



YOUR NATIVE GARDEN

A guide to bring native plants
and animals back to your garden

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Note: This booklet is intended to guide residential gardening only. It is not designed to advise the revegetation of natural areas and bushland. Planting in bushland areas should be guided by the naturally occurring native plants in that area and the appropriate land manager, i.e. Council's Bushland Coordinator.

Why plant natives?

Our local area is home to a wide variety of plants and animals and your garden is an important habitat haven for them.

The City of Canterbury Bankstown has



500+ hectares
of bushland



2 national
parks



300+ species of
native plants



230+ bird
species



20 types of
mammals



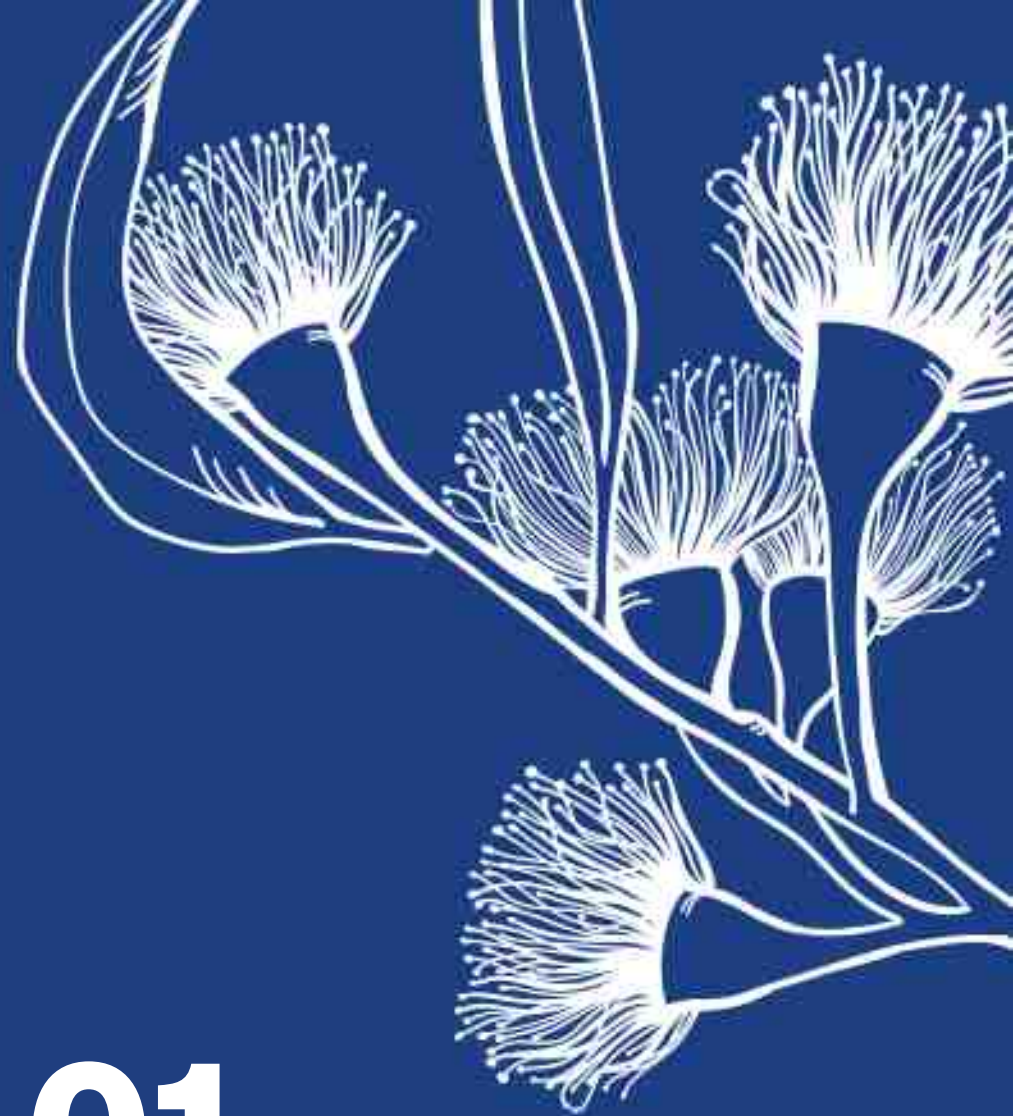
15 species of frogs
and reptiles

Local native plants are perfect for home gardening, because they:

- Require very little maintenance, and suit the local conditions;
- Require less water and less fertiliser;
- Bring enjoyment as you discover different types of native animals that are attracted to your garden;
- Provide food for local wildlife, and create safe places for them to move through the area; and
- Provide food and shelter for native bees that are important pollinators.

Bushland areas are linked together by a network of biodiversity corridors. They provide safe passage and resting places for animals to move through the urban landscape in search of food, water, shelter and mates.





01

**PLANNING
YOUR GARDEN**

Any garden design can be achieved using local native plants. From formal gardens to natural “bush” style backyards, let your creativity run wild.

When planning your garden there are a few things to consider to ensure that your plants have the best chance of success:

- Your local plant community (see page 9);
- Soil type;
- Sunlight availability;
- Soil moisture;
- Plant height; and
- Your garden’s purpose.

Once you’ve established your soil type, how much sun and water your garden gets and what type of garden you’re trying to create, use the keys in this guide to select plants most suitable to your backyard.

Be patient, it takes time to create a mature, beautiful garden!

Always plant trees away from electricity lines and at least three metres from buildings. Keep water loving plants away from water and sewer pipes. 💧

