



# Native or weed?

Plants that can be confused in  
Portland and district



• Southwest Environment Alliance •



Warrnambool & District



**GUNDITJ MIRRORING**

Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation  
RNTBC

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



Victorian  
**Landcare**  
Grants



## Statement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Portland and district, the Gunditjmarra, and pay our respects to their Elders, and to all Aboriginal peoples.

## Purpose

Ever been weeding in the bush and ... hang on, is that a weed or a native?

To identify a plant you need more than one feature (yellow flowers is not enough), and to know what else it might look like.

We list many species that could be confused, along with pictures and descriptions. There are a few species that are only listed by name; look at books or search the internet to build your knowledge.

Plants from the same family can have similar characteristics, so family names are included.

- Indigenous plant names are green:  
**Common name** *Scientific name* (Family)
- Introduced plant names are black:  
**Common name (geographic origin)**  
*Scientific name* (Family)
- Plants Indigenous to the area (or with varieties from elsewhere), that can be invasive, are brown: **Common name** *Scientific name* (Family)

## Key

Colour bands on the top of the pages roughly match those in 'Plants of the Great South West'.



native to SW



introduced



native that might become weedy if disturbance has changed the environment

## PINE OR CYPRESS-LIKE

### Cherry Ballart

*Exocarpos cupressiformis*

(Santalaceae)

Seedlings can be confused with pine seedlings.  
Branching 'leaves', green to red fruit.



**Pine species** *Pinus sp.*

(Pinaceae)

Needle tufts. Cones.

Sheoaks (**family Casuarinaceae**) have stems with tiny leaves forming rings, and small seed cones.

Left: Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*

Right: Scrub Sheoak *Allocasuarina paludosa*



**Western Sheoak**

**Dwarf Sheoak**

**Swamp Sheoak (NSW)**

*Allocasuarina mackliniana*

*Allocasuarina pusilla*

*Casuarina glauca*

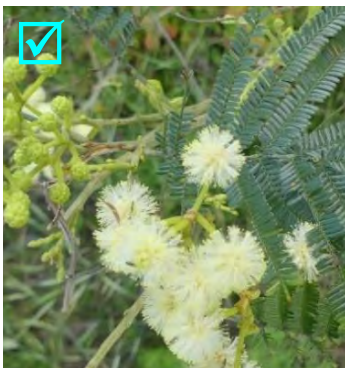
## WATTLES WITH 'FERNY LEAVES'

All wattles are family **Fabaceae**. Their 'leaves' are flattened stems called phyllodes. Fabaceae have pods similar to a garden pea or bean plant.

### Late Black Wattle

#### *Acacia mearnsii*

Olive-green, spaced, flattened pinnae ('leaflets'). Gland at each junction, and glands in between as well. Woolly stems. Lemon-yellow flower heads



### Early Black Wattle (NSW)

#### *Acacia decurrens*

Glabrous, well-spaced, narrow pinnae. Gland just below each junction. Branchlets with ridge, smooth stems. Yellow, globular flowers.



### Cootamundra Wattle (NSW)

#### *Acacia baileyana*

Greyish to purplish, crowded pinnae. Bright-yellow flowers. Can hybridise with *A. decurrens*.



## WATTLES WITH 'FERNY LEAVES'

**Plume Albizia,**  
**Cape Wattle (WA)**  
*Paraserianthes*  
*lophantha*

Very fast-growing.  
Greenish-yellow  
bottlebrush flower  
heads; large,  
flattened seed pods.



**Kowhai (NZ)**

*Sophora* sp.

Not quite a wattle, but the  
same family. New invader in  
the south west.

### **WEEDY HINT**

*Since colonisation, many plants have been introduced to Australia either accidentally or intentionally. Plants can become weed problems if their growth is excessive, and negatively affects the health of the ecosystem.*

*Some introduced plants also have value for native plants and animals and can provide important habitat: e.g. pine trees as food for cockatoos. Always check how a plant is used by wildlife before you decide to remove it.*



# WATTLES WITH FLAT 'LEAVES'

## Blackwood

*Acacia melanoxylon*

Tree with flattened phyllodes with gland at base. Pale-lemon globular flowers.



## Myrtle Wattle

*Acacia myrtifolia*

Shrub; upright phyllodes. Globular flowers.



## Golden Wattle

*Acacia pycnantha*

Shrub to small tree with flattened phyllodes, widening before the tip. Golden-yellow, globular flowers.



## Coast Wattle

*Acacia sophorae*

Shrub to small tree. Elongate flowers. Local, but sometimes weedy, particularly when inland.

## Hop Wattle

*Acacia stricta*

Elongate, flattened phyllodes. Yellow, globular flowers close to stems.



## MYRTACEAE – BOTTLEBRUSH, TEATREE

Family **Myrtaceae** includes teatree, bottlebrush, paperbark, and similar shrubs and small trees. If planted out of their range, some can be invasive. Leaves often aromatic.

### **Totem-poles**

#### ***Melaleuca decussata***

Shrub; linear leaves in alternating pairs. Pink bottlebrush flowers. Damp areas. Natural and planted.



#### **Slender Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca gibbosa***

(no pic) Shrub with hard, fissured bark. Obovate leaves. Pink-mauve, short bottlebrush flowers. Wet heath. Natural and planted.

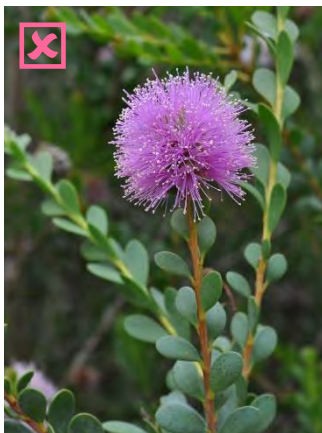
#### **Swamp Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca squamea*** (no pic)

Shrub with corky bark and sharp leaves. Pink-purple globular tuft of flowers on tip of stems. Damp areas.

#### **Showy Honey-myrtle (WA)**

#### ***Melaleuca nesophila***

Shrub to small tree with papery bark. Oval leaves; purple to mauve flowers in dense, terminal head on stem tips. WA native that can invade.



# MYRTACEAE – BOTTLEBRUSH, TEATREE

## Salt Paper-Bark *Melaleuca halmaturorum*

Shrub to small tree. Papery bark. Leaves in opposite pairs. Cream flowers in tufts on stem tips. Isolated occurrence near Tyrendarra. Can be invasive if planted near wet areas (e.g. saltmarsh).



## Moonah

### *Melaleuca lanceolata*

Coastal shrub to large tree with hard, fissured bark (occasionally papery). Leaves in two pairs of opposite rows. Creamy-white flowers.





## MYRTACEAE – BOTTLEBRUSH, TEATREE

### Giant Honey-myrtle (Gippsland)

*Melaleuca armillaris*

Long leaves. Creamy bottlebrush flowers. Extensively planted and can be invasive.



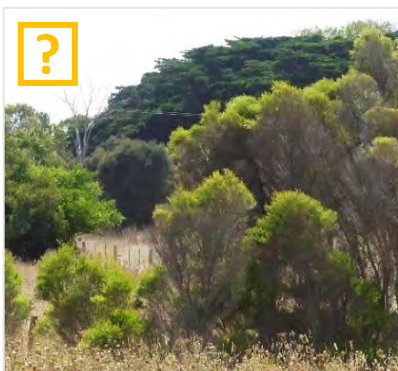
### Scent Paperbark *Melaleuca squarrosa*

Shrub to tree, short leaves. Lemon-cream-white bottlebrush flower spikes on tips of stems. Damp areas.



### Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia*

Root-suckering, shrub to tree. Papery bark; creamy flowers. Common east of Melbourne, isolated records in SW Victoria, some planted. Can be invasive in wet areas.



# MYRTACEAE – BOTTLEBRUSH, TEATREE

## Prickly Teatree

*Leptospermum continentale*

Shrub to 2 m. Leaves narrowly ovate, sharply pointed. White flowers. Woody fruit persists. Dryland or wet areas.



## Coast Teatree

(Anglesea eastward)

*Leptospermum laevigatum*

Leaves obovate, grey-green, with small point. White flowers. Woody fruit falls off. Invasive, coastal.



## Woolly Teatree

*Leptospermum lanigerum*

Leaves silky, silvery-blue-green sheen. White flowers. Fruit "furry". Swamps, springs, and waterways.



Heath Teatree	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>
River Teatree	<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>
Manuka	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
Shiny Teatree	<i>Leptospermum turbinatum</i>

## LARGE LEAVES WITH BERRIES

### Common Boobialla

*Myoporum insulare* (Scrophulariaceae)



Leaves variable, with smooth or 'toothed' edge, obvious glands, leathery; some varieties with thick leaves (esp. near coast). White flowers. Fruit white to purple.



### Sweet Pittosporum (east Australia)

*Pittosporum undulatum* (Pittosporaceae)

Leaves with undulating edge (juvenile leaves may be flat, but no 'teeth'), no obvious glands, aromatic. Branch tips often with a 'rosette' of leaves. Cream, scented flowers. Fruit yellow/orange/brown. Spread by birds.



## LARGE LEAVES WITH BERRIES

### Sea-box *Alyxia buxifolia* (Apocynaceae)

Small to medium shrub. Leaves opposite, or in whorls of three. Leaf size varies a lot; paler beneath, smooth edge. White flowers; red to orange berries. Coast and hinterland.



