



Living  
Connections  
CREATING GARDENS FOR LIFE

# WAVERLEY HABITAT GARDENING GUIDE



This project is part of the Greener Neighbourhoods grant program that is proudly funded by the NSW Government.

second  
nature





Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidiagal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



This Habitat Gardening Guide will help you select suitable indigenous plants and habitat elements for your Waverley garden. As part of the Living Connections Program, the guide aims to assist the community to create urban habitat on private land to improve and support our local biodiversity.



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# INTRODUCTION

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

Waverley Council is one of the most densely populated Council areas, with just under 6 hectares of remnant vegetation, that is areas where native trees, shrubs and grasses have not been significantly disturbed by development. These patches of indigenous vegetation provide valuable habitat, food and shelter for wildlife, and are irreplaceable features of our natural heritage.

Council tends these areas and undertakes buffer planting of native plants around them, to increase the health and diversity of our remnant sites. However, as these small areas of vegetation are not connected, it is challenging for wildlife to move between them,

or to nearby habitat locations to feed and reproduce. This puts pressure on ecological populations, and in some instances has led to local extinctions of plant and animal species.

Council is increasing indigenous native planting around our bushland remnants, in parks and reserves, and through the Living Connections program, we are working with residents to create habitat gardens on private property. The aim is to provide links between the habitat corridors, so animals can move freely between habitats in Waverley and to other nearby habitat areas. Find out how you can join the Living Connections program and receive free native seedlings and advice here:

Your garden is an important link in improving habitat connectivity for native animals in Waverley, to allow wildlife to travel through the area freely, to feed, reproduce and thrive.

## WAVERLEY'S COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY

Waverley Council has committed to being "Nature Positive", which means halting and reversing the loss of nature so that species and ecosystems can be restored and recover. Through the Environmental Action Plan and the Urban Greening and Cooling Strategy, the following goals will ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced.

**Protect and increase** local bushland, parks, urban canopy cover and habitat areas

**20% of remnant vegetation** is in good condition by 2030

**35% Green Cover** (20% canopy cover and 15% shrub and ground covers) by 2032.

**1000 habitat gardens** are established by 2032.

## SMALL BIRD FOCUS

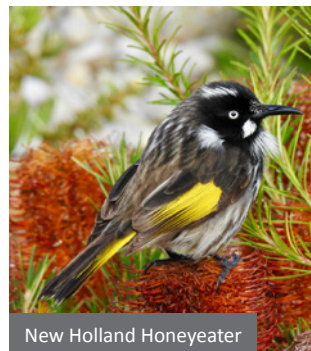
Data from bird surveys and anecdotal evidence show a decrease in small bird populations in residential areas, and an increase in numbers of larger, more pushy birds such as Noisy Miners and Currawongs. Small birds, such as the Superb Fairy-wren and New Holland Honeyeater, require dense vegetation to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