Get to know your garden

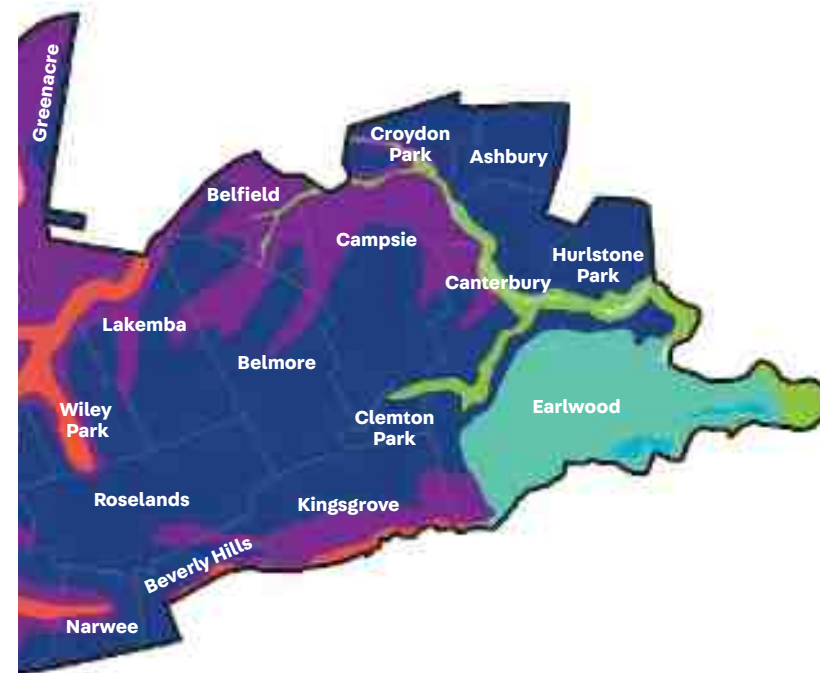
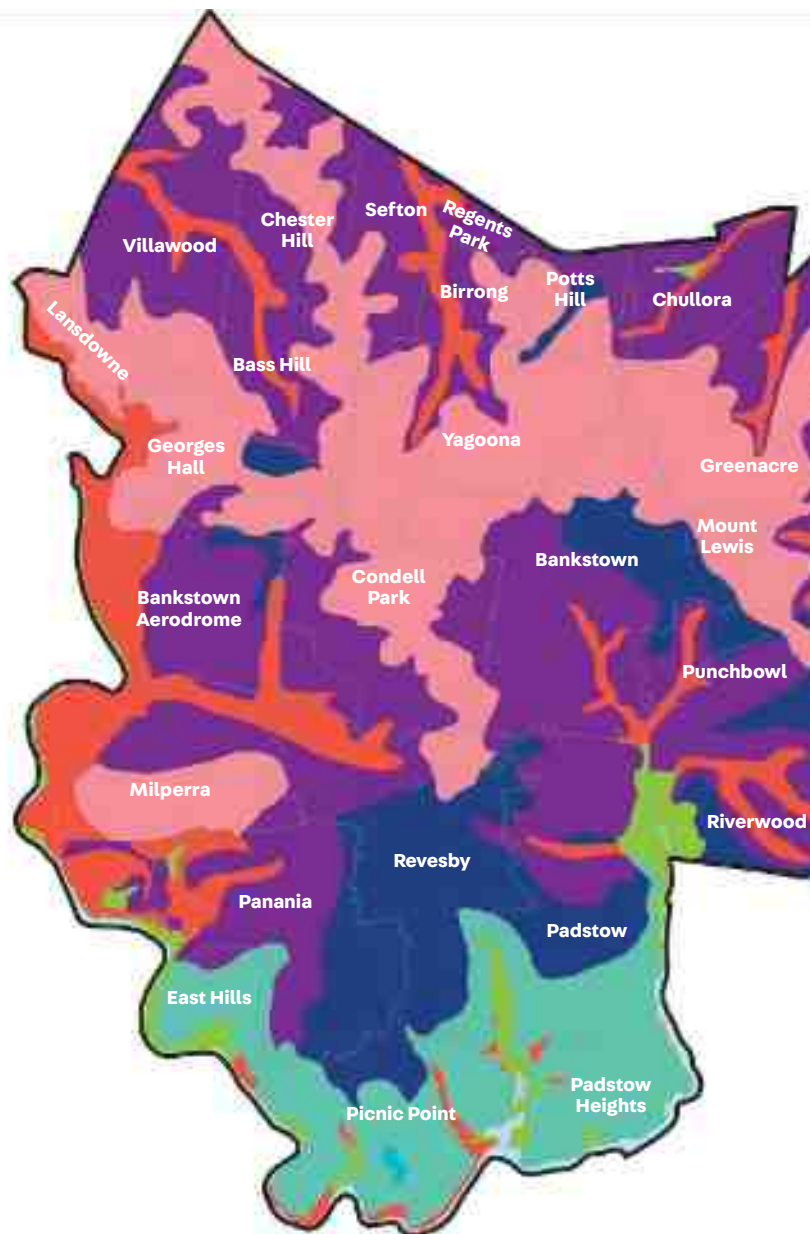
Step 1. Check which plant community you live in

Location plays an important part in determining the soil type of your garden and, therefore, what plants will thrive. It can be a little complicated, so we’ve simplified it into the eight most common groups:

- Zone 1 - Cumberland Shale Plains Woodland;
- Zone 2 - Rainforest;
- Zone 3 - Castlereagh Ironbark Forest;
- Zone 4 - Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest;
- Zone 5 - Coastal Sandstone Heath-Mallee;
- Zone 6 - Sandstone Slopes;
- Zone 7 - Wetlands; and
- Zone 8 - Swamp Forests.

You can find out which plant community you live in by checking the map on the following page.





Zones



For a detailed map of plant communities,
visit cb.city/nativeplants

Step 2. Check your soil type

Knowing your soil type is an important step to working out your soil's ability to hold and retain nutrients and what plants will grow best. Most of the time your plant community (see Step 1) will determine your soil type.

Clay soils

- sticky to touch when wet
- forms large clumps, making digging difficult when dry
- holds water for a long time and takes a while to dry out
- rich in nutrients

For gardens with predominantly clay soils, choose plants indicated by the 🌱 symbol.

Sandy soils

- gritty to touch
- water drains away quickly
- nutrient poor

For gardens with predominantly sandy soils, choose plants indicated by the 🌱 symbol.

Silty soils

- smooth to touch when wet
- water drains away slowly
- fairly fertile
- a mixture of clay and sand

For gardens with silty soils, choose plants indicated by the 🌱 and 🌱 symbols.

You may need to dig 30–50cm down through the topsoil to find your true soil type.

Step 3. Check your sunlight availability

Before planting, take time to observe your garden at different times during the day, watching how the sunlight moves across the yard.

- If your garden is shaded for most of the day, perhaps by a house or large tree, choose plants that prefer lots of shade (indicated by the ☀️ symbol).
- If your garden gets harsh western sunlight for most of the afternoon, choose plants that prefer full sun (indicated by the ☀️ symbol).
- If your garden gets both sun and shade, choose plants that prefer partial sun (indicated by the ☀️ symbol).

Different plants need different levels of sunlight to grow. In general, plants with dark fleshy green leaves will be more tolerant of shade while plants with small thin leaves will be happier in full sun.



Step 4. Check your soil moisture

Soil moisture can be influenced by soil type, slope and proximity to a natural water source.

- If your soil is often wet and boggy, choose plants that prefer wet soils (indicated by the 🌊 symbol).
- If your soil is always dry, choose plants that prefer dry soils (indicated by the ☀️ symbol).

Step 5. Check how much room your garden has

Consider the space available for plants and how big they grow. Sometimes it's better to plant less and infill with more plants if there is still room available.

Remember: Trees should be planted away from electricity lines and at least three metres from buildings.



Step 6. Decide what type of garden you are trying to create

There are all sorts of reasons for creating a native garden. Some of the benefits include:

- Low maintenance;
- A garden full of colour all year;
- Screening out a neighbour's property;
- Creating a shady area to sit;
- Reducing your need to mow; and
- Creating a safe place for local wildlife to visit.

The 'Creating your garden' section provides information on how to create different garden types, including gardens that flower all year and gardens that attract local wildlife.