### Italian Buckthorn (Mediterranean)

#### *Rhamnus alaternus* (Rhamnaceae)

Shrub to small tree. Leaves with 'toothed' edge, no obvious glands. Fruit red to black. Vigorous invasive weed spread by birds.



### Mirror-bush (NZ)

#### *Coprosma repens*

#### (Rubiaceae)

Shrub to small tree. Shiny, rounded leaves. Orange berries. Vigorous invasive weed spread by birds.





## LARGE LEAVES WITH BERRIES

### Cotoneasters (nth Europe & Asia)

*Cotoneaster sp.* (Rosaceae)

Shrub to small tree. Ovate leaves, often with orange or red discolouration. White flowers. Scarlet berries.



### Hawthorn (Europe)

*Crataegus monogyna*

(Rosaceae) (Noxious)

Shrub to small tree. Lobed leaves. White flowers, followed by red berries in summer-autumn. Escaped from hedges and gardens. Spread by birds and foxes.

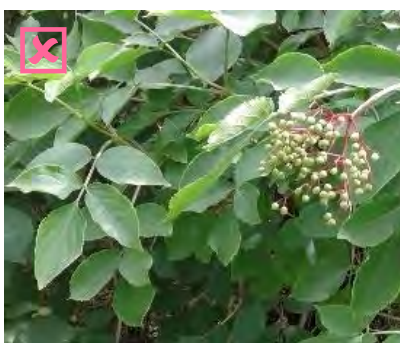


### European Elderberry

*Sambucus nigra*

(Caprifoliaceae)

Large shrub to small tree. Large leaflets in 3s or 5s. White flowers. Berries ripen to black.



See also 'Prickles and berries' section

## BIG LEAVES

### Native Elderberry *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*

(Caprifoliaceae)

Tender shrub, strong growth after fire.

White flower heads and green to cream berries. Vulnerable to grazing by livestock or rabbits.



See also **European Elderberry** *Sambucus nigra* in big leaves and berries

### South African Honey-bush

*Melianthus major* (Melianthaceae)

Large shrub, highly invasive. Distinctive serrated leaf margins. All parts of plant are toxic. Seed spread by wind.



## SHRUBS – FLAT LEAVES

### Common Correa

*Correa reflexa* (Rutaceae)

Shrub with variable, paired leaves. Bell-shaped flowers.

*There are numerous other indigenous Correa species in SW Victoria, some of them undescribed.*



### Hop Bush

*Dodonaea viscosa*

(Sapindaceae)

Shrub with wedge-shaped leaves, sometimes notched.

Papery seed capsules.

### *Pomaderris* species

(Rhamnaceae)

Multi-stemmed shrubs to small trees. 'Woolly', textured leaves.

'Meally' white flowers.

Many species in wide variety of habitats.



Top: Hazel Pomaderris

*Pomaderris aspera*

Bottom: Scurfy

*Pomaderris Pomaderris paniculosa*



## SHRUBS – FLAT LEAVES

### Pale Turpentine Bush

*Beyeria lechenaultii*

(Euphorbiaceae)

Shrub with small, distinctively aromatic leaves. Hard fruit. Coastal.



### Square Raspwort

*Haloragis exalata*  
*subsp. exalata*

(Haloragaceae)

(Vulnerable in Victoria)

Perennial shrub with 'square' stems. Leaves opposite, alternate below flowers. Leaf edges serrated; glossy green. Near watercourses.

### Coast Bitter-bush *Adriana quadripartita*

(Euphorbiaceae)

Shrub with variable, glossy, toothed leaves. Hard fruit on female plants.

Toxic. Near coastal.





## ASTERACEAE: LARGE DAISY SHRUBS



### Shiny Cassinia

*Cassinia longifolia* (left)

Aromatic. Stems sticky. Leaves sticky above, cottony underneath. Drier and rocky sites, esp. after fire or disturbance.



### Common Cassinia, Dogwood

*Cassinia aculeata* ssp. *aculeata*

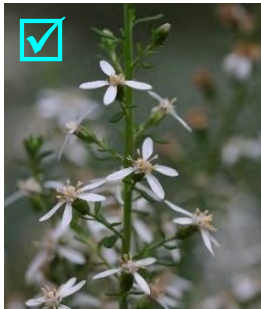
(no pic) Branchlets cottony. Leaves slightly rough above, cottony and glandular underneath. Widespread.



### Coast Everlasting

*Ozthamnus turbinatus*

(left) Branchlets cottony. Leaves smooth above, cottony underneath. Coastal. Tree Everlasting (*Ozthamnus ferrugineus*) (no pic) is similar but leaves sticky above. Widespread.



### Twiggy Daisy-bush

*Olearia ramulosa*

Variable shrub; cottony stems and leaves. Daisy flowers with white, blue or mauve rays. Coastal and inland varieties.

## PRICKLES & BERRIES

### Prickly Geebung

*Persoonia juniperina*

Shrub with spiny leaves, single yellow flowers along stems. Drupe (fruit) greenish to purple.



### Horny Cone-Bush

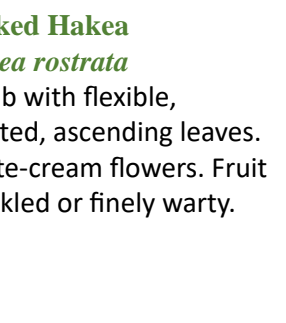
*Isopogon ceratophyllus*

Low shrub with branching, spiny foliage.



### Yellow Hakea

*Hakea nodosa* Shrub with flexible pointed leaves, yellow flowers, and warty fruit.



### Beaked Hakea

*Hakea rostrata*

Shrub with flexible, pointed, ascending leaves. White-cream flowers. Fruit wrinkled or finely warty.



**Willow-leaf Hakea (Qld, NSW) *Hakea salicifolia***  
(no pic) Starting to invade in SW Victoria. Flattened leaves, white flowers, and fruit with black warts.

**Leucadendron (South Africa)**

*Leucadendron sp.*

**Tree Lomatia**

*Lomatia fraseri*

**Protea (South Africa)**

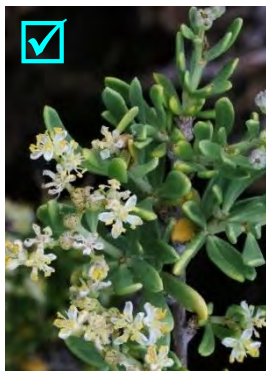
*Protea sp.*

## PRICKLES & BERRIES

### Nitre-bush

*Nitraria billardierei* (Nitrariaceae)

Rigid shrub, often tangled and spiny. Leaves with sharp point. White flowers; purple, red or golden drupes. Limestone cliffs.



### European Boxthorn

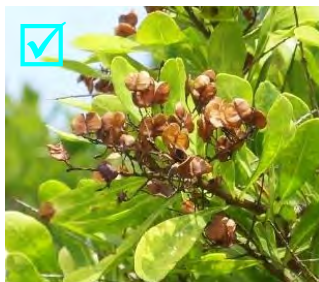
*Lycium ferocissimum*  
(Solanaceae)

Noxious

Rigid spiny shrub to tree. Flattened leaves. White and mauve flowers, red fruit. Provides food and shelter for native birds.

### Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa* (Pittosporaceae)

Low shrub to tree. Leaf shape, and spinness variable. Scented white flowers, brown, papery, heart-shaped seed capsules.



### Native Currant-bush

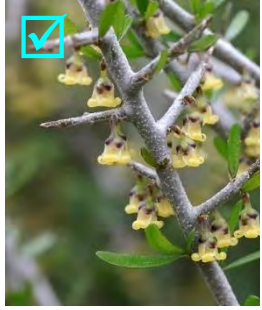
*Coprosma quadrifida*  
(Rubiaceae)

Shrub to small tree. Small, crowded, variable leaves; often spiny; red fruit. Along waterways, forests.



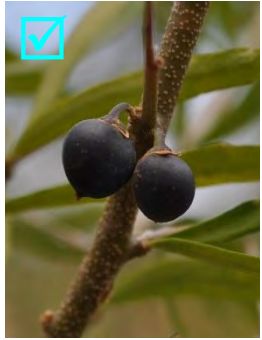
## FABACEAE: PRICKLY VIOLETS

Shrub and tree violets are often confused with boxthorn, especially when not in flower. They are extremely slow growing and may be heavily covered with lichens.



### **Tangled Shrub-violet** *Melicytus angustifolius ssp. divaricatus*

Extremely spiny shrub with small, smooth leaves. Branching angle mostly 60° to 85°. Tiny, scented, bell-shaped flowers develop into green to blue-purple fruit.



### **Tree violet** *Melicytus dentatus* (formerly *Hymenanthera dentata*)

Shrub to small tree. Spiny, smooth leaves. Branching angle mostly 45° to 50°. Tiny, scented, bell-shaped flowers followed by green to blue-purple fruit.





## FABACAEAE: PRICKLY WATTLES

Prickly wattles may be incorrectly considered 'weeds' because of their vigorous growth, especially following fire. Important after fire to protect bare soil and newly germinating seedlings. Also fix nitrogen in the soil.

### Spike Wattle

*Acacia oxycedrus*

Shrub. Very stiff, sharply pointed, flattened phyllodes. Cream, cylindrical flower spikes.