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

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



Superb Fairy-wren



New Holland Honeyeater





# WHAT IS AN URBAN HABITAT GARDEN?

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

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



## INDIGENOUS VERSES NATIVE PLANTS

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

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

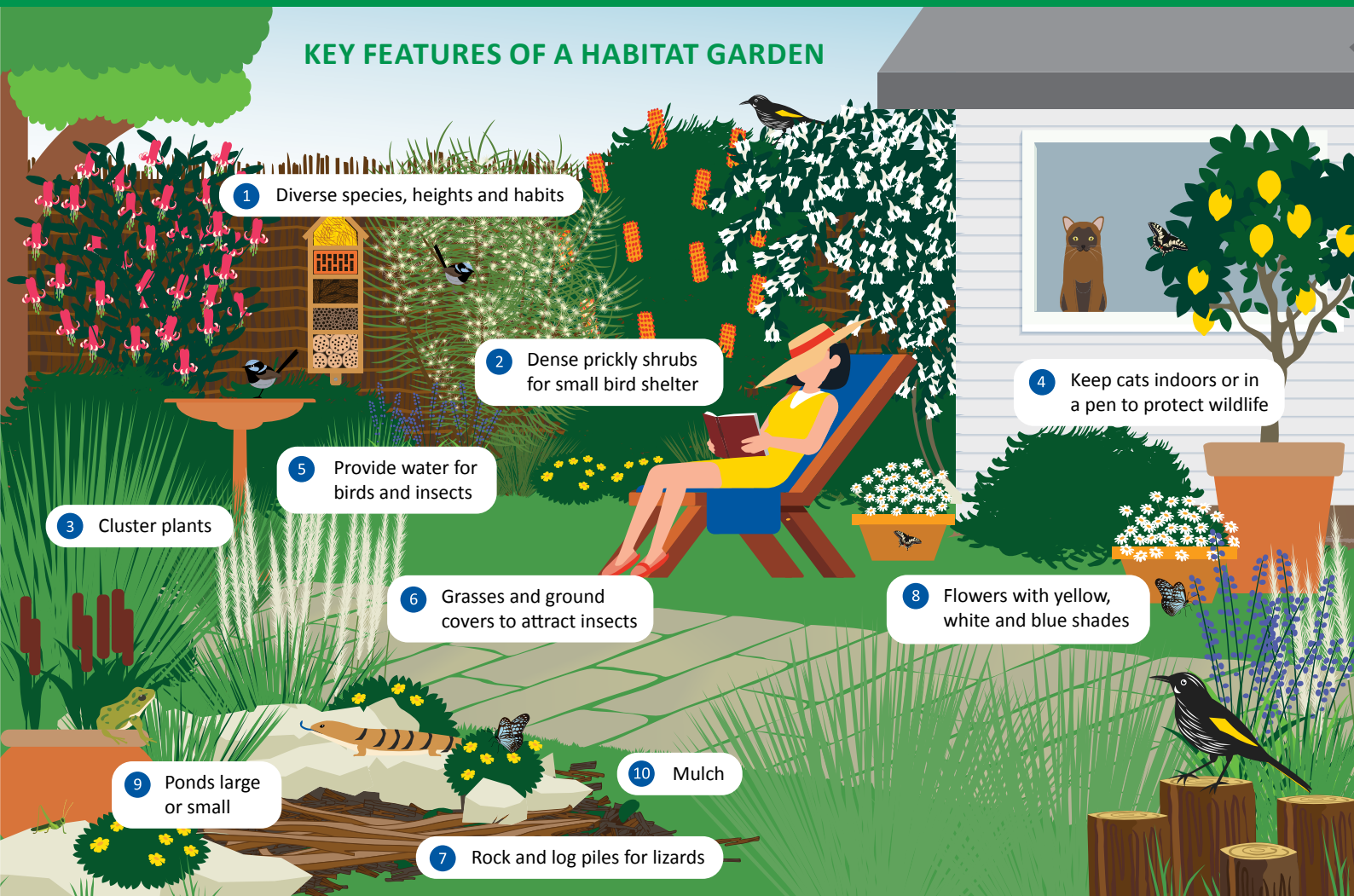


Acacia Suaveolens



Banksia Ericifolia

## KEY FEATURES OF A HABITAT GARDEN



### 1. Diverse species, heights and habits

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

### 2. Dense prickly shrubs

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

### 3. Cluster plants

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

### 4. Keep cats indoors

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

### 5. Provide water for birds and insects

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

### 6. Grasses and ground covers

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

### 7. Log and rock piles

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

### 8. Choosing flowers

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

### 9. Ponds

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

### 10. Mulch

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





# PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

## SUN

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

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

## WIND

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

## SOIL

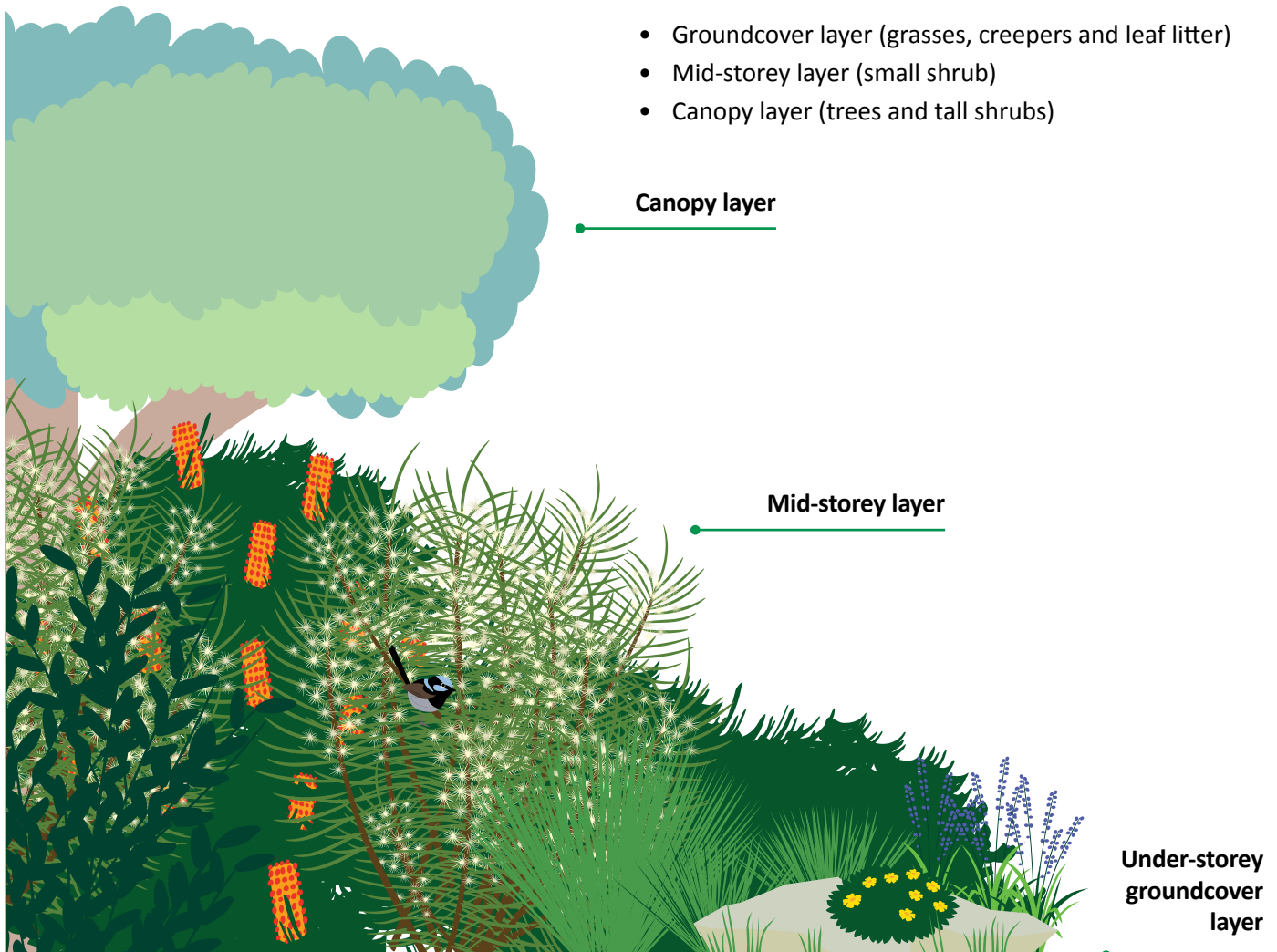
Local indigenous plants have evolved with our sandy soils, so you don't need to add soil to your garden to enrich it. If you need to add soil to a new raised garden bed, ensure you buy a native mix.

## STRUCTURE

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

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

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



### Groundcover layer

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

### Mid-storey layer

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

### Canopy layer

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

## DESIGN

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

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

## COURTYARDS AND BALCONIES

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

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



Example of structure and texture in a habitat garden



Group pots together for protection





# ATTRACTING SMALL BIRDS, LIZARDS AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

## SMALL BIRDS

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

### WHAT TO AVOID

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

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

## LIZARDS

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

### WHAT TO AVOID

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

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



Blue-tongue Lizard



## BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

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

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

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

## MICROBATS

There are five recorded species of microbat in Waverley, four of which are listed as threatened in NSW.