02

**CREATING
YOUR GARDEN**

Year-round colour

There are many beautiful plants that flower during spring and summer, providing an abundance and variety of colour, as well as food for native animals.

In winter, however, fewer plants flower and it becomes difficult for animals to find food.

Planting trees and shrubs that provide food during winter and early spring will add colour to your garden year-round and help to ensure our local birds and mammals have abundant food throughout the year.

What to plant:

- Hairpin Banksia and Forest Red Gum can provide nectar for possums and flying foxes.
- Small flowering plants, such as Green Spider Grevillea and Needlebush, can provide nectar for small honeyeaters.
- Prickly Parrot Pea and Myrtle Wattle can boost insect numbers for small birds to eat.
- Many wattles have bright yellow flowers during winter that attract a variety of insects for birds to feed on. They then produce seed pods that are eaten by parrots.

Look for the ❄️ symbol in the 'Native plants of Canterbury-Bankstown' section of this booklet for more suggestions of natives that flower during winter.

Plants for screening

Native plants may be used to provide privacy or create a formal hedge. These effects can be achieved by using a variety of different sized shrubs or with one row of the same species. For a more natural screening effect, you can also try planting a mixture of different species relatively close together (about 1-1.5m apart).



What to plant:

Most shrubs and small trees in this booklet could be used to form a screen. Some of the more effective screening plants are:

- Broad-leaved Hakea;
- Snow-in-Summer;
- Sydney Golden Wattle (fast growing) ;
- Black Wattle (fast growing);
- White Feather Honeymyrtle;
- Crimson Bottlebrush;
- Blueberry Ash;
- Christmas Bush;
- Rough fruit Pittosporum; and
- Sweet Pittosporum.

Native climbers, like Old Man's Beard and Dusky Coral Pea, are also great for covering up a fence. Just add a frame for them to climb up and cover. Look for the 🍷 symbol for more examples of screening plants.

Plants that you want to grow into thick bushy shrubs should be pruned lightly and regularly from the day you plant them. See page 44 for more pruning tips.

Native lawns and edges

Native grasses can be used as lawns. They are generally low maintenance once established, requiring less mowing, watering and fertilising than exotic grasses. However, they are generally slower to establish and, if grown from seeds or seedlings, require weed control during establishment to achieve a good result. Try Nara (*Zoysia macrantha*), Weeping Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* sp.) or Red Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*).

If there are areas of your garden that you would prefer not to mow, such as between pavers, you can plant a local groundcover instead. Try Kidney Weed, Pennywort or Native Violet.

Soft garden edges can be created with many local native plants. Try clumping plants like Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*), Mat-rush and Kangaroo Grass. Or add some colour with Flax-lilies and Australian Bluebells. Weeping grass is soft to walk on and only requires mowing three or four times a year. It grows on both sandy and clay soils, excels in shady locations, and easily self-seeds and spreads into adjacent bare areas.



Habitat for wildlife

The Canterbury-Bankstown area hosts a wonderfully unique and diverse range of birds, frogs, lizards, insects and mammals. We have a responsibility to care for our backyard buddies and create safe garden homes.

There are a few simple things we can do to make our gardens safe places for our native wildlife. Garden habitat is created by incorporating food, water and shelter into your garden. These are the essential things wildlife need to survive.

Food: Plant a range of small, medium and tall plants in your garden to provide food for different native animals.

Water: Increase the amount of water available to wildlife by adding a pond, water feature or bird bath.

Shelter: Increase the amount of shelter by having rock piles, nest boxes or hollow logs and keeping mature trees in gardens.



Keep cats indoors as much as possible, and attach a bell to their collar. Avoid using chemicals, pesticides, non-organic fertilisers or snail pellets which can be harmful to wildlife.

Habitat for small birds

More than 230 bird species have been sighted in the Canterbury-Bankstown area. A garden planted with local native plants provides seeds, flowers, nectar, insects and habitat for our native birds to use.

Food:

Plant a mix of natives that provide food throughout the seasons and different types of food (i.e. seeds, fruits, nectar, insects)

Water:

Place a shallow bird bath with shrubs nearby where birds can escape to.

Shelter:

Mix up your garden structure by including a mix of ground covers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Plant dense thickets of spiky shrubs where small birds can hide.

Nesting:

Include leaf litter, sticks, bark and grasses.

Explore our local bushland and observe the kinds of small birds present and what kinds of plants they are using. Small birds love shrubs and trees for perching, nesting, foraging and hiding from predators.

What to plant:

Insect-eating birds like Wrens and Willie Wagtails need plants like Old Man's Beard, False Sarsaparilla and Tea-tree that attract insects. They also love to forage for insects amongst leaf litter.

Nectar-loving birds like Eastern Spinebills need plants like Pink Spider Flower and Hairpin Banksia that produce nectar.

Seed-eating birds like Finches need plants like Spreading Panicgrass and Mat-rush that produce seeds and berries.

Fruit-eating birds like Silvereyes need plants like Prickly Beard-heath, Muttonwood and Pittosporum that produce fruit and berries.

Spikey plants like Prickly Moses, Needlebush, Native Blackthorn, Gorse Bitter Pea and Prickly Parrot Pea provide protection from predators.

Avoid planting natives with big showy flowers like Grevillea Moonlight. These plants attract large birds that scare away little birds.

Plant a variety of flowering natives, particularly winter flowering plants, to ensure food is available year round.



A frog friendly garden

Frogs are highly sensitive to environmental changes. In the Canterbury-Bankstown area, there are up to eight different types of frogs, including both ground and tree-dwelling species. Whilst building a frog pond (see page 35) may help to create breeding habitat for frogs, you can still have a frog friendly garden without a pond.

Food:

Provide leaf litter or compost to attract insects for frogs to eat.

Water:

Place shallow containers of water in the shade to keep frogs cool and moist.

Shelter:

Create damp, shady habitats with piles of rocks, logs, and upturned flowerpots. Provide cool hiding places with plenty of groundcovers, small shrubs and grasses.

What to plant:

Shelter can be created with any of the groundcovers, grasses and small shrubs listed in the 'Native plants of Canterbury-Bankstown' section of this booklet.

Install a small solar powered light to attract insects at night. Never relocate frogs or tadpoles to or from your garden, as this can spread disease among frog populations.

Habitat for lizards

If you've been having trouble with garden pests, attracting lizards into your garden can help manage populations by eating insects, slugs, snails, and larvae.

Food:

Leave leaf litter around and plant berry or nectar producing plants to attract insects.

Water:

Provide a shallow bowl of water.

Shelter:

Provide hollow logs, boulders, leaf litter, rock piles and bark. Include a variety of native plants and groundcover for shade and hiding places.

Basking:

Provide rocks, bark, and logs in sunny locations.

What to plant:

Native Violet, Dusty Coral Pea, Kangaroo Grass, Weeping Grass, Mat-rush and Flax-lillies.