### Hedge Wattle

*Acacia paradoxa*

Shrub. Flattened alternate phyllodes in between spines. Globular bright-yellow flowers.

### Prickly Moses

*Acacia verticillata*

Shrub. Sharply pointed phyllodes in whorls; globular or short spikes of lemon-yellow flowers.



# SOLANACEAE

## Kangaroo Apple

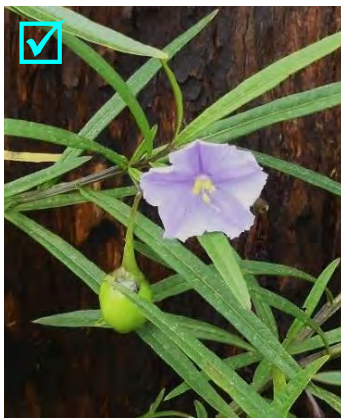
*Solanum aviculare* &  
*S. laciniatum*

Similar shrub species.  
Leaves lanceolate or lobed (no prickles), deep blue-violet flowers and yellow-red fruit. *Solanum laciniatum* (pic) has notched 'petals'; *S. aviculare* has pointed 'petals'; similar to *S. vescum*. Plants grow vigorously after fire or other disturbance, protecting the soil from erosion. Spread by birds.



## Gunyang *Solanum vescum*

Shrub, linear leaves, pale-blue flowers with pointed 'petals', green-fawn fruit. Appears after fire. Much less common than *S. laciniatum* in SW Victoria.



# SOLANACEAE

## Apple of Sodom (Mediterranean & South Africa)

*Solanum linnaeanum*

Noxious

Low shrub. Densely prickly leaves and stems. Mauve flowers followed by globular, yellow fruit. Toxic.



## Black Nightshade (Europe/Asia)

*Solanum nigrum*

Small shrub. White flowers, followed by green to black berries. Several similar species. Toxic.

## Madiera Winter-cherry (Americas)

*Solanum pseudocapsicum*

Small shrub with elongate leaves and round fruit, spread by birds and water. Toxic.



## Bathurst Burr

*Xanthium spinosum*

Noxious

Extremely invasive and spiny groundcover. Spiny seed cases on fruit. Damp areas.

# HYPERICACEAE: ST JOHNS WORTS

## Small St John's Wort

*Hypericum gramineum*

Small herb with opposite, grey-green leaves.

Widespread, but tiny.



## St John's Wort (Europe, Asia)

*Hypericum perforatum*

Noxious

Vigorous, invasive herb to 1 m. Reddish stems. Stalkless leaves in opposite pairs.

Yellow flowers don't require fertilisation to

produce seed. Seed heads rusty-brown. Can cause photosensitisation if handled, or if ingested by stock.

## St Paul's Wort, Indian Weed

*Sigesbeckia orientalis*

(Asteracea)

Lanceolate to hastate leaves. Yellow five-petaled flowers.

Superficially similar to St John's Wort, but different family. Native herb of damp areas.



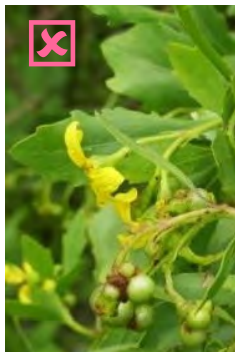


## ASTERACEAE: SMALL DAISY SHRUBS

### **Boneseed (Africa) *Chrysanthemoides monilifera***

Noxious

Shrub. Large, flattened leaves with toothed margins. Hard round fruit rather than the fluffy seed heads more typical of the daisy family.



### **Groundsels *Senecio* species**

Native and introduced. Various leaf shapes, usually yellow daisy flower heads, with or without petals. Fluffy seed heads help with dispersal. Grow thickly after fire or disturbance to protect the soil.

### **Purple Groundsel (Africa) *Senecio elegans***

Looks like a native *Senecio* until it bursts into magenta flowers! Coastal.



### **Ragwort (Europe)**

#### ***Senecio jacobaeana***

(Noxious)

Annual to perennial small shrub. 10-15 bright-yellow ray florets. Don't confuse with native *Senecio* species.

## ASTERACEAE: SMALL DAISY SHRUBS

### Annual Fireweed *Senecio glomeratus*

Annual herb, lobed leaves, no rays on flowers.



### Fireweed *Senecio minimus*

Aromatic annual herb, slender leaves. No rays on flowers.



### Scented Groundsel *Senecio odoratus*

Large perennial herb with large, spicy-scented, blue-green leaves. Yellow flowers. Coastal and forests.

### Variable Groundsel *Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *pinnatifolius*

Sprawling perennial herb. Finely divided leaves. Basalt areas and along streams.



# ASTERACEAE: SMALL DAISY SHRUBS



**Variable Groundsel or Coast Groundsel**  
*Senecio pinnatifolius*  
var. *lanceolatus*

Perennial herb. Leaves variable. Yellow daisy flower heads. Coast and inland.

## Smooth-fruited Groundsel

*Senecio psilocarpus*

(Vulnerable Aus & Vic)

Annual from perennial rootstock. No rays on flowers. Swamps.



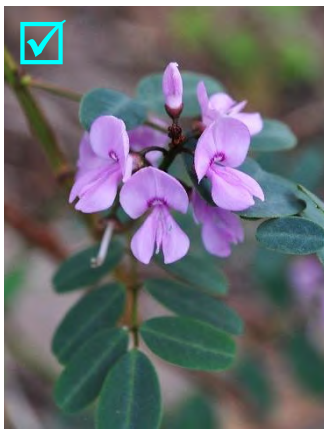
<p><b>Jagged Fireweed</b> <i>Senecio biserratus</i></p> <p><b>Rough Fireweed</b> <i>Senecio hispidulus</i></p> <p><b>Squarrose Fireweed</b> <i>Senecio squarrosus</i></p>	<p>Annual-perennial. No rays on flowers.</p>
<p><b>Fireweed Groundsel</b> <i>Senecio linearifolius</i></p>	<p>Aromatic perennial. Linear leaves. 4-8 ray florets.</p>
<p><b>Cottony Fireweed</b> <i>Senecio quadridentatus</i></p>	<p>Annual from perennial rootstock. Cottony, linear leaves. No rays on flowers.</p>
<p><b>Rock Fireweed</b> <i>Senecio phelleus</i></p>	<p>Perennial. Leaf undersides purplish. No rays on flowers.</p>

## FABACEAE: PURPLE PEAS

### Austral Indigo

#### *Indigofera australis*

Shrub with purplish-green, bipinnate foliage. Pink-mauve pea-flowers. Forest, woodland.



### Common Hovea



#### *Hovea heterophylla*

Sparse shrub; elongate leaves. Blue-mauve pea-flowers, green drupes (above). Forest, woodland, heath.



### Blue Pea (South Africa)

#### *Psoralea pinnata*

Shrub to small tree. Fine, crowded leaves. Mauve-blue pea-flowers. Highly invasive.

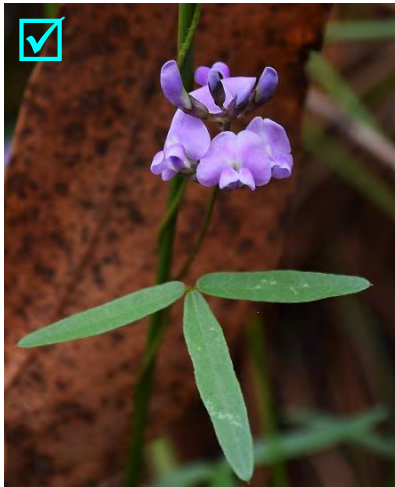


## FABACEAE: PURPLE PEAS



**Coast Swainson-pea**  
*Swainsona lessertiifolia*  
Herb scrambling, or climbing in other plants. Stems to 50 cm. Violet-purple (rarely white) flowers, all parts of flower similar colour. Coastal. There are other native *Swainsona* species in the SW area.

**Twining Glycine**  
*Glycine clandestina*  
Twining herb.  
Trifoliolate leaves.  
Mauve pea-flowers.  
Wide variety of habitats.



**Clover Glycine**  
*Glycine latrobeana*  
(Vulnerable in Aus and Vic)  
Herb. Trifoliolate leaves. Purple flowers. Grasslands and grassy woodlands.

## FABACEAE: PURPLE PEAS



### **Austral Trefoil**

#### *Lotus australis*

Extremely variable perennial herb with obovate leaves. White, pink, or purple pea flowers. Coastal and inland.

### **Common Vetch (Europe, Asia)**

#### *Vicia sativa*.

Herb scrambling, or climbing in other plants. Stems to 1 m long. Crimson, violet or purple flowers, with range of colours on different petals. Various habitats.

There are several other vetch species in the area.

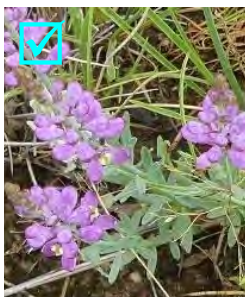
### **Dunny creeper, Dolichos Pea, Common Dipogon (South Africa) *Dipogon lignosus***

Vigorous twiner. Leaflets oval or rhombic. Purple-pink (rarely white) pea flowers. Highly invasive.



## POLYGONACEAE: MILKWORTS

Milkworts (family **Polygonaceae**) flowers have two top petals rather than one like a pea flower.