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



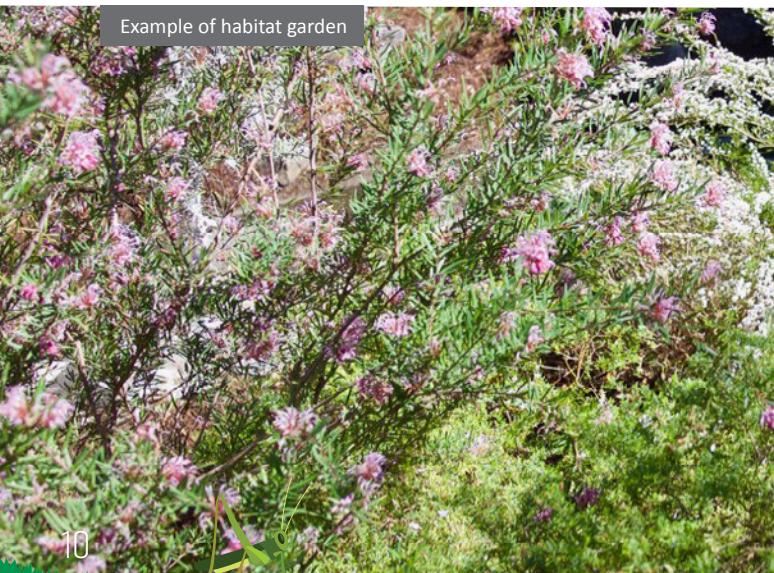
Blue Banded Bee



Blue Triangle Butterfly



Large Bentwing Bat



Example of habitat garden





# CARING FOR WILDLIFE



New Holland Honeyeater

## REDUCE PESTICIDE USE

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

## CATS

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

## FRUIT TREE NETS

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

## DON'T FEED THE BIRDS

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

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

## HELP DETER COMMON (INDIAN) MYNAS

Common Mynas, also called Indian Mynas, were introduced to Australia in 1862 to control insect pests in crops. They have since spread and become a nuisance in urban areas along the eastern coast, where they find an abundance of food and breeding sites.

Common Mynas are sometimes confused with the native Noisy Miners as they both have yellow beaks and eye patches, but the Common Mynas are brown with a black head and neck, while the Australian Noisy miners are predominantly grey. They are both aggressive birds and successfully outcompete with other birds for food and nesting sites.

Common Mynas eat pet food and garbage, nest in roofs and eaves of houses and are aggressive towards many of our native bird species and small animals, actively defending territory and nesting sites. They gather in large groups and can spread mites and disease.

Council is seeking community assistance to deter Common Mynas from the area and help bring back native birds and animals by taking a few simple steps.

### Here's how:

- Prevent access to food waste, compost and uneaten pet food, by keeping a lid on bins and feed pets indoors
- Remove bird feeders which can also attract rats and mice
- Common Mynas like open spaces, so creating a garden that uses a good mix of locally native species which is native-bird friendly will deter them
- Repair eaves and gaps in your roof - but check for possums first
- Keep exotic palms well-trimmed as they like to nest in dead palm fronds & remove berry producing weeds from your garden
- Avoid planting exotic species such as Cocos Palm, Slash Pine, Radiata Pine, and Umbrella Tree, as these are all preferred Indian Myna roosting trees.



Invasive Common Myna





Contribute to vital research and record native wildlife you spot locally. Sign up to iNaturalist [inaturalist.org.au](https://www.inaturalist.org) snap a photo and upload your observation.



# PLANTING GUIDE

Use the species list towards the end of this guide to select indigenous plants suited to your planting location, based on the style of garden you'd like to create.

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

## PREPARATION

Before planting prepare the area by removing weeds, loosening any compacted soil and pruning any nearby plants to make light for the new plants. Check [Sydneyweeds.org.au](http://Sydneyweeds.org.au) for weed identification and best removal techniques.