Allow leaf litter, mulch and twigs to accumulate and form piles.

Interesting fact: Lizards create nests in moist soil under objects in the garden. Females lay about five eggs that look like mini soft and rubbery chicken eggs. The eggs become enlarged as they absorb moisture from the surrounding soil.



Habitat for insects

Increasing the number of insects in your garden will help pollinate plants and control pest populations. Insects contribute to ecosystem health as nature's recyclers by breaking down organic materials so that nutrients are released back into the soil. Insects are also food for many larger animals like birds, frogs, lizards and microbats.

Food:

Leave leaf litter and organic matter on the ground for crawling and wriggling insects. Grow a variety of seed and nectar producing plants for flying insects.

Water:

Shallow bowls of water filled with pebbles can provide a source of water and minimise drowning.

Shelter:

Provide plenty of shelter and hiding places with logs, tree hollows, leaf litter or an insect hotel. Include variety in garden structure with groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees.

What to plant:

Banksia, Wattle, Bottlebrush, Old Man's Beard, False Sarsaparilla, Pale Fan-flower and Eggs and Bacon.

Leave branches, sticks, logs and tree stumps around your garden. Solitary native bees make their homes in dead or hollow stems.



Habitat for mammals

Mammals assist in pollination and controlling insect populations. In Canterbury-Bankstown, we are fortunate enough to have almost 20 different types of microbats, as well as Grey Headed Flying Foxes, Brushtail Possums and Ringtail Possums. Echidnas and Sugar Gliders have also been observed, though not as common.

Food:

Grow plants that produce nectar, pollen, fruits and attract insects.

Water:

Provide shallow bowls of water during hot weather.

Shelter:

Plant trees and allow hollows to form. Habitat boxes can provide alternative shelter for microbats, possums and gliders.

What to plant:

Eucalyptus, Banksia, Bottlebrush, Tea-tree and Paperbark.

Use wildlife friendly netting to cover fruit trees in your garden. This will assist local wildlife from getting tangled. Plant a variety of flowering natives, particularly winter flowering plants, to ensure food is available year round.



Garden features

Insect hotels

Promoting a greater insect population in your backyard may be achieved with insect hotels. These structures offer hibernation and nesting spaces and come in all shapes and sizes. Not only serving a functional use, insect hotels are creative pieces that make a great feature in any garden.

Build shelves into insect hotels to create a variety of living storeys and use different materials to encourage a greater diversity of insect life. Recycled and natural materials are best and can include stones, tiles, timbers, bamboo, bound reeds, straw, dried grass and bark. Drilling holes into the building materials also creates more spaces for insects to rest in.

Twigs create overlapping spaces and small cavities for ladybeetles to settle in.

Drilled holes of various depths and widths can provide resting places for solitary bees.



Native bee hives

Native bees come in a great range of colours and sizes, from a tiny 2mm to a large 24mm. Some have furry overcoats while others are smooth and shiny like a stainless steel kettle. Some are yellow and striped, and others are black and blue. The majority of native bees are solitary and do not form hives. In Sydney, the native stingless bee, *Tetragonula carbonaria*, can be used to form hives, however honey harvesting is not recommended in cooler weather as the bees need their excess honey stores to survive the winter months.

Hotels for bees should be located in warm, sheltered areas.



Habitat boxes

Many Australian animals rely on tree hollows for shelter and survival. With urban expansion and the removal of many old trees with natural hollows, we have lost a significant portion of habitat for our local wildlife. Habitat boxes may provide alternative homes for birds and mammals.

Microbats, possums, sugar gliders and numerous birds like Kookaburras, Wood Ducks, owls and parrots require tree hollows. As each type of animal has different habitat requirements, they will be attracted to different habitat box types. Therefore, when choosing a habitat box, make sure you know what sort of animal you are trying to create a home for.

Good habitat boxes are made using untreated wood, are painted with non-toxic paint and have rough grooves on the inside of the box so that animals can climb out. The box should also have drainage holes in the box base and a hinged lid to allow maintenance access. As part of Council's ongoing Biodiversity Program, habitat boxes have been installed throughout the Canterbury-Bankstown area to offer shelter and homes for the local wildlife.

Place native leaf litter in the bird and possum boxes as nesting material.

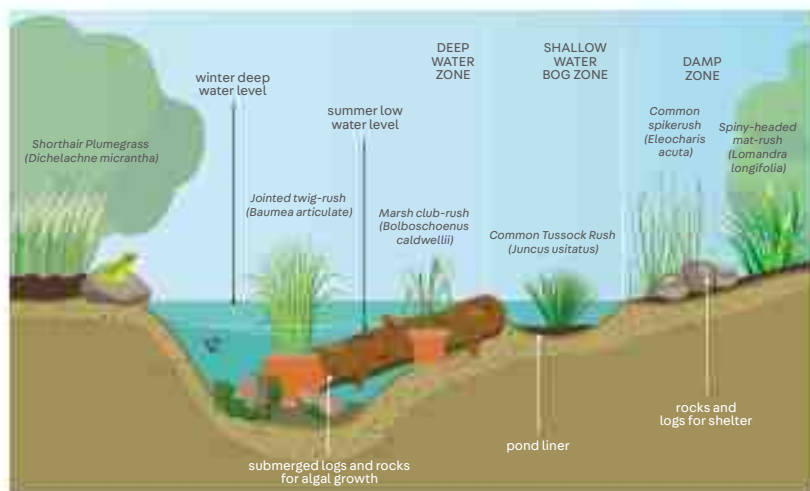


Frog ponds

A pond with partial shade and away from large trees can provide suitable breeding habitat for frogs. Sloping sides and logs will help frogs get in and out of the pond easily, and reeds and sedges growing in the pond can help oxygenate and filter water naturally.

What to plant:

Ponds can be planted with reeds like Jointed Twig-rush, Common Spikerush and Common Tussock Rush.



Bird baths

Many birds need fresh water both for drinking and bathing, so providing water in your garden is a great way to help them. Place your bird bath so birds can perch nearby to observe the surrounding areas for dangers. Plant dense shrubs or trees close by that birds can escape. And, if the bath is deep or has a smooth base, place pebbles, a stick or brick in it so birds can climb out.

Replace the water every few days and clean the bird bath regularly to keep your local birds in good health.





03

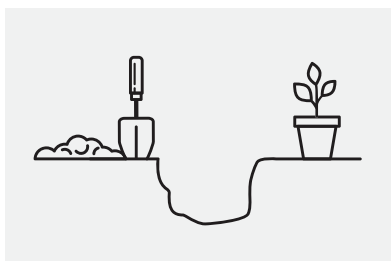
**LOOKING AFTER
YOUR GARDEN**

How to plant a native garden

After understanding your garden and deciding what type of garden you'd like, choose plants suited to your planting location using the 'Native plants of Canterbury-Bankstown' section of this booklet. Be sure to check the water and sunlight requirements as well as height indications.



