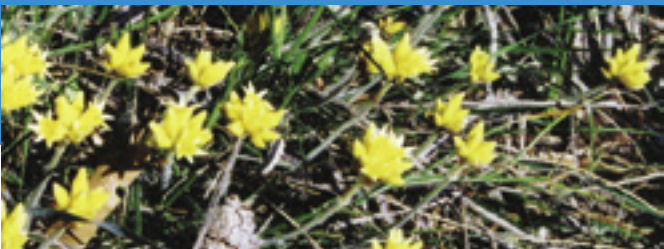


# The Western Suburbs Greening Plan



## Guide

# wildflowers and other local plants for your garden



**WESROC**

Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

# Bring the beauty and variety of plants that grow naturally in the Western Suburbs into your garden

When you choose local wildflowers, shrubs and trees for your home garden you can

**provide** food and shelter for native birds, butterflies and other animals

**save** water, fertilisers and pesticides

**enjoy** planning and watching your garden grow, knowing that it is working with nature

The information in this booklet will help you choose local plants and grow them successfully in your home garden.

Your local Council has sponsored the development of the booklet as part of the Western Suburbs Greening Plan.

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## WESROC

Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils

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Old Man's Beard

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Couch Honeypot

plan  
nurture



Western Patersonia

enjoy your garden

# why choose local plants?

Many people are now growing wildflowers and other local plants in their home gardens – and for good reasons too...



The wildflowers, shrubs and trees of the Western Suburbs are suited to our sandy, alkaline (lime) soils. In fact, they like them like that! They are also used to our hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters.

Local plants support the range of living things (or biodiversity) within our area. They provide homes and food for native birds, butterflies, frogs and other animals and provide 'stepping stones' for the movement of these animals between our bushland areas.



Photograph by Matt Williams



Photograph by Eric McCrum

The plants that belong here are easy to care for. Generally, they need less water, less fertiliser and less pruning than exotic plants so they can save you money and leave you more time to enjoy your garden.



Local plants are not invasive and, unlike some exotic species commonly used in home gardens, they do not become weeds in local bushland, parks and reserves.



There are local plants to suit every situation in your garden, whether you wish to plant one or two attractive favourites, establish a feature area or create an entire garden of wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

When you add local plants to your garden you not only make an important contribution to the greening of the Western Suburbs... you bring the beauty and variety of our world-renowned flora closer to home where you can enjoy it all year round!

Cutleaf Hibbertia



Acorn Banksia



Parrot Bush



Native wisteria

# getting started

Taking some time to carefully plan your garden will help you make choices you are happy with.

## deciding what to plant where

Where would you like to have local plants in your garden? What types of plants would you like to include? Do you need climbing plants or tall shrubs to screen a shed or fence? Would you like to create a protective thicket for birds, with perhaps a bird bath nearby? Are windbreaks needed or shady trees to sit under? If you have in mind what you want to achieve you are more likely to make suitable choices for each area. If you have an established garden, you might like to create a wildflower garden in an area where there is too much lawn or paving or where existing plants are unsuitable. Perhaps you have spaces that could be enlivened with the colours of a few new additions! Your street verge is another possibility and your local council can assist you with guidelines for choosing the types of plants that will be suitable.

## colour and flowering

Check the flowering season of your plants so that you can plan for year round colour. Different leaf colours and textures also add variety. You can mix and match a range of colourful plants to provide striking contrasts or use groupings of particular plants to feature in different areas of your garden. You might like to choose a sunny space for a colourful mass display of herbaceous plants such as kangaroo paws or fringed lilies.



## shade and sun

Most local plants like plenty of sunshine but some are more shade-tolerant than others. If you notice which parts of your garden get the sun in winter and summer you will be able to plan and create areas that give you winter sun and summer shade. Generally, sun loving plants will need to be planted on the north side of trees or buildings and shade tolerant plants will do better on the south side. Plants for the east and west walls of houses can be more shade-tolerant.

## when to plant

Natives are best planted in the autumn months of Perth's Mediterranean climate when the soil is still warm and there is time to settle in before the spring growing season and the heat and dryness of summer arrive. You can plant in spring if you are prepared to water as needed until your plants are established. Planting in the heat of summer is best avoided.