### Small Milkwort

*Comesperma polygaloides*

Herb in grasslands. Grey-green leaves, mauve flower spikes

### Love Creeper

*Comesperma volubile*

Twiner in forest and woodlands, hard to see the leaves (twining through broom in the photo). Mauve-blue flowers.



### Myrtle-leaf Milkwort (South Africa)

*Polygala myrtifolia*

Very invasive shrub. Leaves opposite, violet flowers. Can be confused with *Pimelea* leaves (below left).



## ERICACEAE: HEATHS

There are numerous native heaths ranging from groundcovers to large shrubs. Prominent natives, and introduced species that could be mistaken for native.

### **Common Heath**

#### *Epacris impressa*

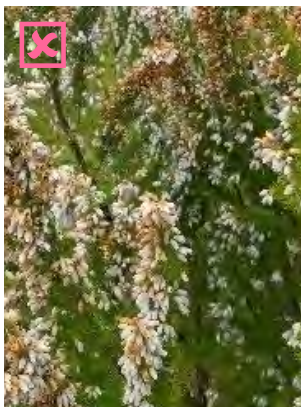
Small shrub. White or pink flowers. Pointed leaves. Victoria's floral emblem.



### **Coast Beard-heath**

#### *Leucopogon parviflorus*

Shrub. Scented white flowers, white berries. Coastal. Several other *Leucopogon* species, some undescribed.



### **Spanish Heath (Europe)**

#### *Erica lusitanica*

Invasive and vigorous. Spreads on roadsides via machinery.



### **Berry-flower Heath (South Africa)**

#### *Erica baccans*

Dense, overlapping leaves.



## MALVACEAE: MALLOWES

### Hemp Bush

#### *Gynatrix pulchella*

Multibranched, large shrub. Narrow ovate to lanceolate leaves. Near streams and wetlands.



### Drooping Velvet-Bush

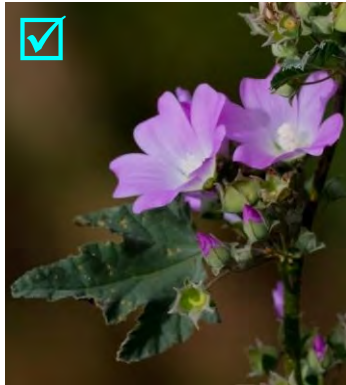
#### *Lasiopetalum schulzenii*

Shrub with hairy leaves, large white flowers. Coastal.

### Austral Hollyhock

#### *Malva preissiana*

Shrub of coastal and rocky areas. Hairy leaves. Mauve to white flowers. Easily confused with introduced mallows (and can hybridise).



### Mallow of Nice

#### (Mediterranean)

#### *Malva nicaeensis*

One of numerous introduced Malva which can be confused with *Malva preissiana*.

## FABACEAE: YELLOW PEAS

There are dozens of native 'egg and bacon' plants with showy pea-flowers in yellow, orange, or red. This is a sample, along with some weedy peas.

**Large-leaf Bitter-pea**  
*Pultenaea daphnoides*  
(right)



**Hop Bitter-pea**  
*Daviesia latifolia* (left)



**Golden Spray**  
*Viminaria juncea*  
Broom-like plant with long, hairless, wiry leaves. Sprays of golden pea-flowers.



**Golden-tip**  
*Goodia lotifolia*  
Medium to large shrub with trifoliate leaves, yellow flowers, and short, flattened pods.



## FABACEAE: YELLOW PEAS

### English/Scotch Broom (nth Africa & Europe)

*Cytisus scoparius* Noxious  
Shrub with multiple stems,  
each with five angles,  
hairy, trifoliate leaves.



### Cape Broom, Montpellier Broom (South Africa)

*Genista monspessulana*  
Noxious  
Shrub with smooth,  
trifoliate leaves.

### Gorse Bitter-pea *Daviesia ulicifolia*

Dense, prickly shrub.  
Leaves with sharp point.  
Flowers yellow to red.



### European Gorse

*Ulex europaeus* Noxious  
Very dense, prickly shrub;  
yellow pea-flowers.  
Highly invasive. Habitat  
for birds and nectar  
source when native  
plants are absent.



# CHENOPODIACEAE: SALTBUSHES

## Coast Saltbush

*Atriplex cinerea*

Silver grey leaves, pinkish flowers. Coastal dunes or estuaries.



## Hastate Orache (nth hemisphere)

*triplex prostrata*

Prostrate to ascending, annual herb. Flowers most of year.

## Ruby Saltbush

*Enchylaena tomentosa*  
*var. tomentosa*

Low shrub with bluish-green leaves. Berries green, turning orange. Coastal.



## Seaberry Saltbush

*Rhagodia candolleana*

Scrambler. Glossy green leaves. Mealy flowers followed by magenta berries.





## CONVOLVULACEAE

### Blushing Bindweed, Pink Bindweed

*Convolvulus angustissimus*

Sparse, twining perennial.

Variable, but generally slender, greyish-green leaves, can be hard to see unless in flower. Pinkish funnel-shaped flowers to 25 mm in Sep-Apr.

There are several similar small native *Convolvulus* species; some rare.



### Large Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* var *roseata*

Vigorous perennial climber.

Leaves ovate to lanceolate, large white or pinkish flowers to 6 cm long. Near streams or wet areas.



### Greater Bindweed *Calystegia sylvatica*

(no pic) Leaves ovate to broad ovate, large white or pinkish flowers to 9 cm. Occasional garden escape which can hybridise with *C. sepium*.

### Common Bindweed (Europe, Asia)

*Convolvulus arvensis* Noxious

(no pic) Trailing or twining perennial. Ovate to triangular leaves which can grow thickly. Small white funnel-shaped flowers to 30 mm. Disturbed areas.

### Blue Morning Glory (pantropical)

*Ipomoea indica*

Perennial climber, very strong growth.

Large violet-blue flowers.



# CREEPERS, CLIMBERS & SCRAMBLERS

## Asparagus Fern (Africa)

*Asparagus asparagoides*

(Asparagaceae) Noxious

Scrambling or climbing.

Fern-like foliage growing from fleshy tubers. Spreads via berries. Not a true fern.



## Bridal Creeper (South Africa)

*Asparagus scandens*

(Asparagaceae) Noxious

Vigorous climber or scrambler.

Leaves alternate along stem.

Abundant underground tubers make it very difficult to control.



Above: **Sweet Appleberry**

*Billardiera cymose*

Right: **Common Appleberry**

*Billardiera mutabilis*



## CREEPERS, CLIMBERS & SCRAMBLERS

### **Blue-bell Creeper (WA)** *Billardiera heterophylla* (Pittosporaceae)

Native climber in the wrong place. Blue, bell flowers followed by blue berries which are spread far and wide by birds, foxes and water. Drought tolerant, smothers native vegetation.



### **Australian Clematis, Mountain Clematis** *Clematis aristata* (Ranunculaceae)

Twiner or climber.  
Leaflets usually toothed.  
White to cream flowers,  
followed by fluffy  
seed heads. Forests,  
woodlands.

### **Old Man's Beard, Small-leafed Clematis** *Clematis microphylla* (Ranunculaceae)

Twiner or climber.  
Finely divided leaflets.  
White to yellow flowers,  
followed by fluffy seed  
heads. Coastal to inland.



## CREEPERS, CLIMBERS & SCRAMBLERS

### Cape Ivy (South Africa)

*Delairea odorata*

(Asteracea)

Vigorous climber or scrambler with succulent ivy-like leaves. Clusters of yellow daisy flower heads in winter to spring.



### English Ivy (Europe, Asia)

*Hedera helix*

(Araliaceae)

Vigorous climber or scrambler, attaches to surfaces or other plants using aerial rootlets. Dark berries spread by animals, and water.

### Running Postman

*Kennedia prostrata*

(Fabaceae)

Trailing stems with trifoliate leaves and bright, red, pea-flowers.



### Gold and Silver Honeysuckle (east Asia)

*Lonicera japonica*

(Caprifoliaceae)

Vigorous climber or scrambler. Forest, disturbed, or waterside areas. Flowers in autumn.



# CREEPERS, CLIMBERS & SCRAMBLERS

## Climbing Lignum

*Muehlenbeckia adpressa*  
(Polygonaceae)

Straggling to vigorous, broad-leaved, climbing plants. Can 'appear' after weeds have been cleared.



## Madiera Vine (South America)

*Anredera cordifolia*

(Weed of National Significance) Noxious

(above left) Vigorous climber with fleshy, heart-shaped leaves; glossy upper surface and undulating edges. Cream, aniseed-scented flowers in long 'lamb's tails'. Aerial and underground tubers.

## Banana Passionfruit (South America)

*Passiflora tarminiana*

Three-lobed leaves, hairy underneath. Extremely vigorous invader of bushland.



## CREEPERS, CLIMBERS & SCRAMBLERS

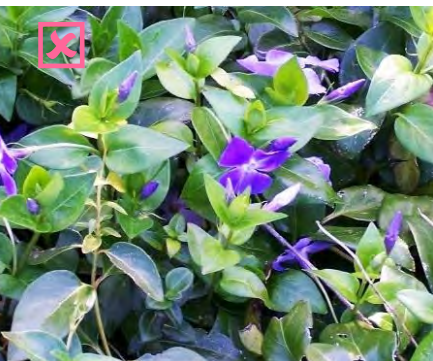
**Turkey Rhubarb,  
Rambling Dock  
Potato Vine**

*Rumex sagittatus*

(Polygonaceae)

Vigorous vine grows annually from perennial tuber.