## HOW TO PLANT

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

## WATERING

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

## FERTILISER

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

## PRUNING

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

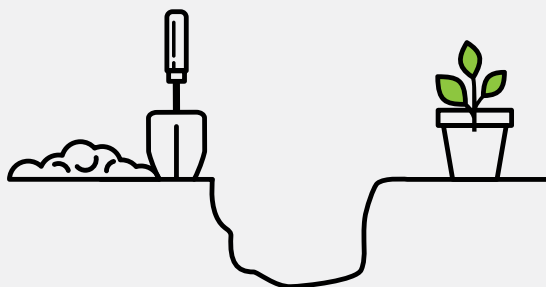
Example of pruned Westringia





# 7 STEPS TO PLANT YOUR NATIVE GARDEN

1



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

2



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

3



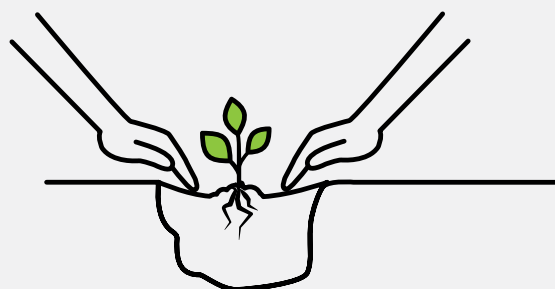
With your hand over the soil at the top of the pot and the plant stem between your fingers, turn the plant in the pot upside down and gently pull the pot off. If the roots are tightly bound, loosen them gently with your fingers. Pulling the plant upwards by the stem will damage the fragile surface roots.

4



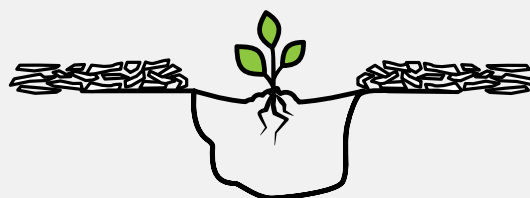
Turn the plant up the right way and place it into the hole (without the pot). Hold the plant so that it is standing upright and straight in the middle of the hole, while you fill in the rest of the hole with the soil you saved (make sure you fill with soil, and not with mulch). Use your fingers to push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

5



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

6



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

7



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





# MORE WAYS TO GREEN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

## GOT AN URGE TO PLANT YOUR VERGE?

Public space gardening can beautify and green our neighbourhoods. It can also cool streets, support biodiversity and contribute to community cohesion and well-being.

Council has a quick and easy verge garden approvals process. Taking consideration of factors such as existing trees and other structures, the Verge Gardening Guidelines will help residents establish a garden directly in front of their property.

[Find out more here](#)

## SHARED COMMUNITY GARDENS

Joining a shared garden is a great way to connect with other gardeners and care for the local green spaces. Council supports many community shared gardens in the area and highly values the contribution of the local volunteers.

[Find out more here](#)

## REQUEST A STREET TREE

Request a tree for your verge to help create a shadier, greener street.

A tree will be selected from Council's Street Tree Master Plan and planted by Council.

Just log a request online and use the 'trees' option.

**Did you know? Studies have found that cars drive slower in tree lined streets!**

Waverley Resident with verge garden



# SPECIES LIST

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



































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

## Use the key for the following tables

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

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



















## GROUND COVERS & CLIMBERS

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Dichondra repens</i> Kidney weed	GC	Mat forming spreading ground cover. Can be used as a lawn substitute.			 	
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i> Climbing guinea flower	GC	Ground cover or climber with yellow flowers.	Sep – Jan	   	 	
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> False sarsparilla	GC	Very hardy ground cover or climber with purple flowers. ESBS plant.	Sep – Oct	   	 	
<i>Pelargonium australe</i> Wild geranium	0.5M	White flowers with purple veining. Perennial.	Oct – March	  	 	
<i>Scaevola calendulacea</i> Dune fan flower	GC	Mat forming spreading ground cover with blue fan shaped flowers.	All year		 	
<i>Viola hederacea</i> Native violet	GC	White and purple edible flowers. Suitable for no-mow lawn.	All year	  	 	
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i> Wonga wonga vine	GC	Ground cover or climber with prolific white flowers.	Sep – Nov	  		
