## buying your plants

At the nursery, take your time to browse and ask for advice about choosing plants most suited to your area. If possible, choose the local form of the plant – many plants sold in nurseries are cultivars that have been selectively bred or hybrids (two species that have been cross-bred). The local form of the plant will bring more environmental benefits.



Tube stock, which are young plants in small pots, are becoming more readily available and these are a good choice. Once settled in, local plants that are planted small grow quickly. You can decide on the plants you want in September/October, order them from nurseries as tube stock and they will generally be ready for collection and planting in the following autumn. If you are purchasing advanced plants be careful that they are not root bound.

## garden layout

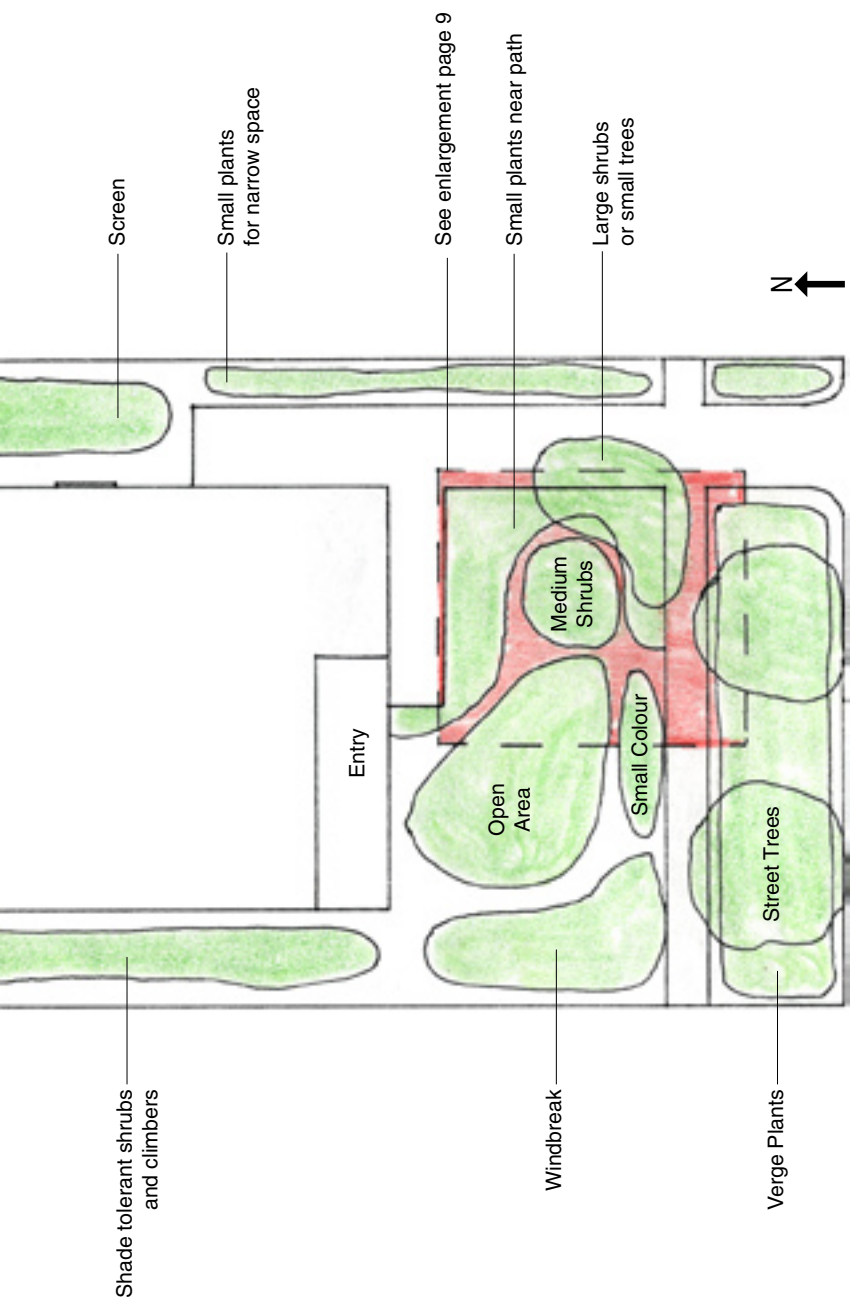
Make a scale drawing of your garden. You may already have house plans you can use. Draw in existing structures (such as pergolas, paved areas), larger plants and trees. Consider how the plants you choose will grow and leave enough space for them to mature without overcrowding. The following pages give some ideas for designing the layout of your garden.