Before planting, prepare the area where you would like plant. Remove weeds, loosen compacted soil and push back any mulch until you have bare soil.



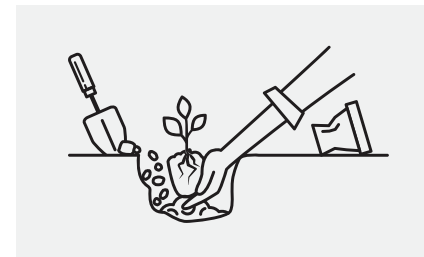
1. Dig a hole. It should be twice as wide and slightly deeper than the pot.



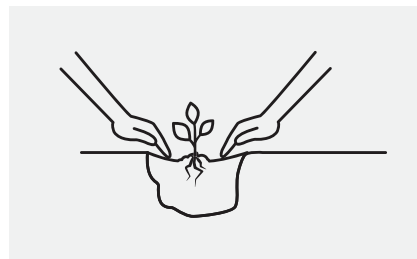
2. Loosen the plant in the pot. You can do this by gently squeezing the tube or tapping the side of the pot with a small spade.



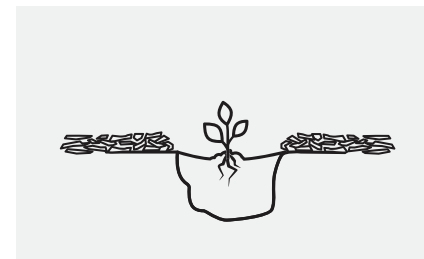
3. With your hand over the soil at the top of the pot and the plant stem between your fingers, turn the plant in the pot upside down and gently pull the pot off. If the roots are tightly bound, loosen them gently with your fingers. Pulling the plant upwards by the stem will damage the fragile surface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



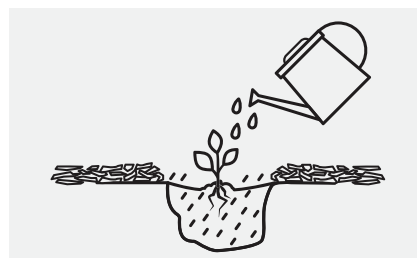
4. Turn the plant up the right way and place it into the hole (without the pot). Hold the plant so that it is standing upright and straight in the middle of the hole, while you fill in the rest of the hole with the soil you saved (make sure you fill with soil, and not with mulch). Use your fingers to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

Watering

Once in the ground, your plants will require less maintenance than when they were in pots. Watering heavily, once per week, encourages stronger root growth and greater drought tolerance than watering small amounts more often. Maintain this for six to eight weeks, then once the plants are established, watering can be less frequent.

Remember to keep water loving plants ☹️ away from pipes and tall plants away from powerlines.



Mulching

Mulching is very important in keeping the soil healthy, improving water holding capacity and suppressing weeds. Mulch should cover the ground to a depth of 10cm and topped up annually. When spreading mulch, remember to keep an area clear of mulch around the plant stem to prevent fungal infection and insect attack.

Mulch should be spread at a thickness of at least 10cm, however to avoid rot, it should never be placed right up to the stem of any plant.



Improving your soil

The benefit of growing local native plants is they have adapted to local soils. However, if you still find it hard to grow particular plants, the soil can be adjusted.

For heavy clays – dig in compost or manure and add gypsum to loosen the soil and help to break down the clays. Raising the soil level, even just 30cm, will also assist with drainage in boggy spots.

For sandy soils – dig in organic matter such as compost or cow manure to increase the nutrients in the soil. As sandy soils drain very rapidly, it is important to keep the garden beds well mulched to retain moisture. The use of organic mulches such as sugarcane mulch will also break down increasing the nutrients in the soil.



Council's Wheelie Good® Compost is ideal for use as a soil conditioner. To learn more, visit cb.city/wheeliegood

Fertilising

Usually native plants do not require fertilising. Rather, it is better to mulch or add leaf litter to boost soil nutrients. If you do choose to fertilise, use a specially designed native plant fertiliser or diluted worm castings.

Check the composition of your native plant fertiliser. The phosphorous level should be 3 per cent or less.

Avoid chook manure, it often contains high levels of phosphorous.



Pruning

Pruning can help plants look lush and well-maintained for a tidy native garden look. Pruning is best done after flowering, removing up to a third of the growth. You can also tip prune young native plants to promote branching. Tip pruning involves pinching the tips off plants, and helps the plant form dense hedge.

Council permission is required to prune a tree that is over 5m high or more than 3m from an existing dwelling. To prune or remove a tree, you need to obtain a permit by completing an Application for Permission to Prune/Remove Trees Form on Council's website.



Weeds

Controlling weeds is very important, as the spread of some weed species can have disastrous effects on native plants and animals in our backyards, bushland, creeks and rivers. The *NSW Biosecurity Act (2015)* outlines a list of weeds that must be controlled and removed from private property and public land. Some of these weeds include Blackberry, Frogbit, Bridal Creeper, Water Hyacinth, African Olive, Alligator Weed, Green Cestrum, Lantana, Madeira Vine, Giant Reed and Asparagus Fern.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help control the spread of weeds:

- Look out for unusual plants you haven't seen before;
- Always dispose of weeds by placing them in your green bin;
- Never dump weeds in or near bushland;
- Choose garden plants carefully and avoid plants which spread easily;
- Manage your plants so they don't spread into neighbouring properties or bushland; and
- Check the Department of Primary Industries website for weed species that must be removed and advice on how to control them.



If you are having trouble identifying any plant in your garden, take a photo and have it identified online by the Royal Botanic Gardens. Visit the Plant Net website at plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



04

**NATIVE PLANTS
OF CANTERBURY-
BANKSTOWN**

Key to recommended native plants

The following selection of plants will help you find suitable local native plants for your garden that will help to enhance the biodiversity within our local area. It is not a list of all plants in Canterbury-Bankstown, rather a sample of some of the more readily available plants that may be offered as part of Council plant giveaway events.

Height

The height of a plant should only be used as a guide. Ultimately, the height of a plant will depend on the conditions where the plant is grown. A plant grown in favourable conditions may reach a greater height than what is predicted.

Sunlight preferences

-  plant prefers full sun
-  plant prefers part sun
-  plant prefers shade

Watering preferences

-  plant tolerates dry soils and drought periods
-  plant prefers moist soils
-  plant tolerates wet soils for longer periods or occasional waterlogging

Planting communities

There are eight main planting communities in Canterbury-Bankstown. Find out which area you are located in on page 10.

Special features

-  plant flowers during winter
-  plant is suitable for planting in sandy soils
-  plant is suitable for planting in clay soils
-  plant is suitable for growing in pots and small spaces
-  plant is suitable to use as a screen or hedging plant
-  plant may have indigenous uses

Uses

-  plant is suitable for providing shelter for local animals, including frogs, lizards, birds and mammals.
-  plant will attract insects
-  plant is a food source for birds
-  plant is a food source for mammals, including flying foxes, possums and gliders

Note: Indigenous uses may include bush foods, bush medicines, weaving, or making tools. As some plants may be poisonous, please do your research before trying bush foods or using bush medicines.