Masses of white, pink or red flowers.



**Periwinkle  
(Mediterranean)**

*Vinca major*

(Apocynaceae)

Trailing evergreen, rooting at nodes.

Blue, 5-petalled flowers. Invades bush and roadsides.

### **WEEDY HINT**

*In the 1960s and 1970s Joan and Eileen Bradley developed a way of treating weeds that focussed on healthy bush, rather than just killing weeds. The Bradley method changed weed control in Australia:*

- 1. Look after the best areas first; this will give high quality core areas to work out from*
- 2. Minimise disturbance to soil, moss, and native plants; bare areas are seed beds for new weeds*
- 3. Treat small areas at a time; let the regeneration of the bush set the pace*

## DODDERS & MISTLETOES



Dodders and mistletoes are parasitic, but important parts of ecosystems.

**Downy Dodder-laurel**  
*Cassytha pubescens*  
(Lauraceae)

Weak to robust twiner.  
Young parts woolly.  
Vigorous after fire.

**Wire-leaf Mistletoe**  
*Amyema preissii*  
(Loranthaceae)

Wiry, pointed leaves.  
Flowers usually red, but  
this example is yellow.  
Parasitic on *Acacia*.



**Drooping Mistletoe** *Amyema pendulq* (Loranthaceae)  
Lanceolate leaves. Parasitic on *Eucalyptus* and  
*Acacia*.



## AIZOACEAE: SUCCULENTS

### Karkalla, Pigface

#### *Carpobrotus rossii*

Succulent. Distinctively incurved leaves, usually thicker than wide near middle. Flowers to 5.5 cm, sepals to 25 mm.



### Chilean Sea Fig, Angled Pigface (South America)

#### *Carpobrotus aequilateralis*, *C. chilensis*

Succulent. Erect leaves, usually equal sided in middle; growing on rising stems. Flowers to 8 cm, sepals to 5 cm. Often grown in mistaken belief that it is the indigenous species; even in revegetation areas.



### Hottentott Fig (South Africa)

#### *Carpobrotus edulis*

Succulent. Very large, yellow to pale pink flowers to 8.5 cm. Sepals to 45 mm.

### Noon Flower

#### *Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum*

Smooth, cylindrical leaves. White to mauve flowers. Coastal.





## AIZOACEAE: SUCCULENTS

*Mesembryanthemum* sp.  
(cultivar) (Africa)

Variety of flower colours and leaf forms.



**Heart-leaf Ice-plant**  
*Mesembryanthemum cordifolium*

Dull, cordate leaves with prominent papillae. Pink flowers. Hybrid nursery forms often confused with native; different leaf bases, and reddish flowers.



**Bower Spinach**  
*Tetragonia implexicoma*

Fleshy glandular leaves, yellow flowers followed by berries. Coastal and inland.



**Warrigal Spinach**  
(NSW & east Vic)  
*Tetragonia tetragonoides*

Larger, softer leaves than *T. implexicoma*. Marketed as a bushfood in nurseries. Can be weedy if mistakenly planted in natural settings or spread by birds.



# APIACEAE: 'UMBRELLA' FLOWERS

**Apiaceae** usually have distinctive 'umbrella' shaped flower heads. The leaves are often aromatic.

## Sea Celery

### *Apium prostratum*

Parsley like plant. Leaves taste salty and like celery. Subspecies in coastal, saltmarsh and swamp habitats. Nursery cultivars unsuitable for revegetation.



## Wild Carrot *Daucus carota* (Eurasia, Africa)

Carrotty smell. Often in disturbed areas.



## Australian Carrot *Daucus glochidiatus* (no pic)

Herb with fine, pinnate leaves. Irregular umbels.

## Prickfoot *Eryngium vesiculosum*

Rosettes of both long, smooth, and spiny leaves. Spikey blue flowers. Damp areas.



# APIACEAE: 'UMBRELLA' FLOWERS

**Fennel (Europe, Africa)**

*Foeniculum vulgare*

Noxious

Large perennial. Yellow flower heads. Distinctive aniseed aroma. Finely divided leaves.



**Hemlock**

(nth hemisphere)

*Conium maculatum*

Noxious

All parts of plant are toxic (dead or alive). Large perennial. Distinctive mousey aroma. 'Fernlike' leaves.



**Parsley (Europe)**

*Petroselinum crispum*

Small to medium herb. Garden escapes can become invasive, including in sandy areas.



## ASTERACEA: SMALL DAISIES



### Cape Weed (Africa)

*Arctotheca calendula*

Annual. Yellow flowers with black centres.

Invasion reduced by keeping a good grass cover.

### South African Beach Daisy, Coast Capeweed

*Arctotheca populifolia*

Expanding coastal weed on dunes and foreshore. Distinctive grey leaves and strong growth. Seed spread by wind and water.



### *Gazania* sp. (Africa)

Large yellow or orange flowers. Densely clumping leaves. Planted in coastal locations and naturalises.



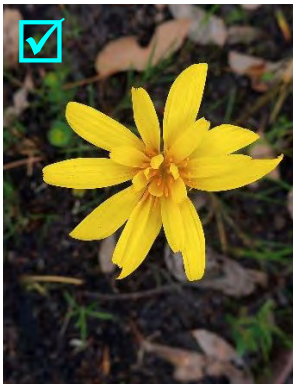


## ASTERACEA: SMALL DAISIES

### Catsear

*Hypochaeris* sp.

Leathery, lobed leaves.  
Wiry flower stem,  
usually branched, with  
multiple, yellow flower  
heads, not drooping.



### Yam Daisy, Murnong *Microseris* spp.

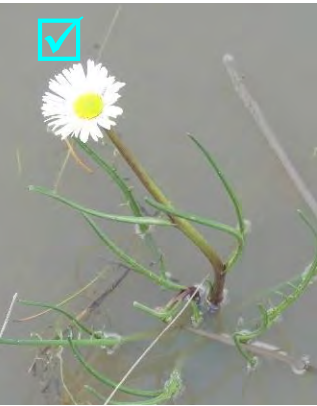
Several species of soft,  
rosetted, herbs with  
perennial tuber. Leaves  
elongate, but variable  
in shape and amount of  
'toothing'. Flower buds  
singly on stems and  
'nodding'. From coast to  
mountains.

### Dandelion (Europe) *Taraxacum* spp.

Soft, sharply-toothed  
leaves. Flowers  
singly on fleshy stem.  
Common in fertile  
soils. There is also a  
native Dandelion, *T.*  
*cygnorum*, found near  
Nelson.



## ASTERACEA: SMALL DAISIES



**Swamp Daisy** *Allittia cardiocarpa* Linear leaves, white daisy flower head on long stalk. Swampy places.



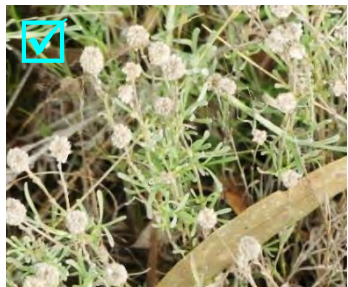
**European Lawn Daisy** *Bellis perennis* Basal rosette or cluster of shallowly toothed leaves. White, daisy flower heads with large yellow centre.



**Milky Beauty-heads** *Calocephalus lacteus* Fine leaves, white 'pom pom' flowers. Also Yellow Beauty-heads, *C. citreus*.

**Brachyscome sp.** (no pic) Several native species with white, blue, or mauve flowers. Also garden cultivars.

**Tall Daisy** *Brachyscome diversifolia* Leaves without stalks. Large white, daisy flower head. smooth with hairs. Coastal.

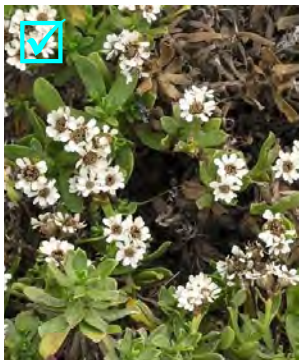


## ASTERACEA: SMALL DAISIES

**Seaside Daisy**  
(Central America)

*Erigeron karvinskianus*

Fine-leaved garden escape.



**Bottle-daisy**

*Lagenophora* spp.

Basal rosette of toothed leaves. Small white to blue daisy flowers. Can form dense mats in good conditions.



**Ixodia**

*Ixodia achillaeoides*

Low shrub with dark green leaves and papery flowers. Coastal.



**Wiry buttons**

*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius*

Perennial with much-branched, wiry stems. Leaves woolly beneath, and where joining stems. Bright yellow 'button' flower.

# GERANIACEAE

## **Austral Stork's-bill** *Pelargonium australe*

Perennial herb. Soft leaves, pink flowers. There are several other native *Pelargonium* species look similar.



## **Crane's-bill** *Geranium* spp.

Perennial herb.

Soft, divided leaves. White or pink flowers. There are several native and introduced species which look similar.



## **Garden Geranium** *Pelargonium x domesticum*

Shrub. Pink flowers. Can self-seed and be invasive, especially in coastal areas.