# designing your local plants garden

Make a simple diagram to help you decide how you might use local plants generally in different parts of your garden. Put in the North point for your property and take account of the seasonal path of the sun. Below is an example garden design.







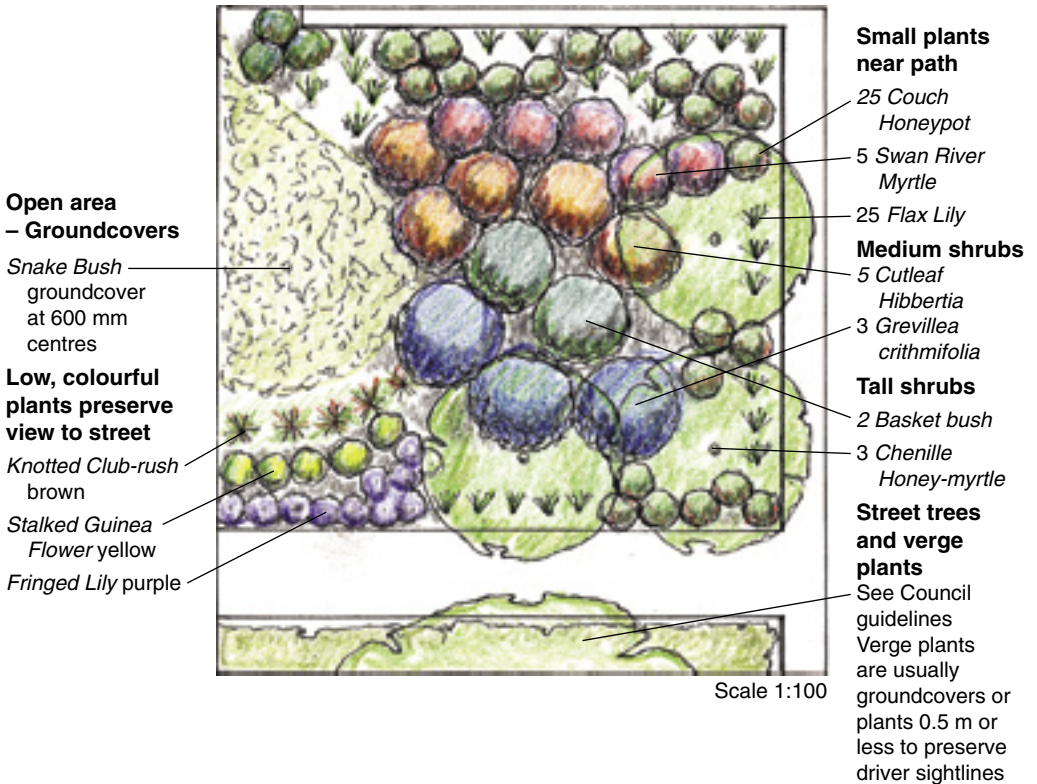
The red areas within the dashed lines are enlarged on the next two pages, to show detailed selection and spacing of plants. For which part(s) of your garden could you choose local plants?

# planning your local plants garden in detail

Below are detailed plans for selected areas in a front and rear garden.

You can use these plans to guide your choice of specific plants, and the numbers of plants that you want within areas of your own garden. Space your plants according to their height and spread.