Climbers

Image	Name	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Billardiera scandens</i> Apple Berry			A scrambling plant with slender stems and cream flowers in September–December. Followed by purple fruits.	   	     	  
	<i>Clematis glycinoides</i> Old Man's Beard			A vigorous, woody climber with masses of delicate white flowers in August–November.	 	   	 
	<i>Glycine clandestina</i> Love Creeper			A slender twiner with mauve pea-flowers throughout the year.	   	     	
	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> False Sarsaparilla			A hardy evergreen scrambler with clusters of rich purple pea-flowers in September–November.	   	     	 
	<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i> Dusky Coral Pea			A robust woody scrambler with red pea-flowers in August–November.	   	  	
	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i> Wonga Wonga Vine			A fast-growing woody twiner with prolific clusters of small white flowers in June–December.	  	  	 

Groundcovers

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Centella asiatica</i> Pennywort	5cm			An evergreen perennial forming a dense mat of leaves with clusters of tiny flowers in November–May.	  	1 3 4 7 8	 
	<i>Commelina cyanea</i> Scurvey Weed	10cm			Often confused with the non-native "Wandering Jew" a hardy groundcover with blue flowers in December–May.	  	2 4 6 7 8	
	<i>Dichondra repens</i> Kidney Weed	5cm			A creeping perennial forming a dense mat of kidney-shaped leaves with tiny white flowers in September–February.	  	1 3 4 6 7	 
	<i>Pratia purpurascens</i> Whiteroot	15cm			A low-growing plant with a succulent white root and small white to pale purple flowers on the ends of long stalks in October–June.	    	1 3 4 6 7	 
	<i>Viola hederacea</i> Native Violet	15cm			A creeping perennial forming a dense mat of kidney-shaped leaves with white and purple flowers in September–February.	 		 

Grass-like plants

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i> Pale Vanilla-lily	60cm			A tufted grass-like plant with small white or pale pink and purple flowers in November–February.	   	  	 
	<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i> Barbed Wire Grass	1m			A tufted grass with tall wiry stems.	  	   	 
	<i>Dianella caerulea</i> Blue Flax-lily	1m			An erect, tufted plant with strappy leaves and rich blue flowers in September–February. Followed by purple berries.	   	 	  
	<i>Dianella revoluta</i> Blue Flax-lily	1m			An erect, tufted plant with strappy leaves and mauve to blue flowers in September–February. Followed by purple berries.	   	     	  
	<i>Dichelachne micrantha</i> Shorthair Plumegrass	1.2m			A tufted perennial with dense, fluffy seedheads in November–May.	  	   	
	<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i> Slender Wire Lily	40cm			A small plant with short, stiff stems and clusters of tiny pink flowers at the end of a wiry stalk in July–November.	 	  	 

Grass-like plants cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> Spiny-headed Mat-rush	1m			A tufted plant with tough strap-like leaves and tiny yellow flowers in October–January.	   	  	  
	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> Many-flowered Mat-rush	50cm			A tufted perennial with stiff grey-green leaves and clusters of creamy flowers in June–January.	   	    	 
	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> Weeping Grass	70cm			A soft, slender grass with weeping seedheads throughout the year.	   	     	
	<i>Paspalidium distans</i> Spreading Panicgrass	70cm			A densely tufted grass with seedheads in November–February.	  	   	
	<i>Themeda australis</i> Kangaroo Grass	1.2m			A tufted grass with green foliage drying to red, brown or purple as it matures and rusty-red seedheads on spikelets in September–May.	  	    	
	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> Australian Bluebell	80cm			A slender tufted perennial with sky-blue flowers throughout the year.	   	   	 

Shrubs

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Acacia falcata</i> Sickle Wattle	5m			A fast growing open shrub with a slender trunk and clusters of cream ball-shaped flowers in April–August. Followed by seed pods.	   	1 3 4 7	  
	<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> Myrtle Wattle	3m			A fast growing shrub with red-tinged leaves and clusters of pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in June–October. Followed by seed pods.	 	5 6	  
	<i>Acacia suaveolens</i> Sweet Wattle	3m			A slim graceful blue-green shrub with clusters of sweetly-scented cream ball-shaped flowers in April–September. Followed by seed pods.	  	5 6 7	  
	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i> Prickly Moses	2m			A prickly shrub with cream ball-shaped flowers in April–October. Followed by seed pods.	  	3 4 5 6 7	  
	<i>Banksia spinulosa</i> Hairpin Banksia	3m			An erect, rounded shrub with golden yellow to orange flowers in April–August.	  	5 6	  
	<i>Bossiaea heterophylla</i> Variable Bossiaea	1m			A slender shrub with yellow and red pea-flowers in April–May.		5 6	

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i> Coffee Bush	3m			An erect shrub with interesting small pinkish fruits that hang below the leaf in December–May.	 	1 2 4 6 7	
	<i>Callistemon linearis</i> Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush	3m			An erect shrub with narrow leaves and red flowers in October–December.	 	7	 
	<i>Callistemon pinifolius</i> Pine-leaf Bottlebrush	1m			Upright shrub with stiff needle-like leaves and yellow-green (sometimes red) flowers in September–December.			  
	<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i> Purple Burr-daisy	40cm			A dwarf, rounded perennial with small wedge shaped leaves and prolific white or mauve and yellow daisy-like flowers throughout the year.	 	3	
	<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> Gorse Bitter Pea	2m			An erect, spikey shrub with yellow and red-brown pea-flowers in May–January.	 	1 3 4 7	  
	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i> Eggs and Bacon	3m			Typically growing less than 2m, this erect shrub has yellow and red pea-flowers in July–September.	  	5 6	  

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Dillwynia sieberi</i> Prickly Parrot Pea	2.5m			Typically growing less than 1m, this erect, spikey shrub has yellow and red pea-flowers in April–November.	 	1 3 7	 
	<i>Dodonaea multijuga</i> Hop Bush	1.5m			An erect shrub with inconspicuous flowers and unusual winged fruit.	 		
	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> Large-leaf Hop Bush	3m			A soft leafy shrub with inconspicuous flowers and unusual winged fruit.	  	2 4 6 7 8	
	<i>Einadia hastata</i> Berry Saltbush	50cm			A low, shrubby plant with tiny green flowers in December–February. Followed by red fruits.	 	1 3 4 7	
	<i>Einadia trigonos</i> Fishweed	40cm			A low, shrubby plant with tiny green flowers in December–February. Followed by red fruits.	 	1 7	
	<i>Goodenia hederacea</i> Ivy Goodenia	80cm			A small shrub with long trailing stems and yellow flowers in August–March.	 	1 3 4 6	

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Goodenia ovata</i> Hop Goodenia	2m			An erect, bushy shrub with yellow flowers in October–March.	 	 	
	<i>Grevillea mucronulata</i> Green Spider Flower	2m			Typically growing less than 1m, this small rounded shrub has unusual green spider-like flowers in March–November.	  		
	<i>Grevillea sericea</i> Pink Spider Flower	2m			A small rounded shrub with pink spider-like flowers in August–December.	 	  	
	<i>Hakea dactyloides</i> Broad-leaved Hakea	3m			Vigorous, rounded shrub with tiny white clusters of flowers in September–December. Followed by a woody fruit.	  	  	  
	<i>Hakea sericea</i> Needlebush	3m			A spreading bushy shrub with spikey leaves and clusters of white flowers in June–September. Followed by a woody fruit.	  	   	  
	<i>Indigofera australis</i> Australian Indigo	2m			A small shrub with blue-green foliage and mauve pea-flowers in September–November. Followed by seed pods.	 		 

