

# Native plants for indoors and small gardens in South East Queensland



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Cover photo: Common Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) by Graham McDonald

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
Biodiversity of South East Queensland.....	3
About the Guide.....	4
Why Grow Native Plants.....	5
Gardening in Smaller Spaces.....	6
Challenges.....	7
Icon Guide.....	8
Indoor.....	9 - 23
Shade.....	24 - 39
Cottage.....	40 - 67
Sun.....	68 - 91
Index.....	93 - 96



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Griffith University acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including of the Bundjalung, Yuggera, Barunggam, Waka Waka, Gubbi Gubbi, and Badtjala Nations who are the traditional custodians of South East Queensland, and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Griffith University is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contributions to society.

## **Biodiversity of South East Queensland**

South East Queensland is a subtropical area of around 6,600,000 ha with high biodiversity including over 3,000 species of native plants found within a diversity of ecosystems. These ecosystems include subtropical rainforests, open eucalypt forests, wetlands, heathlands, mangroves, and coastal dunes, with more than 145 Regional Ecosystems described for the region. There are hundreds of South East Queensland native plants in cultivation, including many species that are well-suited to small gardens and pots and can be easily grown.

## About this Guide

This guide provides details of 80 species of native plants from South East Queensland suitable to grow indoors, on cool or hot balconies, in courtyards or cottage gardens. There is information for each species on how easy it is to grow, light and water requirements, colours of flowers and fruit, along with characteristics including size, optimal growing conditions, where the species occurs naturally and if rare or threatened. These plants can be sourced from Native Plants Queensland or other local community groups or nurseries. When purchasing plants, we need to keep in mind that the source is sustainable and plants were obtained ethically, particularly for rarer species, and we must not collect plants or seed from the wild. Further details regarding the species are often available online, as well as from the book *Mangroves to Mountains*.

This guide was produced by Kueper Ralph as part of his Work Integrated Learning course under the supervision of Professor Catherine Pickering. We thank those specialists who have provided us with advice and suggestions for the guide including members of Native Plants Queensland, and all those working to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region.

## Why grow native plants?

Growing local native plants has numerous benefits for both the environment and gardeners. Native plants are adapted to the local climate, soils, and pests, and hence are often hardy and require less maintenance. They can require less water and fertiliser and there is less risk of them becoming weeds, reducing environmental impacts. They also provide habitat and food for native animals including birds, insects, and small mammals, helping to maintain biodiversity and ecosystems process such as pollination and seed dispersal. Growing native plants helps us conserve and protect local flora and prevent the loss of genetic diversity. Finally, native plants provide a sense of place and bring beauty and interest to our gardens, with a range of shapes, sizes, and colours that help our homes and garden reflect our local environment. Overall, growing native plants is an excellent way to create a sustainable and beautiful garden, while also benefitting the environment and preserving local biodiversity.



# Gardening in smaller spaces

Increasingly people are living in cities, and within cities many people reside in apartments, some with balconies, or other medium to high density built areas with smaller courtyard gardens. Apartments and other smaller homes are increasingly popular as they can be more affordable and provide flexibility, and a range of lifestyle benefits. However, many of us still want to garden including growing plants indoors, on balconies and in courtyards. Growing plants can provide numerous benefits such as improving air quality, reducing stress levels, and enhancing the aesthetics of our homes.




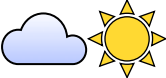


## Challenges

Growing plants in courtyards, on balconies and indoors presents specific challenges. These include less space for big plants limiting the types and number of plants that can be grown, and requiring a balance between utilising space and creating enjoyable environments. When selecting plants to grow we need to select those that can thrive in the specific conditions. Balconies for instance can be subject to strong winds that can topple over pots or harm plants, so it is important to choose wind-tolerant plants and use sturdy containers. Weight is also an important consideration as pots and soil can be quite heavy, particularly when wet. Watering pot plants can also pose a challenge, as potted plants dry out much faster than plants in the ground and may not benefit from natural rainfall. So, plants in pots often require regular watering or may even need self-watering pots. Additionally, it is often important to minimise runoff by collecting excess water in pot saucers. Indoor plants can face issues with the lower humidity affecting their growth, and this can be in part remedied by growing them in more humid areas, such as bathrooms or kitchens, using a humidifier, or misting them with water. Finally, it is important to check the rules and regulations where you live, to ensure compliance when growing plants in courtyards and balconies. Despite these challenges, the rewards of growing native plants even in small spaces can be well worth it.