## Front Garden Detail



## Rear Garden Detail

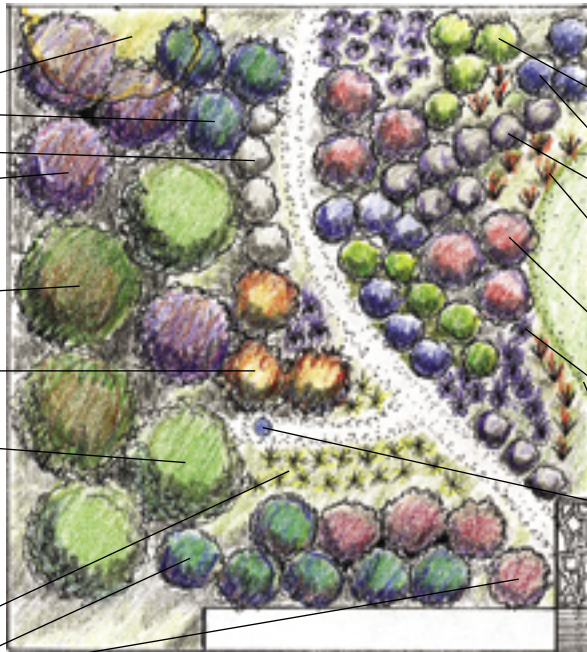
### Protective thicket for birds

- 1 *Saw Tooth Banksia*
- 3 *Spider-net Grevillea*
- 4 *Cushion Bush*
- 3 *Two-leaf*
- Hakea – prickly*

- 2 *Parrot Bush – prickly*
- 3 *Silky Leaved Blood Flower*
- 3 *One-sided Bottlebrush*

### Small shrubs and herbs preserve view through garden from house

- 19 *Grey Cottonheads*
- 6 *Spider-net Grevillea*
- 4 *Honey Myrtle*



Scale 1:100

### Sunny spot for low, colourful plants and foliage

- 9 *Dune Moses* yellow
- 9 *Rose Banjine* pink
- 10 *Cushion Bush* white foliage
- 14 *Mangles Kangaroo Paw* red/green
- 6 *Swan River Myrtle* pink
- 23 *Western Patersonia* purple

### Open play area

Bird bath

# 50 local plants of the western suburbs



Running Postman



Wattle



Knotted Club-rush

Tar Bush



One-sided Bottlebrush



Common Name	Species	Flowers	Colour
<b>Groundcovers</b>			
Couch Honeypot	<i>Dryandra lindleyana</i>	May-Sep	gold
Ruby Saltbush	<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>	May-Sep	red
Sea Heath	<i>Frankenia pauciflora</i>	All Year	mauve
Snake Bush	<i>Hemiandra pungens</i>	All Year	purple
Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Jul-Nov	red

## Herbs (Non Woody)

Mangles Kangaroo Paw	<i>Anigozanthos manglesii</i>	Sep-Nov	red/green
Prickly Conostylis	<i>Conostylis aculeata</i>	Sep-Oct	yellow
Grey Cottonheads	<i>Conostylis candicans</i>	Aug-Sep	yellow
Flax Lily	<i>Dianella divaricata</i>	Jun-Aug	orange
Nodding Club-rush	<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	All Year	brown
Knotted Club-rush	<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	Nov-Mar	brown
Morning Iris	<i>Orthrosanthus laxus</i>	Aug-Oct	mauve
Western Patersonia	<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Sep-Dec	purple
Fringed Lily	<i>Thysanotus multiflorus</i>	Sep-Nov	purple

## Climbers

Old Man's Beard	<i>Clematis linearifolia</i>	Jul-Sep	cream
Native Wisteria	<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i>	Jun-Sep	purple
Australian Bluebell	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>	Oct-Feb	blue

## Small Shrubs

Dune Moses	<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i>	Jun-Oct	yellow
Silky Blood Flower	<i>Calothamnus sanguineus</i>	Mar-Nov	red
Yellow Starflower	<i>Calytrix angulata</i>	Sep-Dec	yellow
Orange Eremaea	<i>Eremaea pauciflora</i>	Sep-Dec	orange
Tar Bush	<i>Eremophila glabra</i>	Jul-Jan	orange
Yellow Pea	<i>Gompholobium tomentosum</i>	Aug-Dec	yellow
Spider-net Grevillea	<i>Grevillea preissii</i>	May-Sep	red
Stalked Guinea Flower	<i>Hibbertia racemosa</i>	Jul-Nov	yellow
Swan River Myrtle	<i>Hypocalymma robustum</i>	Jul-Oct	pink
Cushion Bush	<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>	All year	yellow
Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca serjata</i>	Oct-Dec	pink
Bacon and Eggs	<i>Nemcia capitata</i>	Jun-Sep	yellow
False Boronia	<i>Phyllanthus calycinus</i>	Jun-Nov	white
Coast Banjine	<i>Pimelea ferruginea</i>	Sep-Nov	pink