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Isopogon anemonifolius</i> Broad-leaf Drumsticks	1.5m			An erect shrub with yellow flowers in September–November. Followed by grey conelike seed heads.		5 6	 
	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i> Tick Bush	3m			An elegant shrub with gently weeping foliage and clusters of white flowers in September–February.	 	3 4 5 6 7	 
	<i>Lambertia formosa</i> Mountain Devil	2m			A prickly shrub with prominent red tubular-shaped flowers most of the year.		5 6	  
	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> Lemon-scented Tea-tree	2.5m			An erect shrub with lemon-scented leaves and white flowers in August–January.	 	2 5 6 7	
	<i>Leptospermum squarrosum</i> Peach Blossom Tea-tree	3m			A dense shrub with pointed leaves and pink to white flowers in March.		5 6 7 8	 
	<i>Leptospermum trinervium</i> Flaky-barked Tea-tree	5m			A tall shrub with aromatic leaves, papery bark and white flowers in March.	  	5 6	  

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Leucopogon juniperinus</i> Prickly Beard-heath	1m			A prickly shrub with slender white tubular-shaped flowers most of the year. Followed by small fruits.	 	1 3 4 6 7	  
	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i> Prickly-leaved Paperbark	4m			Typically growing 1-3m, this rounded shrub has pointed leaves and clusters of creamy yellow ball-shaped flowers in September–February.	 	3 7	 
	<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i> Thyme Honey-myrtle	1m			A small shrub with delicate feathery violet-purple flowers in December–February.	  	7	
	<i>Myrsine variabilis</i> Muttonwood	3m			Tiny greenish-cream bell shaped flowers clustered along the branches in May–September. Followed by purple fruits in December–March.	  	2 4 6	  
	<i>Olearia microphylla</i> Bridal Daisy Bush	2m			A small shrub with dense white fragrant flowerheads in September.		3 6	
	<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i> White Dogwood	5m			Typically growing 2-3m, this compact small shrub has aromatic curry-scented leaves and clusters of white flowers in August–November.	 	1 3 4 6 7	

Shrubs cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Persoonia levis</i> Broad-leaved Geebung	4m			Typically growing 2-3m, this tall shrub has dark green leaves and small golden yellow flowers in September–December. Followed by small purple fruits.		5 6	 
	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i> Rough fruit Pittosporum	3m			A shrub or small tree with fragrant yellow bell-shaped flowers in September–November. Followed by rough orange fruits with sticky red seeds inside.	 	2 4 6 7	  
	<i>Plectranthus parviflorus</i> Cockspur Flower	70cm			A perennial shrub-like plant with aromatic green and white foliage and strongly perfumed blue-lilac flowers throughout the year.	  	1 7	
	<i>Pultenaea villosa</i> Hairy Bush-pea	2m			A rounded shrub with rich yellow pea-flowers in September–November.	 	3 7	
	<i>Scaevola albida</i> Pale Fan-flower	50cm			A low perennial with mauve fan-shaped flowers throughout the year.	   	1	
	<i>Zieria smithii</i> Sandfly Zieria	2m			A rounded shrub with aromatic leaves and delicate white flowers in August–October.	 	2 4 6	

Small trees

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> Sydney Golden Wattle	8m			Typically growing to 6m, this fast growing small tree has golden yellow rod-shaped flowers in June–October. Followed by seed pods.	  	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	   
	<i>Acacia terminalis</i> Sunshine Wattle	6m			Typically growing 1.5–3m, this open shrub has feathery leaves and bright yellow ball-shaped flowers in February–October. Followed by seed pods.	 	5 6 7	  
	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Sticky Hop Bush	8m			Typically growing 1–3m, this spreading tree has inconspicuous flowers and unusual winged fruit.	  	1	
	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> Cheese Tree	8m			A small tree with dense dark green foliage and small greenish-yellow flowers in July–December. Followed by small pumpkin-shaped fruits.	   	2 4 6 7 8	 
	<i>Melaleuca decora</i> White Feather Honey myrtle	7m			A small tree with dense foliage and white flowers in December–February.	 	1 3 7	 
	<i>Notelaea longifolia</i> Native Olive	9m			Typically growing about 3m, this small tree has clusters of cream flowers in April–October. Followed by fruits.	  	2 3 4 6 7	 

Medium trees

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Acacia decurrens</i> Black Wattle	10m			A fast growing and short-lived tree with feathery leaves and bright yellow ball-shaped flowers in July–November. Followed by seed pods.	   	1 3 4 7	  
	<i>Acacia implexa</i> Hickory Wattle	12m			A fast growing tree with pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in December–April. Followed by seed pods.	 	1 2 4 6 7	  
	<i>Acacia parramattensis</i> Parramatta Green Wattle	15m			A fast growing and short-lived tree with feathery leaves and pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in November–February. Followed by seed pods.	  	1 2 3 4 7	  
	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> Black She-oak	15m			A fast growing tree with needle-like leaves and darkly fissured bark.	 	3 4 5 6	
	<i>Angophora bakeri</i> Narrow-leaved Apple	10m			A small hardy tree with clusters of cream flowers in November–February.	 	3 6	 
	<i>Banksia serrata</i> Old-man Banksia	16m			Typically growing to 10m, this hardy tree has gnarled bark, serrated leaves and large creamy yellow in January–June. Followed by ornamental seed pods.	 	5 6 7	 

Medium trees cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Native Blackthorn	10m			Typically growing 3-4m, this hardy plant has spiny branches and creamy white flowers in January–April.	  	    	  
	<i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i> Christmas Bush	10m			Typically growing to 5m, this tree or large shrub has clusters of white, pink and red flowers in September–December.	 	 	 
	<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> Blueberry Ash	10m			A tree with masses of dainty cup-like white flowers in December–February. Followed by blue berries.	 	   	 
	<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i> Scribbly Gum	15m			A tree with smooth greyish bark marked by insect scribbles. White flowers in March–November.	 	 	  
	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> Snow-in-Summer	10m			A small tree with honey-scented cream flowers in September–February.	  		 
	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> Sweet Pittosporum	15m			A spreading tree with fragrant white bell-shaped flowers in September–November. Followed by smooth orange fruits with sticky red seeds inside.	 	     	  