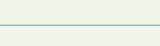

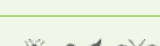



































## GRASSES & SEDGES

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i> Lemon scented grass	1M	Clumping grass with a lemon scent.	Sept – May			
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> Blue flax lily	0.5M	Blue flowers, edible purple berries. Very hardy, spreads readily via rhizomes as well as seed.	Sep – Nov			
<i>Dianella congesta</i> Coastal flax lily	1M	Blue flowers, edible purple berries. Very hardy, spreads readily via rhizomes as well as seed.	Sept – Feb			
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i> Long-hair plume grass	1.5M	Tall grass with pale fluffy flower head. ESBS plant.	Sept – Nov			
<i>Dichelachne micrantha</i> Short-hair plume grass	1M	Tall grass with pale fluffy flower head.	Sept – Nov			
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i> Knobby club	1M	Weeping sedge with seed heads. Very hardy, salt tolerant, tolerates periods of wet and dry.				
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> Red-fruit saw-sedge	1.5M	Forms grass-like tussock, large dark flower heads, tolerates periods of wet and dry.				
<i>Juncus usitatus</i> Common rush	0.5M	Very fine stems, small, brown, clustered seed heads. Tolerates periods of wet and dry.				
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> Spiny head mat rush	1M	Prickly flower heads. Very hardy. ESBS plant	Sep – Nov			
<i>Themeda australis</i> Kangaroo grass	1M	Hardy fast growing native grass with a rusty red flower head.	Sept – Mar			

## SMALL SHRUBS

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Baeckea imbricata</i> Heath myrtle	1M	White flowers, can grow in damp areas. ESBS plant.	Sept – Feb			
<i>Baeckea linifolia</i> Weeping baeckea	2M	Shrub with weeping habitat & white flowers.	Dec – Feb			
<i>Correa alba</i> White correa	1M	Good contrast shrub with grey/green leaves and white flowers. ESBS plant.	Apr – Jun			
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i> Fringe myrtle	1.5M	Shrub with pink, white flowers. Well drained soil, does well in raised beds. Short-lived.	Sept – Nov			
<i>Correa reflexa</i> Native fuchsia	1M	Red & green bell flowers, tolerates extended dry periods once established.	May – Nov			
<i>Grevillea buxifolia</i> Grey spider flower	1.5M	Shrub with grey flowers. Likes well drained soil.	Aug – Apr			
<i>Grevillea sericea</i> Pink spider flower	1.5M	Fast growing shrub with pink flowers.	Aug – Dec			

## SMALL SHRUBS (continued)

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Grevillea speciosa</i> Red spider flower	2M	Fast growing shrub with small red flowers.	Aug – Nov	  	 	
<i>Homoranthus flavescens</i>	1M	Yellow flowers, horizontal growth, suits rockery or understory planting.	Nov – Feb	  		
<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i> Thyme honeymyrtle	1M	Small shrub, frequently in flower with purple flowers. Long-lived.	Nov – Jul	  	 	
<i>Phebalium squamulosum</i> Forest phebalium	2M	Yellow, cream flowers. Suitable as low hedge when pruned	Sept – Oct	  	 	
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> Coast rosemary	2M	Very hardy salt and wind tolerant shrub with white flowers. Good hedge plant. ESBS plant.	Most of the year	  	 	



























