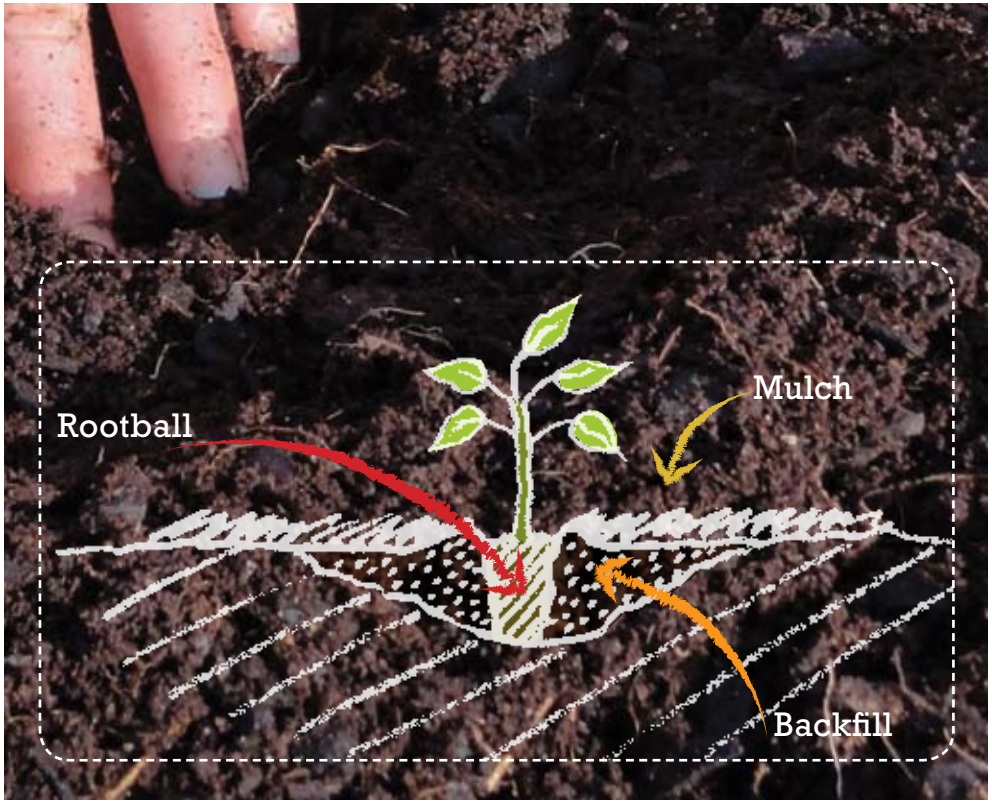
Place the plant into the hole

So that the plant is a little lower than the original soil level. Firmly replace the soil around the plant, breaking up any lumps as you go.

Step 6

Water the plant in well

Initially all plants need to be watered individually to settle soil around the root system. Plants may require a good deep soaking once a week when establishing, particularly during dry periods.



Maintainance

One of the great things about indigenous plants is that they require very little maintenance. With just a little work each year, your indigenous garden will continue to look healthy, neat and beautiful.

1. Reducing competition

Controlling and removing weeds in areas of your garden or property that contain indigenous vegetation reduces competition for water, light and nutrients, helping to enhance growth.

If active pets are a problem, add a tree guard. Remove once the plant has become established.

2. Watering

Monitor new plants during their first summer. If there has not been a good soaking rain by mid summer, they will benefit from weekly or fortnightly watering. Deep, occasional watering will help the plant establish deeper roots.

3. Mulching

Topping-up mulch annually helps to increase water retention and over time, will increase the organic matter in your soils.

Mulching tips

- Avoid hot, steaming mulch, as this indicates that it is still composting.
- Check for and remove mulch-borne seedlings to prevent weed invasion.
- Mulch to about 10cm to allow rain penetration, suppress weeds and reduce soil moisture loss.

Tree guard

Common Everlasting

4. Pruning

In a garden setting, many indigenous plants will respond well to careful pruning, and many will provide better shows of flowers if heavily pruned.

Pruning is usually best carried out after the plant has finished flowering. If you are developing a hedge, begin pruning early in the plant's life.

5. Fertiliser

Fertilisers aren't usually necessary when growing indigenous plants and may encourage weed growth. Too much fertiliser can also cause fast, soft plant growth, leaving plants more vulnerable to insect attack or harsh climatic conditions.

Too much phosphorus in particular, can kill many indigenous plants. The addition of compost or other organic matter is a much better option for promoting healthy growth.

If you do choose to fertilise, mix a small amount of slow-release, low phosphate fertiliser with the soil and backfill into the hole. Further fertilising is not usually necessary.

Bayside
Indigenous Plant List

The following is a list of plants you may wish to include in your garden.