Tall trees

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Angophora costata</i> Smooth-barked Apple	30m			A tall tree with smooth pinkish bark and clusters of cream flowers in October–January.		4 6	 
	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> Coast Banksia	25m			Typically growing 4–15m, this hardy tree has rough bark and large pale yellow flowers in January–June. Followed by ornamental seed pods.	  	2 6 7 8	  
	<i>Corymbia gummifera</i> Red Bloodwood	30m			A tall tree with rough, crumbly bark, red sap and clusters of cream flowers in January–April.	  	5 6	  
	<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> Narrow-leaved Ironbark	35m			A tall straight tree with dark, deeply furrowed bark and clusters of white flowers in May–January.	 	1 3 7	 
	<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> Red Ironbark	35m			A tall straight tree with dark, deeply furrowed bark and clusters of cream flowers in November–January.		1 3	 
	<i>Eucalyptus longifolia</i> Woollybutt	20m			A tall tree with rough grey-brown bark on the lower trunk and smooth grey bark on the upper trunk and branches. White flowers in October–November.		3 7	  

Tall trees cont.

Image	Name	Height	Sun	Water	Description	Special features	Zones	Uses
	<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i> Grey Box	25m			A tall tree with rough grey bark on the trunk and smooth white bark on the branches. White flowers in December–January.		1 3 7	  
	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> Sydney Peppermint	20m			A tall tree with peppermint-scented leaves and white flowers in December–April.	 	2 6 7	  
	<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> Grey Gum	35m			Typically growing 15–25m, this tall open-crowned tree is often found on infertile soils. Clusters of white flowers in December–February.		4 5 6 7	  
	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> Forest Red Gum	50m			A tall tree with smooth grey bark and white flowers in June–November.	 	1 3 7 8	  
	<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> Prickly-leaved Paperbark	20m			Typically growing 8–10m, this plant has pointed leaves and white flowers in December–February.	  	3 7	 
	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> Turpentine	40m			A slow-growing tree with rough fibrous bark and clusters of white flowers in September–November.		2 3 4 6	  



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RESOURCES

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land - Daruk and Eora People - and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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Where to get local native plants

The City of Canterbury Bankstown provides local native plants to residents twice each year. These native plant giveaway events often occur in mid-autumn and the first week of spring. For more information, visit cb.city/nativeplants. If you miss one of Council's free native plant events, you can purchase local native plants from the following community nurseries.

Marrickville Community Native Nursery
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204
www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Randwick Community Nursery
2B Barker Street, Kingsford NSW 2032
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery
22 Wisdom Street, Annandale NSW 2038
www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Sutherland Community Nursery
345 The Boulevarde, Gymea NSW
www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

Native plants may also be available at commercial nurseries, garden centres and hardware outlets. Compost, soil improvers, mulch and fertilisers can also be purchased at these locations.

Find out more

Creating habitat

- Amphibian Research Centre – frogs.org.au
- Australian Native Bee Research Centre – aussiebee.com.au
- Backyard Buddies – backyardbuddies.org.au
- Birds in Backyards – birdsinboxyards.net/Choosing-Native-Plants
- Casey, K. (1996) Attracting Frogs to Your Garden: Creating an Ideal Habitat for Native Frogs in your own Backyard. Kimberley Publications.
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- Frog and Tadpole Study Group (FATS) – fats.org.au
- Grant, P. (2003) Habitat Garden: Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden. ABC Books.
- Habitat Network – habitatnetwork.org
- Sydney Bats – sydneybats.org.au

Weeds

- Department of Primary Industries – weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurity?AreaId=3
- Sydney Weeds – sydneyweeds.org.au

Native Plants

- Australian National Herbarium – anbg.gov.au/gnp/index.html
- Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) – anpsa.org.au/index.html
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indicates that a resource was used as reference material to create this booklet.

Council's Clean and Green newsletter is a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest news and events about environmental and sustainability initiatives in the City of Canterbury Bankstown. Sign up at cb.city/environews



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Black She-oak	74	Large-leaf Hop Bush	62
Black Wattle	74	Lemon-scented Tea-tree ...	66
Blue Flax-lily.....	54	Love Creeper.....	50
Blueberry Ash.....	76	Many-flowered Mat-rush ...	56
Bridal Daisy Bush.....	68	Mountain Devil	66
Broad-leaf Drumsticks	66	Muttonwood	68
Broad-leaved Geebung	70	Myrtle Wattle	58
Broad-leaved Hakea	64	Narrow-leaved Apple.....	74
Cheese Tree	72	Narrow-leaved	
Christmas Bush.....	76	Bottlebrush.....	60
Coast Banksia.....	78	Narrow-leaved Ironbark	78
Cockspur Flower	70	Native Blackthorn	76
Coffee Bush	60	Native Olive.....	72
Dusky Coral Pea.....	50	Native Violet	52
Eggs and Bacon	60	Needlebush	64
False Sarsaparilla.....	50	Old Man's Beard	50
Fishweed	62	Old-man Banksia	74
Flaky-barked Tea-tree	66	Pale Fan-flower	70
Forest Red Gum	80	Pale Vanilla-lily	54
Gorse Bitter Pea.....	60	Parramatta Green Wattle	74
Green Spider Flower	64	Peach Blossom Tea-tree.....	66
Grey Box	80	Pennywort	52
Grey Gum	80	Pine-leaf Bottlebrush.....	60
Hairpin Banksia.....	58	Pink Spider Flower	64
Hairy Bush-pea.....	70	Prickly Beard-heath	68
Hickory Wattle.....	74	Prickly Moses	58

Prickly Parrot Pea.....	62
Prickly-leaved	
Paperbark (shrub)	68
Prickly-leaved	
Paperbark (tree)	80
Purple Burr-daisy	60
Red Bloodwood.....	78
Red Ironbark.....	78
Rough fruit Pittosporum	70
Sandfly Zieria	70
Scribbly Gum.....	76
Scurvey Weed.....	52
Shorthair Plumegrass	54
Sickle Wattle	58
Slender Wire Lily	54
Smooth-barked Apple	78
Snow-in-Summer.....	76
Spiny-headed Mat-rush	56

Spreading Panicgrass.....	56
Sticky Hop Bush.....	72
Sunshine Wattle.....	72
Sweet Pittosporum	76
Sweet Wattle	58
Sydney Golden Wattle	72
Sydney Peppermint.....	80
Thyme Honey-myrtle	68
Tick Bush.....	66
Turpentine	80
Variable Bossiaea	58
Weeping Grass	56
White Dogwood.....	68
White Feather	
Honeymyrtle	72
Whiteroot.....	52
Wonga Wonga Vine	50
Woollybutt	78