## **Blue Heron's-bill**

## **Introduced Heron's-bill**

## **Dove's-foot Crane's-bill**

## **Soft Cranesbill**

## **Grassland Crane's-bill**

## **Austral Crane's-bill**

## **Austral Stork's-bill**

## *Erodium crinitum*

## *Erodium* sp. (introduced)

## *Geranium molle*

## *Geranium potentilloides*

## *Geranium retrorsum*

## *Geranium solanderi*

## *Pelargonium littoralis*;

## *P. inodorum*



## FLESHY COASTAL HERBS

### Coast Stackhousia *Stackhousia spathulata*

(Celastraceae)

Perennial subshrub. Obovate leaves. Scented, creamy-white flower spike. Dunes and hinterland.



### Sicilian Sea-lavender *Limonium hyblaenum*

(Plumbaginaceae)

Forms dense mats. Fleshy leaves, mauve 'static' flowers. Dunes, saltmarsh, sea cliffs. Invasive.



### Sea rocket *Cakile*

*maritima* (Brassicaceae)

Straggling shrubs with thick, fleshy, elongate leaves. Mustard smell. Dunes. The similar Sea Rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*) is Noxious.

### Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*

(Euphorbiaceae)

Invasive. Leaves opposite. Milky poisonous sap. There are other *Euphorbia* species that have escaped from gardens.



## LAMIACEAE: MINTS

All members of the family **Lamiaceae** have four-sided stems and strongly aromatic 'minty' leaves. Look at the growth form, leaf shape, and flowers to identify.

### **Austral Bugle**

#### *Ajuga australis*

Low herb, variable leaves which initially form in rosettes. Widespread and variable.



### **Selfheal (Europe, Asia)**

#### *Prunella vulgaris*

Low herb. Branches often rooting at nodes. Common weed of damp areas.



### **Forest Mint**

#### *Mentha laxiflora*

Low herb. Clusters of flowers in axils (leaf joints). Forest and wet areas.



### **Apple mint**

#### *Mentha x rotundifolia*

Strong apple-mint scent. Leaves woolly underneath, long flower cluster. Invasive, forming large colony.



## LAMIACEAE: MINTS

### **Pennyroyal (Europe)** *Mentha pulegium*

Strongly mint-scented, rhizomatous herb, lower stem laying on ground, rooting at nodes. Leaves hairy, dense clusters of flowers where leaves join stems. Serious environmental weed, especially in damp areas.



### **Domestic mints** *Mentha* spp.

Strongly-scented herbs. Often in damp areas, invasive. Take care not to confuse with native mints.

**Horehound**

*Marrubium vulgare* Noxious

**River Mint**

*Mentha australis*

**Slender Mint**

*Mentha diemenica*

**Creeping mint**

*Mentha saturoides*

### **WEEDY HINT**

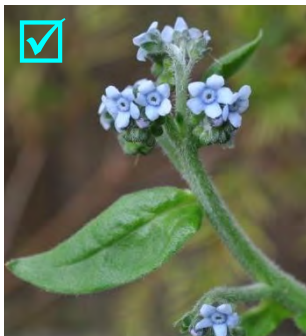
*Find out how your weed spreads. Does it sucker, or spread by seed? Does seed stay nearby or move around by wind or water; or do people, animals or machinery move it about?*

# BORAGINACEAE

Family **Boraginaceae** includes native and introduced species with 'forget-me-not' flowers.

## **Australian Hound's-tongue** *Cynoglossum australe*

Herb with lanceolate leaves. Tall flower stem with pale blue to white flowers, followed by prickly seed cases that stick to socks. Widespread from coast to forest.



## **Paterson's curse** **(Europe)**

*Echium plantagineum*

(Noxious)

Usually annual herb. Hairy leaves, purplish-blue flowers.

**Small/Wild Bugloss**

**Forest Hound's-Tooth**

**Borage**

**Viper's Bugloss**

**Sweet Hound's-tongue**

## **Wood Forget-me-not** **(Europe)**

*Myosotis sylvatica*

Hairy leaves and stems. Bright-blue flowers. No scent.



*Anchusa arvensis*

*Austrocynoglossum latifolium*

*Borage officinalis*

*Echium vulgare* Noxious

*Hackelia suaveolens*



## ROSACEAE: ROSE FAMILY

**Sheep's Burr** *Acaena echinata* or *Acaena x ovina*

**Hybrid Burr** *Acaena x anserovina* (pics)

Rosette of glossy, pinnate leaves. Long stem with prickly fruit. Sheep's Burr has fruit scattered on stem; Hybrid Burr has small 'ball' on stem tip, and 3-4 fruit along stem. Some people mistakenly think these species are weeds.



**Bidgee Widgee**

*Acaena novae-zelandiae*

Creeping, rhizomatous perennial with glossy, pinnate leaves. Prickly 'ball' fruit, often stuck to socks or school jumpers.

**Silver Weed**

(nth hemisphere)

*Argentina anserina*

Creeping perennial with silvery pinnate leaves. Yellow five-petal flowers. Very widespread, especially damp areas.



Virtually impossible to control once established. Multiple recorded uses including warding off evil spirits in Europe.

# ROSACEAE: ROSE FAMILY

## Native Raspberry *Rubus parvifolius*

Often confused with blackberry and other introduced brambles. Leaves 'scalloped'. Pale pink flowers in spring followed by small, red fruit. In forest, near waterways, fence lines.



## Blackberry etc. (Europe)

*Rubus* spp. Noxious  
Leaves with 'toothed' edge. White or pink flowers followed by larger black or red fruit.



## Wild Rose, Sweet Briar (Europe)

*Rosa rubiginosa* Noxious  
Shrub or scrambling.  
Leaves with serrate margins. Large pink flowers followed by large scarlet fruit.



## URTICACEAE: NETTLES

### Scrub Nettle *Urtica incisa*

Perennial. Leaves lanceolate, oblong to ovate with stinging hairs. Flowers all year (mostly spring). Old stems lose leaves, turn yellow and look quite different (right). Scattered, or in dense stands in damp and wet areas.



### Stinging Nettle (Eurasia)

#### *Urtica urens*

Annual. Leaves ovate to elliptic with stinging hairs. Flowers all year. Often appears after disturbance.



### WEEDY HINTS

*Think about what is going to grow back after you remove a weed. Does the plant have roots, bulbs or tubers that will regrow? Are there weed seeds in the soil that will germinate? Will neighbouring natives fill the gap? Would quality mulch help?*

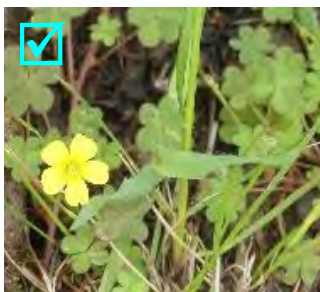
## TRIFOLIATE LEAVES (in 3s)

Small plants with 'trifoliate' leaves, including native and introduced *Oxalis* and pea plants.

### **Southern Tick-trefoil** *Desmodium gunni* (Fabaceae)

Prostrate herb, stems root at nodes; trifoliate leaves. Pink to white pea-flowers on stalks.

Wood-sorrels (family **Oxalidaceae**) are identified by whether stems are hairy, or root at the nodes; number of flowers in a cluster, stipules at the base of the leaf stalk, and the seed cases.



### **Native Wood-sorrel, probably *O. exilis* (yellow)**



### **Large-flower** **Wood-sorrel (Africa)** *Oxalis purpurea*

Leaves grow flat to the soil, large purple flowers. Locally common, especially in lawns and mown areas.

**Downy Wood-sorrel**

**Shady Wood-sorrel**

**Grassland Wood-sorrel**

**Creeping Wood-sorrel (SE Asia)**

**Oxalis/Soursob (sth Africa)**

**Pale Wood-sorrel (Africa)**

*Oxalis chnoodes*

*Oxalis exilis*

*Oxalis perennans*

*Oxalis corniculata*

*Oxalis pes-caprae*

Noxious

*Oxalis incarnata*



## ASTERACEAE: THISTLES

### Dune Thistle

*Actites megalocarpus*

Tough-leafed, perennial thistle. Large, yellow flowers. Coastal dunes.



### Ox-tongue Thistle

*Helminthotheca echioides*

Multibranched thistle. Thick, prickly leaves which stick to clothing. Yellow flowers. Dry or damp areas.

### Rough Sow-thistle (Europe)

*Sonchus asper*

Usually single stem. Thick, prickly, divided leaves. Yellow flowers most of the year. Widespread.

### Native Sow Thistle

*Sonchus hydrophilus*

(no pic) Similar to *Sonchus asper*, but leaves softer, less divided. Flowers most of the year. Damp areas around rivers or swamps.

### Sow Thistle, Milk Thistle (Europe, Asia)

*Sonchus oleraceus*

Leaves soft and not prickly. Very widespread.

See *Senecio* section and Prickfoot *Eryngium vesiculosum* (Apiaceae) too.



## OTHER FLOWERS 4 OR 5 PETALS

A few flowers people often ask about ...

### **Pincushion Brunonia**

*Brunonia australis*

(Brunonaceae)

Tuft of hairy leaves.

Cluster of bright-blue flowers on stalk.



### **Wild Turnip (Europe, Asia)**

*Brassica rapa* (Brassicaceae)

Perennial herb with taproot.

Like other Brassica weeds (e.g. mustard weed), has 4-petalled flowers, and strong smelling leaves.