Please note: All plant sizes mentioned in this publication are approximate. Environmental conditions will influence the final height and width of a plant. If you are keen to attract wildlife to your garden the following icons indicate plants that will attract different wildlife:

Small birds such as Wrens, Robins and Fantails

Honeyeaters such as Spinebills, Wattlebirds and Honeyeaters

Parrots such as Rosellas, Lorikeets and Cockatoos

Butterflies such as the Australian Painted lady and Common Grass-blue

Frogs such as the Growling Grass Frog

Lizards such as Skinks and Blue Tongue Lizards

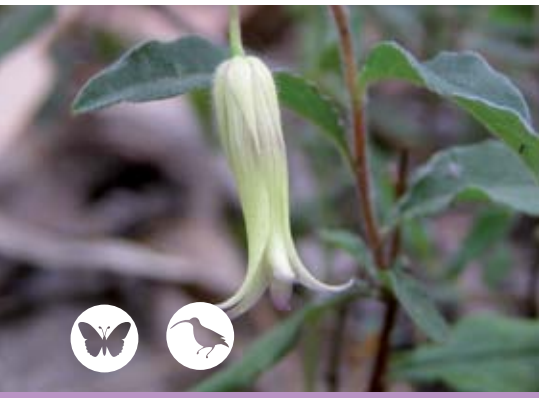
Mammals such as Sugar Gliders

Large birds such as owls, Tawny Frogmouth and Kookaburras.

Creepers and climbers

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

Hardenbegia violacea
Purple Coral-pea



Billardiera scandens var. scandens
Common Apple-berry

A vigorous, long-lived climber with bell shaped flowers. Grows well under established trees, amongst shrubs or trained along a fence or trellis.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit

- A soft climber that gently winds its way along the stems and branches of other plants.

Flowers and foliage

- Leaves 2-4cm long.
- A profusion of narrow yellow tubular flowers hanging from the branches. Flowering usually occurs from July to December, followed by light green berries.

Preferred growing conditions

- Well-drained dry to moist heavier soils.
- Full sun to complete shade.
- Does not tolerate salt winds.

Clematis microphylla
Small-leaved Clematis

A vigorous, showy climber with sweetly scented star-like flowers and attractive, feathery seed heads.

Natural vegetation community

- Heath/woodland and Dune scrub/ woodland.

Size and habit

- A scrambling climber that grows over shrubs and small trees. Can be trained to cover a fence or trellis.

Flowers and foliage

- Clusters of greenish-cream starry flowers 3-4 cm across.
- Flowering usually occurs from July to November.
- Small, dull green, oblong leaves.
- Feathery seed heads.

Preferred growing conditions

- Grows well in all well-drained soils.
- Full sun or part shade.
- Tolerates moderately salty winds.

Herbs and Groundcovers

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

Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman

HERBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

Acaena novae-zealandiae
Bidgee-widgee

A carpeting groundcover with widely spreading stems. Useful for binding soil.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- Creeping groundcover that dies back during winter.
- Spreads from 1-4m.

Flowers and foliage
- Greenish-white globular flowers from October to January.
- Fruits are brown and burr-like. Readily stick to clothing and can be a nuisance in areas of high traffic.

Preferred growing conditions
- Tolerates all soils, wet and dry conditions.
- Full to part sun.
- Tolerates salt wind.

Carpobrotus rossi
Karkalla

An excellent soil binder on sandy, exposed locations.

Natural vegetation community
- Dune scrub/woodland.

Size and habit
- A spreading groundcover.
- Prostrate to 1-3m wide.

Flowers and foliage
- A profusion of showy pink-purple flowers from August to February. Flowers only open on sunny days.
- Globular, reddish-purple salty fruit.
- Clusters of fleshy, succulent leaves.

Preferred growing conditions
- Will grow in all well-drained soils.
- Full sun to part shade.
- Tolerates salt winds.

Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Common Everlasting

This attractive herb requires regular pruning to encourage new growth.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- Grows to 10-30cm high spreading to 50cm-1m.
- Excellent in rockeries or mass planting.

Flowers and foliage
- Bright yellow, button-like flower heads mainly from September to December, but can flower all year round.
- Leaves an attractive silver grey and densely hairy.
- Prune heavily in winter to rejuventate.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all well-drained soil and tolerates dry conditions.
- Full sun.

Dichondra repens
Kidney-weed

This plant is a vigorous groundcover that can be grown to suppress weeds or provide a great lawn alternative where traffic is light.

Natural vegetation community
- Heath/woodland.

Size and habit
- A matting plant that spreads quickly to 1-2m.
- Easily divided and transplanted.

Flowers and foliage
- Light to dark green, kidney shaped leaves to approximately 2cm across.
- Inconspicuous creamy-green flowers September to December.

Preferred growing conditions
- Grows in all local soils.
- Spreads widely in moist conditions.
- Grows in partial to complete shade.
- Tolerates some salt winds.


Bayside
CITY COUNCIL