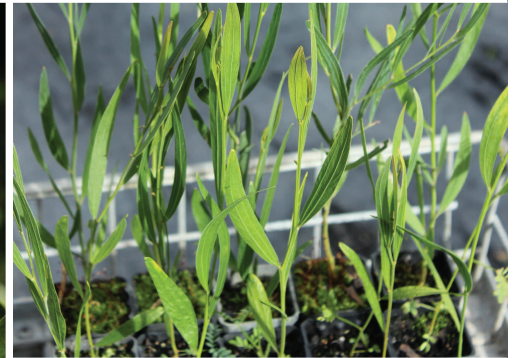


Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): John Gregurke

Hop Wattle

Acacia stricta

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Mimosaceae
	Wattle
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Pale yellow globules
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Tip prune

Hop Wattle (*Acacia stricta*), is a fast growing Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area that makes a good windbreak under taller trees.

Location: It can grow into quite a large shrub – 3m high by 2m wide – over the next 5 years or more if given plenty of water, so be sure to allow room for growth. The Hop Wattle is fairly robust but prefers a slightly shaded, well watered position.

Leaves: Unusually for wattles, the narrow pale green leaves tend to be held upright.

Flowers: Hop Wattle flowers are a delicate yellow colour and form fluffy globular heads scattered amongst the leaves towards the end of each branch.

Planting: Hop Wattle will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than

the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out too much over summer.

Care: Pruning isn't necessary, however the Hop Wattle will look better if given a light trim each year after the flowers have finished. A tip-prune taking off the flowering part of each stem will keep the plant more compact and encourage it to form a denser, more showy shrub next year.

Propagation: Hop Wattle grow well from seed collected over summer. The seed germinates best if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking it in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let it sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on some damp potting mix, cover with some more mix (a couple of millimetres) and keep it moist.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Prickly Moses

Acacia verticillata

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Mimosaceae
	Wattle
Size:	4m H x 4m W
Position:	Sunny to part shade
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Prune when young

Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat region that prefers to grow in low-lying damp areas.

Location: It can grow into quite a large spreading shrub (4m x 4m) if given plenty of water, so make sure you plant it in a space that will allow it to reach its full splendor over the next 5 years or more.

Prickly Moses likes a sunny, well watered position. You might want to plant it at the back of a large garden bed or away from areas where people may walk or play as the leaves are in fact quite prickly.

Leaves: The leaves of the Prickly Moses are short, needle-like spines.

Flowers: One of Australia's beautiful wattles, the flowers of the Prickly Moses are pale yellow, fluffy, elongated clusters

on the ends of every branch. It can be completely covered by them during spring.

Planting: Prickly Moses will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out too much over summer.

Care: You may need to check soil moisture during summer. Pruning in the first few years will help keep the Prickly Moses dense and promote lots of flowers.

Propagation: Prickly Moses will grow well from seed collected over summer. Soak the seeds in freshly boiled water for 15 minutes to crack the hard seed coat. Sprinkle the seed on damp potting mix, cover with a couple of millimetres of additional mix and keep moist.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Pittosporaceae
	Pittosporum
Size:	4m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Brown capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) is an Australian native shrub from around Ballarat.

Location: Bursaria likes a sunny position and will grow into an attractive small tree if the lower branches are removed. It has sharp spines along the stems so keep it at the back of a garden bed and plant smaller shrubs and groundcovers around the trunk to keep animals and children away.

Leaves: Glossy bright green leaves give the garden a lush look over dry summer months.

Flowers: Bursaria in flower is one of our most beautiful and fragrant shrubs. It is covered in clusters of small, cream flowers during mid-summer when much else in the garden is in decline. You will be delighted by the large number of native bees and butterflies which flock to feed on sweet nectar and pollen.

Seed: Small green, hearted-shaped "purses" containing seed turn golden-brown as they ripen and remain on the shrub for several months. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas and other seed eating birds feast on the fruit so consider placing a bird-bath nearby.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase and provide a full bucket of water immediately.

Care: It's probably best to remove lower stems from young plants so that the thorny canopy branches develop above head height. Wear gardening gloves and remove the thorny branches to a safe place.

Propagation: Good luck collecting seed from the brown capsules before the birds eat them all.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Myrtaceae
	Myrtle
Size:	2m H x 2m W
Position:	Shaded
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Woody capsules
Care:	Prune

River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*) is a narrow-leaved Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area that grows 1-2 metres tall.

Location: Plant in a shaded, naturally damp or well-watered spot amongst other plants with similar needs.

Flowers: River Bottlebrush flower over summer, forming a pale yellow 'bottlebrush' at the end of each branch.

Attracts: Several species of native butterfly are attracted to and feed off the copious nectar.

Planting: It will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it.

Care: When the flowers start to look a bit straggly towards the end of summer, give the Bottlebrush a prune, taking off about one third of the length of each branch. This will keep the shrub nice and compact and encourage it to develop more flowers next year.