# Icon Guide

Throughout this booklet, the growing requirements of each species are indicated by the following icons:

Icon	About
	How difficult/easy it is to grow the plant.
	How much sun or shade the plant needs.
	How much water (low, moderate, or high) the plant needs.
	The season when the plant flowers, with the icon colour reflecting the flower's colour.

In this guide, the plants are arranged into four groups **(1) Indoors**, **(2) Cool and shade**, **(3) Cottage garden** and **(4) Hot and sunny** gardens or balconies. Within each group, plants are then listed in alphabetical order by their common name.

## Garden Type: Indoors

Growing native plants indoors can be a great way to bring a touch of nature into our living spaces. Some excellent plants to grow indoors include the popular Maidenhair Fern along with other ferns, such as the Bird's Nest Fern or Gristle Fern, and small rainforest trees, such as the Smooth Davidson's Plum, which can be kept small by growing it in a pot. For lighting, position the plants near a window that receives bright, but indirect sunlight. Many native plants prefer well-draining soils, so consider using a potting mix specifically designed for them and make sure they get occasional top ups of nutrients. Since indoor plants generally thrive in moist and humid environments, remember to water and mist them regularly. With a bit of care and attention, we can create a beautiful and thriving indoor garden featuring Australian native plants, while also bringing some of the benefits of nature into our living spaces.



# Binung

*Christella dentata*



IMAGE OF RELATED SPECIES - *CHRISTELLA PARASITICA* JOEL IRWIN

Moderate  
to grow



Full to part  
shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

Binung is an attractive hardy fern that grows up to 1 m tall and thrives in a sheltered moist site in part to full shade. This fast-growing fern is a good indoor specimen and also works well near water features, under decks, in shady gardens, tropical gardens, rockeries, and pots. It has a tufted habit with erect light to dark green fronds and grows naturally along streams, on rainforest margins, and in open forests mainly along the north and eastern coast of Australia including in the forests at Griffith University.

# Bird's Nest Fern

*Asplenium australasicum*



Easier to  
grow



Full to part  
shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

This attractive fern's long, glossy, bright-green fronds grow up and outward from a central point to around 0.8 m high by 1.5 m wide. It looks great as a feature pot plant or as an indoor plant in areas with high humidity, so it works well in a bathroom. In the garden it likes full shade to semi shade, and will grow on trees, on rocks or in moist, well-drained soil. Bird's Nest Ferns are native to wet forests and rainforests along the east coast of Queensland and New South Wales. It is also grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Blue Flax Lily

*Dianella caerulea*



JOEL IRWIN

Easier to  
grow



Half shade  
to full sun



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

The Blue Flax Lily is a resilient clumping perennial herb that can reach up to 1 m in both height and width. It is a low maintenance and long-lasting plant, tolerant of both frost and drought once established. This herb prefers moist, well-drained soil, in a position that ranges from full sun to half shade, making it versatile for growing in pots, rockeries, coastal gardens, or a sunny indoor spot. This plant produces sprays of small blue flowers in spring and summer, followed by attractive indigo-blue berries. It also attracts birds and butterflies to the garden and is popular in mass plantings. The Blue Flax Lily is widely distributed throughout eastern Australia and grows naturally in the forests at Griffith University.