Common Name	Species	Flowers	Colour
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**Medium Shrubs**

Wattle	<i>Acacia truncata</i>	June-Sep	yellow
One-sided Bottlebrush	<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i>	Aug-Dec	red
Grevillea	<i>Grevillea crithmifolia</i>	Jul-Sep	white
Two-leaf Hakea	<i>Hakea trifurcata</i>	Jul-Oct	white
Cutleaf Hibbertia	<i>Hibbertia cuneiformis</i>	Aug-Dec	yellow
Coastal Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca systena</i>	Sep-Dec	cream
Shining Fan Flower	<i>Scaevola nitida</i>	Aug-Dec	blue
Cockies Tongues	<i>Templetonia retusa</i>	Apr-Sep	red

**Large Shrubs**

Red Eyed Wattle	<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Sep-Jan	yellow
Perth Hopbush	<i>Dodonaea hackettiana</i>	Jul-Oct	green
Parrot Bush	<i>Dryandra sessilis</i>	May-Nov	yellow
Chenille Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca huegelii</i>	Sep-Jan	white
Basket Bush	<i>Spyridium globulosum</i>	Jun-Sep	white

**Trees**

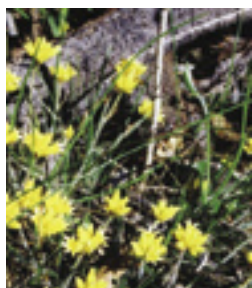
WA Peppermint	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Aug-Dec	white
Saw Tooth Banksia	<i>Banksia prionotes</i>	Feb-Aug	orange
Salt Sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	All year	red
Limestone Marlock	<i>Eucalyptus decipiens</i>	Sep-Nov	cream
Fremantle Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus foecunda</i>	Nov-May	cream
Rottneet Tea Tree	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Oct-Mar	white



Fringed Lily



Sea Heath



Prickly Conostylis



Cockies Tongues

Swan River Myrtle



This list is only a sample. Ask your plant supplier about other suitable plants that may be available.

WA Peppermint Tree



# planting your local plants

These suggestions will help to get your plants off to a good start.

**1** Lay plants out, in their pots, exactly where you are going to plant them. Don't start planting until you are sure that you have the right plant in the best spot! Think about the size and shape the plant will become. A plant that will grow to 1 metre in width should be planted about 1 metre from other plants or paths, although closer planting can promote interesting shapes and give a more natural look.



Spider-net Grevillea

**2** Dig a hole for the plant that is deeper and wider than its pot. Loosen the soil in and around the hole so that the roots will have an open, light soil mix to grow into.

**3** Thoroughly water the plant, the hole and the surrounding soil before planting. This will help to reduce the shock of planting out and will ensure that the root zone does not dry out. Mixing the soil and water together in the hole will help the soil 'wet up'. If the soil will not wet up you may need to apply a wetting agent at this time.

# 4

Remove the plant carefully from its pot to avoid disturbing the soil and roots. Check that the roots are not tightly wound to the shape of the pot (root bound). If necessary, you can make a few vertical cuts through the root ball with secateurs to free them enough to make new growth.



A new planting



Mulch around new planting

# 5

Place the plant in the centre of the hole and draw moist soil in around it. Press the soil in gently and firmly, especially around the roots of the plant, to remove air pockets. Place the plant just deep enough so that you can form a shallow depression or saucer shape around it. This will protect the plant from drying out by directing water towards the roots.

# 6

Spread a layer of suitable mulch 5–10 cm deep and 15–20 cm wide around the plant, making sure that it is not in direct contact with the plant stem as this may cause rotting.



The mature result

## water your plants well!

# how to avoid problems

Some basic knowledge and attention to what local plants need will ensure that they become established in your garden and remain healthy.