### **Hairy Willow-herb**

(Europe, Asia, nth Africa)

*Epilobium hirsutum*

(Onagraceae)

Perennial, rhizomatous herb 0.25 to 2.5 m. Soft leaves, mostly opposite. Ring of long hairs inside pink-purple flowers. Damp areas.



### **Wall Fumitory**

(Europe)

*Fumaria muralis*

(Papaveraceae)

Soft herb with pale pink flowers. Common weed of gardens and disturbed areas.

## OTHER FLOWERS 4 OR 5 PETALS

### Reddish Evening Primrose *Oenothera glazioviana* (Onagraceae)

One of several evening primrose species with large, yellow flowers. Garden escapes.



### Red-ink Weed (America) *Phytolacca octandra* (Phytolaccaceae)

Toxic. Rank-smelling large herb or soft shrub with bright pink stems and flower heads.



### Pincushion (Mediterranean) *Scabiosa atropurpurea* (Dipsacaceae)

Erect herb. Mauve to purple flowers. Garden escape.



### Twiggy Mullein (Europe) *Verbascum virgatum* (Scrophulariaceae)

Rosette of glabrous leaves, extending up the long stem as it flowers. Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* Noxious) has grey, woolly leaves and pale-yellow flowers.



# ORCHIDACEAE: ORCHIDS

## Common Onion Orchid

*Microtis unifolia* (right)

Slender, green flower stem with numerous tiny green flowers. Single, tubular, fleshy leaf. Grassland



## Leek Orchids

*Prasophyllum* spp.

(left) Many species. Slender, green to brown stem with numerous white, cream, brown, or green flowers. Single, long, green leaf; often purple at base. Grasslands.



## South African Weed-orchid

*Disa bracteata*

(Left) Stout, fleshy stem; tiny red to yellow flowers emerging from prominent bracts (leaves around flowers). Rosette of leaves at base. Spread by microscopic seeds on boots etc.



## Lesser Broomrape (Europe)

*Orobanche minor* (Orobanchaceae)

Not an orchid; but may be mistaken for one. Leafless, parasitic on other plants. Wide variety of habitats including coastal dunes. There are also native Broomrapes.



## STRAPPY LEAVES

Weedy species can spread easily from bulbs or bulbils.

### **Agapanthus** (sth Africa)

#### *Agapanthus praecox*

(Agapanthaceae)

Perennial. Large blue or white flower clusters. Toxic.



### **Angled Onion** (Africa & Europe) *Allium triquetrum*

(Amaryllidaceae) (Noxious)

Strong onion smell. Spread by bulbils or seeds.

### **Chocolate Lily**

#### *Arthropodium strictum*

(Asparagaceae)

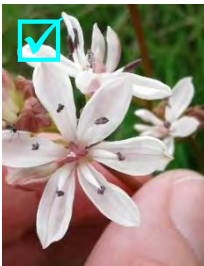
Tufted perennial, tubers. Blue to purple flowers; chocolate scent. Taxonomy under review.



### **Bulbine lily**

#### *Bulbine bulbosa* (Asphodelaceae)

Tufted perennial, tubers. Yellow flowers, opening from bottom of flower spike. Variable. Only use local varieties for bushland planting.



### **Milkmaids**

#### *Burchardia umbellata*

(Colchicaceae)

Perennial with underground tubers. White, scented flowers.

## STRAPPY LEAVES

**Flax-Lily** *Dianella sp.* (Hemerocallidaceae) Perennials. Taxonomy being reviewed. Garden cultivars shouldn't be used for bushland planting.

**Coast Flax-lily** *Dianella brevicaulis*

Tightly tufted plant. Flower stalk shorter than leaves, with spreading branches.

**Swamp Flax-lily** *Dianella callicarpa* (rare)

Tufted plant to 1.9 m high, sometimes rhizomatous. Flower stalk much taller than leaves. Lilac flowers.

**Pale Flax-lily** *Dianella longifolia*

Tuft, or rhizomatous with tufts. Flower stalk longer than leaves. Pale-blue flowers. Mostly inland.

**Black-anther Flax-lily** *Dianella revoluta*



(pics) Densely or loosely tufted, rhizomatous, sometimes forming large patches. Flower stalks a little shorter, or longer than leaves.



**Freesia (Africa)** *Freesia hybrid* (Iridaceae)

(Left) Corms; long, flat leaves, white flowers. Spread by mowing.

**Mat-rush** *Lomandra spp.* (Asparagaceae)

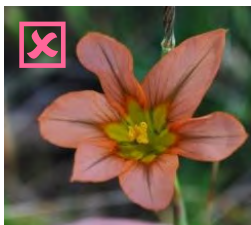
(Below) Perennial. Numerous local species. Garden cultivars should not be used for bush planting.



## STRAPPY LEAVES

**Cape Tulips (Africa) *Moraea* sp.**  
(Iridaceae) (Noxious)

Perennial, corms. Dull orange flowers. Toxic to stock.



**Native flag species**  
*Patersonia* sp. (Iridaceae)

Perennial; tuft or tussock. Blue-mauve, 3-petalled flowers.

Left: *Patersonia fragilis*

**Canary Island Date Palm**  
*Phoenix canariensis*

(Areaceae)

Palm tree; develops trunk. Extremely sharp tips on leaves. Birds spread the fruit.



**Watsonia (South Africa)**

*Watsonia* sp. (Iridaceae) Noxious  
Flowers white, pink, orange, or red. Garden escape.



**White Arum-lily (Africa)**  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Araceae)

Invasive; damp areas. Toxic.

# STRAPPY LEAVES



**Australian Grass-tree**  
*Xanthorrhoea australis*  
(Xanthorrhoeaceae)

Perennial; visible trunk in older plants; 4-sided leaves.



**Small Grass-tree**  
*Xanthorrhoea minor*  
(Xanthorrhoeaceae)

Perennial; trunk underground; 3-sided leaves. *Xanthorrhoea caespitosa* leaves are more flattened and grey-green.

## Pale Grass-lily

New Zealand

Cabbage-tree

Montbretia (Africa)

Gladiolus

(Eurasia, Africa)

Red-hot Poker

Morning-flag

Sparaxis (Africa)

*Caesia parviflora*

(Hemerocallidaceae)

*Cordyline australis*

(Asparagaceae)

*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*

(Iridaceae)

*Gladiolus sp.*

(Iridaceae)

*Kniphofia uvaria*

(Asphodelaceae)

*Orthrosanthus multiflorus*

(Iridaceae)

*Sparaxis sp.*

(Iridaceae)



## JUNCACEAE: TRUE RUSHES

True rushes have rounded stems. Species can be difficult to tell apart, and there are many more than are listed here.

### **Sea Rush** *Juncus kraussii*

Dark brown flower heads. Saline and brackish areas.



### **Pale Rush** *Juncus pallidus*

(Left) Robust perennial. Pith in stem continuous. Golden flower heads. Moist to damp areas.



### **Spiny Rush (nth hemisphere)**

*Juncus acutus* (Noxious)

(Above right) Large tussock, extremely spiny. Fresh to brackish damp areas. Highly invasive.

## CYPERACEAE: SEDGES

### Knobby Clubrush

*Ficinia nodosa*

Rhizomatous perennial.  
Sandy and damp areas.



### Coastal Sword-Sedge

*Lepidosperma  
gladiatum*

Clumping perennial.  
Coastal areas. There  
are several other local  
*Lepidosperma* species.

### Poong'ort

*Carex tereticaulis*

Hollow-stemmed sedge with  
short flower heads on ends of  
stems. Damp areas. Important  
Gunditjmara plant for weaving.



### Drain Flat-sedge (Americas)

*Cyperus eragrostis*

Tufted perennial with triangular stems. Invasive in  
wet areas. There are also native *Cyperus* species.

## CYPERACEAE: SEDGES

### Tall Saw-sedge *Gahnia clarkei*

Tall, tussock-forming perennial, base can be cane-like. Flower stalk dark-brown or grey-black and spreading, developing red nuts. Damp areas.



### Chaffy Saw-sedge *Gahnia filum*

Large, perennial tussock. Flower stalk mid-brown and narrow, developing brown nuts. Damp areas.



### Thatch Saw-sedge *Gahnia radula*

(no pic) Tussock-forming, rhizomatous perennial; can form large colonies. Brown to black flower stalk; black nuts.



## POACEAE: GRASSES



**Cane Grass,  
Common Reed**  
*Phragmites australis*

Fine-stemmed, bamboo-like, rhizomatous, clumping perennial. Stems to 3 m high. Damp areas. Important habitat.

**Pampas Grass  
(South America)**  
*Cortaderia selloana*

Large clumps to 4.5 m high. Flower white or pinkish. Invasive.



**Phalaris, Toowoomba  
Canary Grass (Europe)**  
*Phalaris aquatica*

Perennial, dense seed head. Roadsides and damp areas. Invasive.

**Giant Reed  
(Europe/Asia)**  
*Arundo donax*

Bamboo-like, rhizomatous, clumping perennial. Stems to 8 m. Invasive.





## POACEAE: GRASSES

### Perennial Veldt-grass (Africa) *Ehrharta calycina*



Tufted perennial with short rhizome (sometimes annual). Distinctly pink, new flower heads. Extremely invasive.

