

# gardening with natives



Fire Wheel Tree *Stenocarpus sinatus*

## BIRD-ATTRACTING TREES

These bright colourful plants attract seed-eating birds. A clean water source or bird bath can make your garden more attractive to a wider range of birds.



**Ivory Curl Tree**  
*Buckinghamia celsissima*



**White Oak**  
*Grevillea baileyana*

Plant natives in your garden to promote biodiversity, link habitats across our region and attract native animals by providing shelter and food. These suggested native species are hardy, adapted to local climate and soil types and will enhance your garden.

This guide is designed to be used to create a beautiful native or mixed garden in the Cairns region. The plants have been identified in groups to provide ideas for species of different sizes and purposes.

# GARDENING WITH NATIVES



Blue Triangle Butterfly

## BUTTERFLY-ATTRACTING TREES

Plants that butterflies seek out and can deposit caterpillar eggs on are great in gardens. Each butterfly species likes a different type of plant:

- **Ulysses Butterfly:** 'Corkwood' *Melicope elleryana* & 'Little Evodia' *Melicope rubra*
- **Australian Rustic:** 'Cape Plum' *Flacourtia sp.* Shipstons Flat
- **Blue Triangle:** 'Bolly Gum' *Beilschmiedia obusifolia*
- **Birdwing Butterfly:** 'Dutchman's Pipe' *Aristolochia tagala*

Note: Non-native Dutchman's Pipe *Aristolochia elegans* is poisonous to butterflies



Little Evodia *Melicope rubra*



Corkwood *Melicope elleryana*



Dutchman's Pipe *Aristolochia tagala*



Green Mat Rush *Lomandra hystrix*



Glennie River *Gardenia psidioides*

## GROUND COVERS AND GRASSES

A ground cover can spread across empty space, providing form to your garden and displacing weeds. Many are demanding on fertiliser and water because they have a shallow root system, unlike shrubs and trees, but these species are long-living tough plants.

## CLIMBERS

Climbers can hide walls and fence off boundaries, particularly in small and narrow gardens. They can enclose structures and provide shelter or shade when supported by wire, wood, trellis, arches and other plants.



Native Jasmine  
*Jasminum elongatum*



Bower of Beauty  
*Pandorea jasminoides*



Roaring Meg  
*Tecomanthe dendrophylla cv.*



Pink Alma



Fan Palm

## BOTTLEBRUSHES

These callistemons range in height from a 0.5m shrub to a 6m tree and are available in a range of growth and flowering habits, providing nectar for birds and insects. They thrive in damp conditions and full sun, and require minimal maintenance.

- Red flowers: 'Little John' (dwarf), 'Rocky Rambler' (scrambler), 'Captain Cook' (hedging), 'Dawson River' (small tree)
- Pink: 'Pink Alma'
- Peach: 'Injune'
- Mauve: 'Purple Splendour'
- White: 'White Anzac'
- Green: 'Wallum Bottlebrush' (pictured right)



Silk Handkerchief Tree

## RAINFOREST PLANTS

The ever-popular Cascading Maniltoa produces an outstanding cream to pink flush of expanding new foliage. It is a native tree of tropical Australia and Papua New Guinea suitable for moist, organic soils in sun or shade.

- 'Silk Handkerchief Tree' *Maniltoa lenticellata*
- 'Eumundi Quandong' *Elaeocarpus eumundi* (narrow/columnar habit)
- 'Plum Pine' *Podocarpus elatus*
- 'Fan Palm' *Licuala ramsayi*



Scarlet Fuchsia  
*Graptophyllum excelsum*

## SHRUBS

These woody plants are less than 5m tall. They can provide privacy with established hedges and work well as a foundation for your garden.

- 'Star Flower' *Gardenia scabrella*
- 'Scarlet Fuchsia' *Graptophyllum excelsum*
- 'Claret Tops', 'Little Red', 'Revolution Gold', 'Snow Fire' *Melaleuca* varieties
- 'Red Cottonwood' *Hibiscus tiliaceus rubra*
- 'Bandicoot Berry' *Lea indica*
- 'Pink Phyllanthus' *Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus*
- 'Bernies Cleistanthus' *Cleistanthus hylandii*
- 'Cat Whiskers' *Orthosiphon aristatus*



Claret Tops *Melaleuca*

## COASTAL TREES

These trees are endemic to coastal and gallery forest environments and can withstand strong sun and winds. They flourish in sandy and loam textured soils, which have limited capacity to retain nutrients and moisture.



Indian Beech Tree  
*Milletta pinnata*



Stream Barringtonia  
*Barringtonia acutangula*



Weeping Tea Tree  
*Leptospermum madidum*



Small Leaved  
Lilly Pilly

## LILLY PILLY AND SANITASH

The Lilly Pilly or Satinash belongs to the genus *Syzygium* which is diverse and includes many hybrids suitable for most sites and situations. These evergreen trees and shrubs are grown as ornamental plants, canopy trees or screening shrubs. Some species suitable for North Queensland are:

- *S. luehmannii* Small Leaved Lilly Pilly
- 'Aussie Boomer', 'Baby Boomer' (<2m height)
- 'Aussie Southern', 'Resilience' (<3m)
- 'Captain Cook', 'Big Red' (<4m)
- 'Pinnacle', 'Lulu' (narrow/columnar habit)



Big Red



Pinnacle

## HOUSE PLANTS

Many houseplants sold today are invasive weed species. Here is a selection of native alternatives:

- 'Kentia Palm' *Howea forsteriana*
- 'Pepper Vine' *Piper novae-hollandiae*



- 'Native Monstera' *Epipremnum pinnatum*



Golden Penda



Daintree Penda

## GOLDEN PENDA

A spectacular yellow flowering tree planted throughout Cairns. It is attractive to local wildlife and available in the following forms:

- 'Golden Penda' *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*: Tree < 10m x 5m
- 'Fairhill Gold' *X. chrysanthus*: Shrub, bushy 3m x 1.5m
- 'Daintree Penda' *X. verticillatus*: Shrub, pale yellow flowers 1.5m x 1.5m



- 'Wax Vine' or 'Wax Flower' *Hoya australis*

## EDIBLE PLANTS

Here are some native edible plants that won't become pests

- 'Native Mint' *Mentha australis*
- 'Lemon Myrtle' *Backhousia citriodora*
- 'Native thyme' *Prostanthera incisa*
- 'Davidson's Plum' *Davidsonia pruriens*
- 'Cluster Fig' *Ficus racemosa*
- 'Native Banana' *Musa banksii*



Native mint



Native thyme



Lemon myrtle