## choosing healthy plants

Make sure that the plants you buy look healthy and that they are not root-bound within their pots. If possible, choose tube stock or young plants rather than advanced plants as these often settle in better. They are also cheaper to buy. Plant deaths can occur, even in well-tended gardens. You can infill in the next planting season

## availability

Establishing a local plants garden can take time. Nurseries are catching up with the growing demand for local plants, but the choice of species in any one year can be limited. Placing an order for plants in September/October with a specialist local plants nursery can help to ensure you have the plants you want in time for autumn planting. You can add plants to your garden over time as you discover more species that you would like to include.

## watering

Be sensitive to your plants water needs! Once established, local plants will flourish with minimal summer watering. However, they will require adequate water while they are establishing and during extended dry periods at any time of the year.

Over-watering can be as much of a problem as drying out. Over-watering can cause plants to grow too quickly and become brittle and can make pruning necessary. It can also encourage weeds, fungal diseases and shallow root development so that plants cannot cope with periods of dry conditions.

Your establishing plants do need regular thorough watering. This encourages them to develop deep root systems that can access water over a large area rather than remain dependent upon frequent watering. If possible, use drip irrigation or hand watering so that water can be directed at the root zone rather than at the foliage.

## weeding and disturbance

Take care not to disturb plant roots or the surrounding soil if you are removing weeds or planting near your local plants. Disturbing the soil may damage roots and can encourage weeds to emerge. If possible, remove weeds when they are small.



## mulching

Adding mulch after planting will help to reduce weeds, retain moisture and keep the soil around your plants cooler through the summer months. Choose chipped material or leaves from hard-leaved, preferably native plants as these more closely resemble natural leaf litter. Some commercial mulches have nutrients added that local plants may not need.

## pruning

Local plants develop their own individual shapes (or habit) over time. If your plants and their position and spacing in your garden are chosen carefully pruning will generally not be needed. Plants that are not over-watered or fertilised also require little pruning. Pruning can however be used with care to shape some plants and to promote flowering.

Local plants vary in their ability to tolerate pruning and you can kill them by cutting them back hard. Most of the plants listed in this booklet can be pruned after flowering. Take care with secateur hygiene for the Banksia, Hakea, and Dryandra. Check with the Kings Park 'Master Gardeners' advisory service or a native plant nursery for more detailed pruning information.

## fertilising

The use of fertilisers contributes to the problem of excess nutrients in soil, groundwater and waterways. Because local plants suit local soils, they generally don't need the addition of fertilisers to thrive. Some local plants (Grevilleas, Hakeas, Banksias and Dryandras for example) will tolerate only very small amounts of the nutrient phosphorous and should not be planted in parts of the garden where phosphate fertilisers might be used. If you do choose to fertilise your local plants be sure to use it sparingly and select only low nutrient, slow release, preferably organic products. Ask your nursery about fertilisers that have been formulated specially for native plants and closely follow the instructions for use.

## pests and diseases

Because local plants provide food and shelter for birds and insects you may at times see evidence of this on your plants. Healthy plants will be naturally resilient to serious damage by pests and diseases. The presence of a range of insects, birds and other animals in your garden indicates that it is providing valuable habitat.

Background images by  
kind permission of the  
artist, Patricia Negus

# finding out more

Below are some sources of information about local plants and where to obtain them.

## organisations

**Apace Western Australia**, North Fremantle.

Information about local plants and plant sales: 9336 1262

Email: [apace@apacewa.org.au](mailto:apace@apacewa.org.au).

**Greening Australia (WA)**, Fremantle.

Information about local plants: 9335 8933, Email: [general@gawa.org.au](mailto:general@gawa.org.au).

**Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority**, West Perth.

'Master Gardeners' telephone advice about native plants: 9480 3672.

**Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)**, Floreat.

Local plant information, books and plant sales: 9383 7979.

**Urban Bushland Council WA Inc**, West Perth.

Information about local bushland Friends Groups: 9420 7207 Email: [ubc@iinet.net.au](mailto:ubc@iinet.net.au).