# Brisbane Lily

*Proiphys cunninghamii*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Brisbane Lily is a perennial bulbous herb that grows to 50 cm tall in shade in well composted soil. This is a great indoor plant due to its spectacular flower displays and large deep-green leaves. It will also do well in shaded gardens beside ponds, in rockeries, and in pots. The lovely white flowers are fragrant and grow on tall stems in spring and summer. This lily naturally occurs in South East Queensland and New South Wales in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest margins, but is not common in cultivation. It is also grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Common Maidenhair Fern

*Adiantum aethiopicum* and *Adiantum atroviride*



Moderate  
to grow



Full shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

These ferns are attractive indoor plants, reaching 50 cm high by 50 cm wide. They thrive in humid, shady to semi shady locations, and therefore can be used as houseplants especially in bathrooms, in hanging pots or in shady areas in gardens. They have small delicate pale-green fronds clustered on wiry, shiny 'stems' which gives them a visually stunning look. The two species can be found in moist areas near creeks in open forests and rainforest with *Adiantum atroviride* more common in South East Queensland including in cool wet areas in the forests at Griffith University.



# Giant Maidenhair Fern

*Adiantum formosum*



Easier to  
grow



Full shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

An attractive fern that is tough and hardy provided it has enough moisture making it an ideal, if large, house or garden plant. This maidenhair fern has 1.2 m long fronds and can grow up to 2 m tall in the right conditions. It grows best in sheltered and shady areas or indoors out of direct sunlight. It does best in acidic soils and requires plenty of water and high humidity. The black, shiny 'stems' complement the pretty fronds which emerge pale green in colour before darkening with age. This fern can be found growing in rainforests and open eucalypt forests in South East Queensland.



# Gristle Fern

*Blechnum cartilagineum*



Easier to  
grow



Part to  
dappled shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

The Gristle Fern is an attractive, hardy fern growing to a height of 1.5 m with a similar spread. It prefers a semi-shade to dappled shade protected position with moist soil away from drying winds and direct sun. It works well as a larger indoor or outdoor pot plant as well as in a fernery, as an understory plant, or beside ponds in the garden, but avoid watering directly onto the fronds. The new fronds unfurl with a showy pink to bronze colour and then mature to broad, pale- to rich-green coloured fronds. It is found in open forest and rainforests along the east coast of Australia. It is sometimes referred to as *Oceaniopteris cartilaginea*, and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Jungle Brake Fern

*Pteris umbrosa*



Easier to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

This decorative fern grows 1 m tall by 50 cm wide but can be grown in pots or hanging baskets in kitchens and bathrooms. Position it in full shade to dappled light outdoors or a shaded spot indoors, this fern needs well drained soil with regular watering especially during summer. It likes humid conditions which can be achieved by mist spraying. This fern has a clumping habit with attractive light to deep green arching fronds. It is found in the wild in rainforests along the east coast of Australia.

# Kangaroo Fern

*Microsorium diversifolium*



Moderate  
to grow



Part to full  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement

## Description

An elegant evergreen fern that grows 30 cm high by 60 cm wide in well-drained soil in part to full shade. This is an excellent indoor plant for areas with indirect sunlight with high to moderate humidity, and it also works well in courtyards, shady gardens, rockeries, in forks of trees, pots and hanging baskets. It displays beautiful foliage with odd-shaped green leathery fronds and dark brown to black 'stems'. This fern is widespread in and near rainforests from south-eastern Queensland to Tasmania.

# Kreysigia

*Tripladenia cunninghamii*



Easier to  
grow



Light shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This small upright herb growing to 40 cm tall with a spreading habit is a great new indoor plant. It grows best in a sheltered position in light shade and works well as an edging plant, a groundcover, an understory plant or a pot plant. It produces delightful violet/pink star-like flowers from late spring to summer. This long-lived plant has attractive, dark-green, dense foliage and grows locally in the rainforests of north-eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland.