Also, don't forget to keep the water supply up, especially over the summer months.

Seed: When you prune the Bottlebrush, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut for a few months until they form woody capsules on the branches. These can be collected and dried in a paper bag to release new seed.

Propagation: Sprinkle the seed on damp potting mix, cover lightly with some more mix and keep moist until the seedlings emerge.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Sapindaceae
	Maple
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Purple-red winged "hops"
Care:	Low maintenance

Sticky Hop-bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area.

Location: Hop-bush likes a sunny position and will grow into an attractive small tree if the lower branches are removed. If you prefer, leave lower branches to grow naturally as a shrub or train a row of them into a showy hedge.

Leaves: The glossy, green, spoon-shaped leaves are often tinged with a hint of purple or brown especially if grown in a sunny spot.

Fruit: Separate male and female flowers are small, green and inconspicuous, but the fruit that develops on female and bisexual plants is a highlight of this shrub. Fist-sized clusters of unusual winged fruit in various shades of green, red, purple and crimson will remain for several months and

look magnificent amongst the glossy green leaves.

Planting: Hop-bush will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than its pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it will be off to a good start.

Care: This is a tough local and requires no special care, but you may like to tip prune after flowering to keep the canopy dense, especially if you prefer to use it as a screening shrub or hedge rather than a small tree.

Propagation: Collect seed from the fruit as they dry over summer.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (top): Neil Huybregts

Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Goodeniaceae
	Fan Flower
Size:	1m H x 1m W
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A bushy shrub growing up to 1m high and wide, **Hop Goodenia** (*Goodenia ovata*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat region.

Location: Plant in a fairly shady, moist spot. Hop Goodenia look good as a group in a large garden bed, but it also looks fantastic as a feature in a garden bed amongst other plants.

Leaves: Leaves are a broad, oval shape and yellow-green in colour. On seedlings, leaves may appear a bit scrappy with yellowing and brown-red spotty markings.

Flowers: Hop Goodenia flowers for a long time over spring and summer, producing lots of gold flowers amongst the bright green leaves.

Planting: Hop Goodenia are quite tough and will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good $\frac{1}{2}$ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: Unless you prune the plant, its stems can become quite long and arching. Prune in late summer or autumn, taking off about $\frac{2}{3}$ of its height. It will bounce back with lovely fresh growth within a few weeks.

Propagation: When you prune, cut some of the stems into 15cm lengths, insert the lower end deep into potting mix and keep moist for several months until new roots form and leaves begin to grow.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Bushy Needlewood

Hakea decurrens

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Proteaceae
	Protea
Size:	2m H x 1m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Winter – Spring
Fruits:	Woody pods
Care:	Low maintenance

Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*) is a native shrub from forests around Ballarat and is a favourite of local wildlife.

Location: Grows well in a sunny, well drained position but as its name suggests, has strong needle-like leaves so is best planted away from walkways towards the back of a garden. Use a row of them as a semi-transparent security screen.

Leaves: The stiff cylindrical leaves have a strong, pointed tip and can easily penetrate skin. Despite, or perhaps because of this, small birds love sheltering amongst them.

Flowers: Gorgeous grevillea-like, white, honey-scented flowers create a beautiful display and provide nectar for visiting native butterflies.

Fruit: Hard, woody, beaked pods contain large seeds which will attract parrots and

majestic Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos to your garden. Un-opened fruits remain on the plants for many months, providing an important food source over winter.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase and water immediately with a full bucket.

Care: Cockatoos and parrots tend to tip-prune, but if not wear gloves to protect your hands when pruning and remove needles to a safe place.

Propagation: Although it's best to leave most of the seed for birds, a few dry unopened fruits can be cut from the plant after a few years. Leave the fruit in a warm, dry spot until they split and release the large paper-winged seeds. Place seed on the surface of a pot, sprinkle lightly with soil, keep it moist and watch them grow!

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Sedgwick

Austral Indigo

Indigofera australis

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Fabaceae
	Pea
Size:	1.5m H
Position:	Part shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Prune

An open-branched shrub to about 1.5m high, **Austral Indigo** (*Indigofera australis*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

Location: Austral Indigo prefers part shade near the protection of large trees as it can be killed by frost if out in the open.

Flowers: It produces beautiful purple pea flowers for a few weeks in spring which contrast nicely with its red-brown stems and blue-grey leaves.

Attracts: If you look carefully amongst the flowers and foliage, you may see numerous small native butterflies – the Grass Blue and the Pea Blue.

Planting: Austral Indigo will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of

purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Because it is a large open shrub, it will look best planted towards the back of a garden bed.

Care: Prune the Austral Indigo in late spring or early summer when it has finished flowering to keep it relatively compact and bushy. It's best to prune Austral Indigo quite hard, taking off about ½ to ⅔ of the plant's height.