## books and catalogues

**Apace Revegetation Catalogue** (2002) Apace: 9336 1262.

**A New Image for West Australian Plants**, Lullfitz, G (2002)

Lullfitz Nursery, Wanneroo: 9405 1607.

**Growing Locals – Gardening with Local Plants in Perth**,

Powell, R. & Emberson, J. (1996) Western Australian Naturalists' Club (Inc): 9228 2495.

**Perth Plants for Your Garden**, Greening Australia (WA): 9335 8933.

**The Bushland Plants of Kings Park**, Bennett, E.M. & Dundas, P.J. (1988)

Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, West Perth: 9480 3672.

## plant nurseries

These nurseries specialise in native plants: Apace WA, Boola Wongin Nursery, Carramar Coastal Nursery, Lullfitz Nursery, Oakford Green Nursery, Men of the Trees and Zanthorrea Nursery. You can find contact details in the White Pages and on the web (search by name).

## web sites

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~dragon/Bushthat.htm> – Local Plants Group

[http://www.watercorporation.com.au/Docs/factsheet\\_plants.pdf](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/Docs/factsheet_plants.pdf) – Using local plants

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers> – Western Australian Wildflower Society

<http://www.apacewa.org.au/> – Apace Western Australia

<http://www.kpbpg.wa.gov.au/> – Kings Park & Botanic Gardens

<http://www.naturebase.net/florabase/index.html> – CALM's FloraBase

<http://www.sustainableliving.wa.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=landscaping.intro#Local> –

The state government sustainable living website

# about the western suburbs greening plan

Much of the appeal of the Western Suburbs lies in the leafy green streets and gardens, and the many parks and bushland reserves of the area.

As a means of protecting, preserving and enhancing these features into the future, as development pressures increase, the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils and the Town of Cambridge commissioned the development of the Western Suburbs Greening Plan (2002).

Plants that are local to the area have an important part to play in the Greening Plan. Local plants support biodiversity—the wide range of living things that share our environment. Our local plants are known worldwide for their beauty and diversity, yet currently they are not widely grown in our own gardens. Our remaining bushland and existing isolated examples of local vegetation can only go part of the way to providing enough quality habitat for animals as well as corridors for the movement of species throughout the metropolitan area.

By choosing local plants for home gardens residents of the Western Suburbs can make the local area more welcoming to native birds, insects and other animals. This can help to protect biodiversity into the future as well as add to the sense of green space that we enjoy.



Rottneet Tea Tree

## WESROC member council offices and libraries

Cottesloe Admin: 9285 5000, Library: 9385 3233

Claremont Admin: 9285 4300, Library: 9285 4353

Mosman Park Admin: 9384 1633, Library: 9385 3233

Nedlands Admin: 9273 3500, Nedlands Library: 9273 3644,

Mt. Claremont Library: 9383 1462

Peppermint Grove Admin: 9384 0099 Library: 9385 3233

Subiaco Admin: 9237 9222, Library: 9381 5088

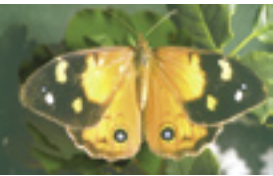
Choose local plants for your garden and join  
in the greening of the Western Suburbs



plan  
nurture



enjoy local plants



Photograph by Eric McCrum

Discover the local plants of your area in nearby  
bushland.

Contact your council or the  
Urban Bushland Council WA Inc. for more information.

Allen Park Bushland, cnr Wood Street & Kirkwood Avenue, Swanbourne.

Bold Park and adjacent bushland, Bold Park Drive, City Beach.

Underwood Avenue Bushland, cnr Selby Street, Shenton Park.

Shenton Bushland, Lemnos Street, Shenton Park.

Hollywood Reserve, cnr Smyth Road & Karella Street, Karrakatta.

Pelican Point, Hackett Drive near Australia II Drive, Crawley.

Minim Cove Park, Fairbairn Street, Mosman Park.

Chidley Point, Chidley Way, Mosman Park.

Buckland Hill Reserve, Boundary Road, Mosman Park.

Production: Earth Carers, Tel: 9286 5025, and Apace WA

We welcome your questions and comments

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