# Radiator Plant

*Peperomia leptostachya*



Easier to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

The Radiator Plant is a small, succulent, herb that grows up to 30 cm in height. It thrives in shaded positions with good drainage, making it an excellent choice for indoor pots. It is particularly suited to bathrooms, and can be grown in hanging baskets or on shaded rocks and tree trunks. The Radiator Plant produces numerous slender, spike-shaped flowers up to 13 cm in length and bloom most of the year. Its stems range from green to reddish-green, while the fleshy leaves can be dark-green to yellow-green with a lighter underside. Also known as *Peperomia blanda* var. *floribunda* it naturally occurs in coastal areas in Queensland and New South Wales and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Rough Maidenhair Fern

*Adiantum hispidulum*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement

## Description

A small, hardy fern with erect fronds forming upright clumps, this attractive plant for indoors or shade gardens grows to 50 cm tall by 50 cm wide. It does well in part to full shade in a sheltered position, and looks great in a pot or hanging basket. It can also be planted in gardens in damp areas, or rock crevices in the shade. It has showy pink new growth which matures to a glossy dark green or green-bronze colour, and can be found growing in rainforests in south-eastern Queensland including Griffith University forests and more broadly.



# Smooth Davidson's Plum

*Davidsonia johnsonii*



Moderate  
to grow



Part shade



High water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

A narrow, attractive, rainforest tree that can grow 4-8 m in height by 2-3 m wide, but looks great as an indoor pot plant when young or with regular pruning. It grows best in a sheltered, part-shade position in moist fertile soils. The smooth, glossy leaves emerge a vibrant red colour then turn to deep green. In summer, this tree blossoms with small pink/red flowers followed by purple berries growing along the stem. This tree is endangered in the wild with a restricted distribution in north-eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland, and is very similar to *Davidsonia jerseyana*. It is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Walking Stick Palm

*Linospadix monostachya*



Moderate  
to grow



Full to part  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

This is a slow-growing understory palm that can reach 3 m tall by 2 m wide, and prefers a moist sheltered shady position making it an ideal indoor plant or outside it suits courtyards, shady gardens, and large pots. It has a dense crown of weeping dark green fronds and long pendulous spikes of cream-coloured flowers followed by bright red berries along the length of the spike. This attractive palm occurs naturally in rainforests in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.



## Garden Type: Cool and Shady

When working with a cool and shady balcony, courtyard, or garden that is south-facing and protected from direct sunlight for most of the day, consider growing some of our local rainforest species. These plants are well-adapted to low light conditions, and some thrive in full shade making them perfect for such environments. They typically require lots of water and moist well-draining soils. Some great plants to use include ferns, groundcovers such as Viola and Dichondra, and rainforest trees that stay small in pots such as Davidson's Plum and Lilly Pillies. By incorporating these plants into your shady balcony, courtyard, or garden, you can create a lush, green sanctuary that thrives in the cooler and shadier conditions. Make sure to water the plants regularly and use a good-quality native potting mix to provide the necessary nutrients for plants to flourish.



# Arrowhead Violet

*Viola betonicifolia*



Easier to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

The Arrowhead Violet is a small, tufted perennial herb that thrives in half to full shade and grows in clumps up to 30 cm in height and 40 cm in width. This adaptable plant can be grown in pots, rockeries, or as a groundcover. It is easy to grow and can tolerate a variety soil types, although it prefers moist soil and damp areas in a garden. The plant has slender, dark green, arrow-shaped leaves that grow from its base, while the striking purple flowers bloom profusely from spring to summer. This plant is also a host for native butterflies, including the critically endangered Australian Fritillary. The Arrowhead Violet is found throughout Eastern Australia in damp shaded forests and woodland, and the gardens at Griffith University.