### Tussock Grass, *Poa labillardieri*

Widespread tussock grass with fine, soft leaves and long flower stems. There are several undescribed varieties, so always use local seed for revegetation. Nursery cultivars not suitable for bushland planting (some are invasive).



### Coastal Tussock, Blue Tussock Grass *Poa poiformis*

Tussock grass. Cape Bridgewater has a rhizomatous form, *P. poiformis* var. *ramifer*. *Poa labillardieri* is larger than *P. poiformis*, has softer leaves, longer flower stems, and may grow nearby. Dunes, coastal areas.



## POACEAE: GRASSES

### Coast Fescue

#### *Poa billardierei*

Tussock and rhizomes, to 60 cm high. Fine (c. 1 mm wide), green, inrolled leaves. Distinctive straw-coloured seed heads with large grains. On dunes and foreshore.



### Marram Grass, European Beachgrass *Ammophila arenaria*

Tussocks and rhizomes; leaves to 120 cm high. Flattened or curled (to 6 mm wide) grey-green leaves. Seed heads with fine grains. Dunes.

Below: Marram Grass (left)  
and Coast Fescue (right)



## POACEAE: GRASSES

### Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides* var *stipoides*

Rhizomatous, perennial forming tussocks or a mat. Flat leaves. Long, slender flowering stems with weeping shape. Seeds have two awns ('tails'). Forms natural lawns. Widespread, shady areas.



### Wallaby Grasses *Rytidosperma* spp.

Fine-leaved grasses, usually with cream-coloured seed-heads, often 'fluffy' when ripe. Several species. Right: Kneed Wallaby-grass, *Rytidosperma geniculata*.



#### WEEDY HINT

- Control of grassy weeds depends on how and when the grass grows:
- Is the grass perennial (lives from year to year) or annual (finishes life cycle in a year)?
- Does it spread via seeds, or vegetative growth (e.g. rhizomes, layering)?
- Is it a summer or winter grower?



## POACEAEA: SPEAR GRASSES

### Native Spear-grasses *Austrostipa* spp.

There are numerous native Spear-grasses; each with their own particular leaves, flowers and seeds. Seeds have a long, twisting awn. Look at specialist grass references for the fine detail you need to identify to species level.



### Chilean Spear-grass *Nassella neesiana* (pic) Serrated Tussock *Nassella tenuissima* (South America)

Both Noxious

Extremely invasive, often confused with native spear grasses. Look for small 'crown' where seed joins the awn (long tail).



### Feathertop, Gentle Annie (nth Africa) *Cenchrus longisetus*

Noxious

Rhizomatous or tussock; perennial. Shiny, white bristly seed heads.





## POACEAE: CREEPING GRASSES



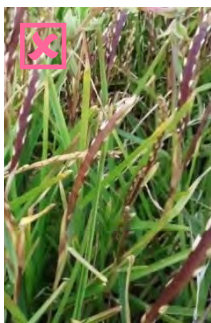
**Hairy Spinifex** *Spinifex sericeus*

Distinctive soft, silvery, hairy leaves. 'Tumbleweed' seed heads (right). Runners extend below sand, exposed by high seas. Dunes.

**Sea Wheat-grass (Europe)**  
*Thinopyrum junceiforme*

Leaves green, hairs on vein (not on leaf blade). Can grow with Hairy Spinifex and may be confused.

Below: Hairy Spinifex (top left of photo) with long, silvery runner; Sea Wheat-grass (bottom of photo).



**Buffalo Grass**  
(Americas, Africa)  
*Stenotaphrum secundatum*

Prostrate, rhizomatous, stoloniferous perennial. Flat-bladed leaf with blunt tips. Broad flower stems with spikelets embedded in stem. Coast, swamps. Garden escape or refuse dumping.

## POACEAE: CREEPING GRASSES



### Blady Grass

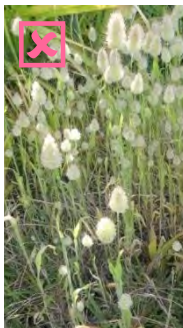
#### *Imperata cylindrica*

Rhizomatous perennial grass forming dense swards. Erect leaves turn reddish, and distinctive fluffy seed heads, in autumn. Sandy soils.

### Hare's-tail Grass (Mediterranean)

#### *Lagurus ovatus*

Annual grass with velvety leaves and stems, and 'bunny-tail' seed heads; much-loved by children. Coast and sandy soils.



### Salt Grass

#### *Distichlis distichophylla*

Creeping, rhizomatous perennial. Leaves arranged alternately in two opposite rows like a fish backbone; leaf blade strongly incurved. Compact inflorescence. Dunes and saltmarsh.

### Salt Couch, Sand Couch

#### *Sporobolus virginicus*

Creeping, rhizomatous perennial. Leaves arranged alternately in two opposite rows, but more open than Salt Grass. Long, leaden-grey inflorescence. Dunes and saltmarsh.



## AQUATIC

There are three species of family **Typhaceae** locally:

**Narrowleaf Cumbungi**  
*Typha domingensis*

Leaves green or yellowish-green to 2 m, 0.5-1.5 cm wide. Female part of flower (fat, bottom part)

cinnamon-brown, 12–40 cm long, 5–20 mm diam.



**Bulrush**  
*Typha orientalis*

Leaves bluish-green to 2 m, 0.5-1.5 cm wide. Female part of flower cinnamon-brown; 8–30 cm long, 10–30 mm diam.



**Cat's-Tail** *Typha latifolia*

Leaves grey-green to 1 m long, 1-2 cm wide. Female part of flower red-brown to black; 10-20 cm long, 15-25 mm diam.





## AQUATIC



### Water Plantain

*Alisma plantago-aquatica*  
(Alismataceae)

Perennial. Ovate leaves with 7 veins, carried on stems to 80 cm. Sprays of tiny white flowers. Wet areas.



### Red Azolla *Azolla rubra*

(Salviniaceae)

Floating fern. Red to green depending on season and location.



### Tassel Cord-rush

*Baloskion tetraphyllum*  
(Restionaceae)

Stems to 150 cm, smooth cylinders. Rusty brown flowers, male and female separate. Damp areas.

### Centella *Centella cordifolia*

(Apiaceae)

Rhizomes, cordate leaves growing from nodes. Tiny pink flowers. Damp areas.





## AQUATIC

**Water Parsnip, *Berula erecta*** (Apiaceae)

(below left) 'Fernlike' leaflets. Wet areas.

**Mud Dock *Rumex bidens*** (Polygonaceae)

(below right) Flat, erect, leaves. Wet areas. There are also other native and introduced *Rumex* species.



**Slender Knotweed**

*Persicaria decipiens*

(Polygonaceae)

Smooth, lanceolate leaves, usually with dark blotch in middle. Tiny pink flowers on slender stems. Wet areas. There are other native and introduced knotweeds.



**Common Duck Weed**

*Lemna disperma* (Araceae)

Small, green floating plant.



**Lesser Loosestrife**

*Lythrum hyssopifolia*

(Lythraceae)

Annual herb of uncertain origins. Common in damp areas.

# FERNS

Numerous species of ferns, most of which are native, but with a few garden escapes.



## Bracken

*Pteridium esculentum*  
(Dennstaedtiaceae)

Native that is sometimes mistakenly thought to be introduced. Important part of ecosystem.



## Water ferns

*Blechnum* ssp.  
(Blechnaceae)

Three species of large native ferns. Damp areas.

**Fishbone fern (Tropical)** *Nephrolepis cordifolia*  
(Nephrolepidaceae)

Occasional garden escape.



## WEEDY HINT

*Removing weeds before they set seed saves lots of future work. Herbicide treatment will not necessarily stop a plant from seeding once it is in bud or flower.*

*Dispose of invasive weed material to landfill or burn safely (not green waste or compost).*

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### Noxious weeds

The Victorian *CaLP Act* defines noxious weeds and the requirements for their trade, control, or eradication. Check out the Agriculture Victoria website for more information. There are also environmental weeds that affect the bush but aren't listed as noxious. The *Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria* is available online.

### How weeds spread

Weeds spread with animals (droppings, feathers, fur), wind, water, clothing, rubbish dumping, gravel, vehicles, machinery, or other plants (e.g. pots, seed mixes, soil).

Left: bird droppings with seeds. Right: wash equipment between sites.



## Helpful books & reports

*Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria.*

M. White, D. Cheal, G.W. Carr, R. Adair, K. Blood and D. Meagher 2018, DELWP.

*Bush invaders of south east Australia.* A. Muyt 2001.

*Native trees and shrubs of south-eastern Australia.*

L. Costermans 2009.

*Plants of the great south west.* K. Sparrow, 2020. APS Warrnambool.

*Victorian noxious weeds list: alphabetical by scientific name.* Agriculture Victoria 2017.

*Weeds of the south west, an identification guide for Australia.* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. F.J. & R.G. Richardson, & R.C.H. Shepherd, 2016.

## Websites

*Vicflora: Flora of Victoria* (describes all native and naturalised plant species in Victoria).

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/>

*Invasive Plants.* Agriculture Victoria (descriptions & control of weeds)

[http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/lwm\\_pest\\_plants](http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/lwm_pest_plants)

*Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (search for where a plant has been seen before, or put in a new record)

(<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/victorian-biodiversity-atlas>)

*Atlas of Living Australia* (search for where a plant has been seen before, or put in a new record) <https://www.ala.org.au/>

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