Propagation: Collect the seeds from the pods in summer before they are released. Soak the seeds in freshly boiled water for 15 minutes. Place the seed a couple of millimetres below the surface of damp potting mix.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Prickly Tea-tree

Leptospermum continentale

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Myrtaceae
	Myrtle
Size:	1.5m H x 50cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Woody capsules
Care:	Light prune

An Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area, **Prickly Tea-tree** (*Leptospermum continentale*) can be quite variable in size depending on how much water it receives.

Location / Leaves: Prickly Tea-tree prefers a sunny position and is best planted in the middle of a garden bed or where people won't brush up against it as the small narrow leaves are quite sharp at the tip.

Flowers: It flowers during spring and can be quite spectacular, with branches almost entirely covered in bright white flowers.

Fruit: The flowers form attractive disc-shaped globular woody fruit that ripen from green to brown over summer. Ripe fruit will remain on the stems for several years.

Care: A light prune after flowering will keep the plant dense and bushy. It will also have more flowers next year. You can leave it

unpruned – it will tend to grow taller but slightly straggly.

Planting: Prickly Tea-tree is quite tough and will grow really well if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Propagation: Remove a few of the older dried woody fruit and place in a paper bag somewhere warm. Tiny elongated “dusty” seeds will emerge from the capsules. Sprinkle them onto the top of a small pot and dust with a light coat of fine soil. Keep them well watered and transplant into larger pots when they are a couple of centimetres tall. The young plants can be transferred into the ground when about 10 cm high.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Sedgewick

Tree Violet

Melicytus dentatus

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Violaceae
	Violet
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Pale grey-mauve berries
Care:	Moderate maintenance

Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*) is a native understorey shrub from the Ballarat region.

Location: Grow in a sunny or lightly shaded position in moist soil. Strong needle-like spines between the leaves mean it is best planted away from walkways. Grow several as an attractive hedge and effective security screen.

Leaves: Encourage to grow densely with regular pruning. The dense growth habit and long sharp-pointed spines provide excellent shelter and nesting sites for small birds.

Flowers: In spring hundreds of pale cream bell-shaped flowers release a beautiful perfume attracting small nectar-feeding birds and butterflies. Flowers are followed by pale grey-mauve succulent berries much favoured by fruit eaters such as lizards, Rosellas and Currawongs.

Attracts: Small nectar-feeding birds such as the handsome Eastern Spinebill and several local species of honeyeater, treasure this plant for the food, safe refuge and nesting sites it provides. If you have cats in the area and want to attract honeyeaters to your garden this is the ideal plant.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase and immediately provide a full bucket of water.

Care: Tree Violet is best when grown as a 1.2m x 1m hedge so a regular light prune will keep it compact, encourage dense growth, better shelter and more flowers. Wear gloves to protect your hands when pruning, and remove trimmings to a safe place.

Propagation: Grow from seed or cuttings.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Tree Everlasting

Ozothamnus ferrugineus

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	2m H x 1m W
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A single-trunked shrub growing about 1m wide and 2–3m high, **Tree Everlasting** (*Ozothamnus ferrugineus*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

Location: Plant Tree Everlasting in a shady spot. With its bare lower trunk and height, it will look better towards the back of a garden bed with smaller plants around the base.

Leaves: The leaves are a bright green, multi-sized and much longer than wide, but all the same proportions. The leaf margin is wavy and there is a slight in-rolling of the edges.

Flowers: Tree Everlasting develops large clumps of tiny creamy flowers in late spring which stay on for most of summer, looking a little like cauliflowers.

Planting: Tree Everlasting is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase. It likes a shady spot in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: It will look its best if given a light prune after the flowers start to look old and dull towards mid or late summer. It will then stay bushy and dense and have more flowers next year. If you prefer, you can leave it unpruned. It will then tend to grow taller, but slightly straggly.

Seed: Thousands of dry papery fruit develop from the flowers. The fluffy seed can be collected towards the end of summer when you prune.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Golden Spray

Viminaria juncea

FAST FACTS

Small Tree / Large Shrub

Family:	Fabaceae
	Pea
Size:	4m H x 1.5m W
Position:	Sunny, well watered
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Late spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Keep soil moist

Fast growing, **Golden Spray** (*Viminaria juncea*) is an Australian native plant that will become a beautiful small tree within a few years if given plenty of water. Indigenous to parts of western and coastal Victoria, this plant will make a wonderful addition to your garden.

Location: Golden Spray has long narrow hanging branches and will grow about 1.5m wide and between 4-5m high – so planting in a narrow space is fine. It likes a sunny, well watered, position.

Flowers: Golden Spray has fine, green weeping branches, however long sprays of bright yellow pea-shaped flowers that form in late spring and early summer are its best feature.

Planting: Golden Spray will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it.

Care: Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out over summer because Golden Spray prefers to grow in damp areas in the bush.

Seed: Golden Spray grows well from seed collected from the pods over summer.

Propagation: Golden Spray grow well from seed collected over summer. More of the seed will germinate if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking them for a few minutes in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let them sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on the surface of a pot, cover with a couple of millimetres of soil, and keep it moist.