## MEDIUM SHRUBS

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> Sydney golden wattle	4M	Yellow flowers and red stems. Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived - 4–10 years. ESBS plant.	Jun – Oct	  		
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> Myrtle wattle	3M	Yellow flowers, fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived 4–10 years.	Jun – Oct	  	 	
<i>Acacia suaveolens</i> Sweet wattle	2.5M	Creamy-yellow flowers, fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived - 4–10 years. ESBS plant.	Apr – Sept	  		
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i> Prickly moses	2M	Pale yellow flowers, spiky leaves. Fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived 4–10 years. ESBS plant.	Apr – Oct	  		
<i>Banksia oblongifolia</i> Fern-leaf banksia	2M	Yellow flower spikes, grey green leaves. Slow growing.	Mar – Aug	  	 	
<i>Banksia ericifolia</i> Heath-leaved banksia	3M	Large orange-red flower spikes, a good screening plant. ESBS plant.	Apr – Aug	  	 	
<i>Banksia marginata</i> Silver banksia	2M	Yellow flowers. Grows well in windy locations, good screen. Fairly fast growing, long lived.	Feb – Jul	  	 	
<i>Banksia robur</i> Swamp banksia	2M	Yellow-golden brown flowers spikes, large ornamental leaves. Well-drained moist soil.	Jan – Jul	  		
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i> Hairpin banksia	2M	Yellow-orange flower spikes with dainty narrow leaves. Requires well-drained soil.	Apr – Aug	  	 	
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> Large-leaf hop-bush	2M	Very hardy, green or reddish fruit. Makes a good wind break. Fast-growing, short lived.	Jun – Oct	 	 	
<i>Grevillea linearifolia</i> White spider flower	2M	Can grow in moist conditions. Fast growing with white flowers.	July – Oct	  		
<i>Hakea dactyloides</i> Finger hakea	3M	Cream-white flowers. Good hedge plant.	Sept – Oct			





## MEDIUM SHRUBS (continued)

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Hakea teretifolia</i> Dagger hakea	3M	A very prickly shrub, good for small bird habitat.	Aug – Oct			
<i>Hakea sericea</i> Silky hakea	3M	Many cluster of white flowers in winter. A very prickly shrub.	Jun – Sep			
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i> White kunzea	2.5M	White flowers, honey- like fragrance. Can grow on rock shelves and shallow soils. ESBS plant.	Sep – Nov	  		
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> Tantoon tea-tree	2.5M	Small tree of varying height with white flowers. Suited to areas that are temporarily inundated.	Sep – Dec	  		
<i>Leptospermum squarrosum</i> Peach blossom tea-tree	1.5M	Upright shrub that varies in height, pink flowers and prickly leaves. Salt tolerant.	Mar – Sep	  		
<i>Olearia tomentosa</i> Toothed daisy bush	2M	White or mauve flowered compact mounding shrub.	Sep – Feb	  		
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i> Sago bush	2M	Cream-white dense flower heads. Foliage emits pleasant fragrance after rain.	Aug – Nov			

## TALL SHRUBS

SPECIES	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FLOWERING	HABITAT VALUE	POSITION	POTS
<i>Acacia falcata</i> Sickle wattle	5M	Pale yellow flowers, fast growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived 4–10 years.	Apr – Aug	  		
<i>Acacia terminalis</i> Sunshine wattle	5M	Yellow flowers, fast growing, nitrogen-fixing. Short lived 4–10 years. ESBS plant.	Feb – Oct	 		
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Sweet bursaria	5M	White flowers, prickly branches. Very hardy.	All year	  		
<i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i> NSW christmas bush	6M	White flowers in October, pink-red sepals in December. Requires well-drained soil.	Nov – Jan	  	 	
<i>Hakea salicifolia</i> Willow leaf hakea	5M	Fast growing small tree with long leaves & white or yellow flowers, good screen.	Jun – Nov	 	 	
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> Coast tea-tree	5M	White flowers, very hardy, salt and wind tolerant. ESBS plant.	Aug – Oct	  		
<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i> Ball honey myrtle	5M	White-yellow flowers, corky or papery bark, will grow in damp conditions.	Sep – Nov	  	 	
<i>Viminaria juncea</i> Native broom	5M	Upright or weeping habit with slender waving branches and yellow flowers. Prefers moist soil, fast growing.	Sep – Nov	 	 	





1. *Acacia Longifolia*



2. *Acacia Suaveolens*



3. *Baeckea Linifolia*



4. *Banksia Ericifolia*



5. *Banksia Spinulosa*



6. *Correa Alba*



7. *Correa Reflexa*



8. *Dianella Congesta*



9. *Dichelachne Crinita*



10. *Grevillea sericea*



11. *Hakea Salicifolia*



12. *Hibbertia Scandens*







13. *Hardenbergia Violacea*



14. *Kunzea Ambigua*



15. *Leptospermum Squarrosum*



16. *Lomandra Longifolia*



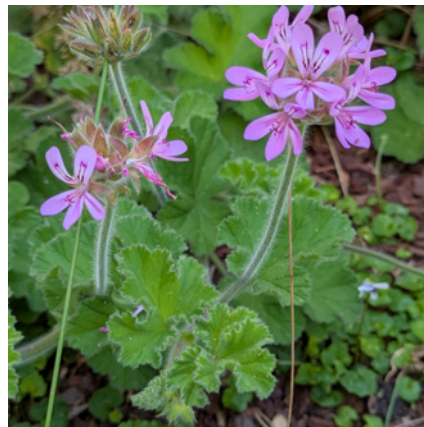
17. *Melaleuca Nodosa*



18. *Melaleuca Thymifolia*



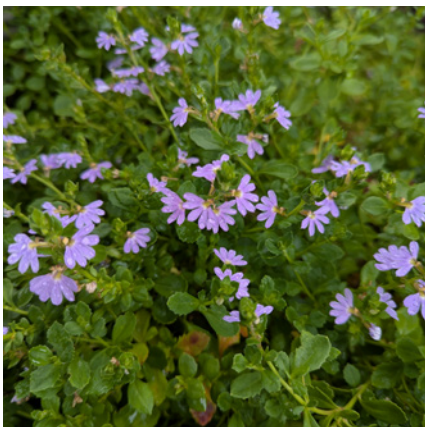
19. *Midgen Berry*



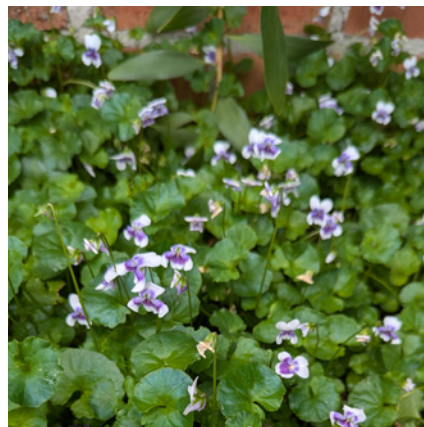
20. *Pelargonium Australe*



21. *Phebalium Squamulosam*



22. *Scaevola Calendulacea*



23. *Viola Hederacea*



24. *Westringia Fruticosa*

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

Monash Council – Gardens for Wildlife Guide

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

City of Sydney Council – Creating Habitat for urban Wildlife

Lake Macquarie City Council - Backyard Habitat Planting Guide

## PHOTO CREDITS

Page 4: New Holland Honeyeater – photo by Caroline Jones FLICKR

Page 8: Habitat garden – photo by Kath Gadd – [malleedesign.com.au](http://malleedesign.com.au)

Page 10: Blue Triangle Butterfly – photo by Bogdan Krajewski

Page 10: Large Bentwing Bat – photo by Les Halli

Page 13: Pruned Westringia – photo by Kath Gadd – [malleedesign.com.au](http://malleedesign.com.au)

## FURTHER READING

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

[Australian National Botanical Gardens](#)

[Aussie Bee](#)

[Backyard Buddies](#)

[Birds in backyards](#)

[Department of Primary Industries](#)

[Gardening with Angus](#)

[NSW Flora Online \(PlantNET\)](#)

[Sydney Bats](#)

[Sydney Weeds](#)





## NURSERIES THAT STOCK NATIVE PLANTS

### **Randwick Community Nursery**

2B Barker Street, Kingsford NSW 2032

[www.randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au)

### **Indigigrow**

Corner of Bunnerong Road & Yarra Road,

La Perouse Public School

La Perouse NSW 2036

[www.indigigrow.com.au](http://www.indigigrow.com.au)

### **Marrickville Community Native Nursery**

142 Addison Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204

[www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

### **Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery**

22 Wisdom Street, Annandale NSW 2038

[www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

### **Sutherland Community Nursery**

345 The Boulevard, Gymea NSW

[www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au)

### **Sydney Wildflower Nursery**

9 Veno Street, Heathcote, NSW, 2036

[www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au/](http://www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au/)





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