# Australian Tree Fern

*Sphaeropteris cooperi*



Easier to  
grow



Part shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

This hardy tree fern grows 4-10 m tall by 2-5 m wide and thrives in part shade with high soil moisture and high humidity, making it a great choice for ferneries and tropical gardens. It is fast-growing, easy to care for, and can be grown in pots or indoors while young. This fern has a slender 'trunk' covered in distinctive 'coin spots' where the old fronds have fallen off, and a crown of lacy, bright green fronds. This popular plant formally know as *Cyathea cooperi* is found along the coasts of Queensland and New South Wales in warm coastal rainforests.

# Basket Fern

*Drynaria rigidula*



Moderate  
to grow



Full shade to  
dappled sun



High water  
requirement

## Description

A stunning native fern with two kinds of fronds, the smaller 'nest' fronds are golden brown and grow from the base of the plant trapping organic material, while the larger foliage fronds are green and grow more erect but can sometimes hang down when the fern is grown in trees or baskets. It reaches 1.5 m tall and grows really well in pots and hanging baskets or mounted on a tree in shady parts of the garden. Position this fern in shade or dappled sunlight and water regularly. It is found in the wild in a wide range of forest types from north-east Queensland down to north-east New South Wales and in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Bungwall Fern

*Telmatoblechnum indicum*



JOEL IRWIN

Moderate  
to grow



Part Shade



High water  
requirement

## Description

Bungwall Fern or Swamp Water Fern is an erect clumping fern up to 0.5-1 m high that grows best in partly shaded wet areas of the garden such as next to a pond or water feature and in a pot when given plenty of water. It has shiny green fronds emerging erect from its long creeping black rhizome. In the wild it can form dense colonies and grows in sandy soils in coastal swampy areas from the Northern Territory through Queensland to New South Wales and the forests at Griffith University.



# Common Lilly Pilly

*Acmena smithii*



JOEL IRWIN

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
full shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This Lilly Pilly is a fast-growing, evergreen tree that grows to 3-6 m tall by 1-3 m wide, but it can be pruned to maintain a smaller size. It can be grown in full sun to full shade. Lilly Pillies look great as feature plants and, as they respond well to pruning, they can be used as hedges, for topiary, or as pot plants. With dense clusters of small, glossy, green leaves and lovely new red growth, it provides a splash of colour, including the fluffy white flowers in spring and summer. These are followed by fleshy pink-red berries which attract native birds. Also known as *Syzygium smithii*, this tree is widespread in rainforests in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria and grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Kidney Weed

*Dichondra repens*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
full shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This lush, spreading groundcover grows to 15 cm high by up to 2 m wide. It is popular with those seeking a lawn substitute or ground cover including between pavers, stepping stones, or retaining walls, where it cascades over the side. This native plant likes free-draining soil and can grow in any position from full sun to full shade. Its small green leaves are kidney-shaped, and its tiny star-shaped flowers bloom throughout the year but are most abundant from spring to summer. Kidney Weed is easy to grow and is widespread throughout Eastern and Southern Australia in forest, woodland, and grassland habitats including forests at Griffith University.

# Koala Bells

*Artanema fimbriatum*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This small perennial herb has upright stems that can grow up to 60 cm in height and is ideal for moist areas with semi-shade. It can be used for mass planting, as well as in pots, hanging baskets, and rockeries. During spring and summer, the plant produces lovely, long, bell-shaped flowers in shades of violet. Although it is not very long-lived, the plant can re-grow from seed and can benefit from a trim after flowering. This woodland herb is not only pretty, but also attracts a variety of native bees, hoverflies, moths, and butterflies, adding colour and biodiversity to gardens. It is found from North-eastern New South Wales up to North Queensland, and in the gardens at Griffith University.



# Love Flower

*Pseuderanthemum variable*



Easier to  
grow



Light to full  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

The Love Flower is a small perennial herb that grows to 30 cm high and is an excellent groundcover or pot plant in shady areas. Its leaves can have different colours and patterns and the attractive delicate flowers can be white, pink, purple, or blue in colour, hence *Pseuderanthemum variable*. The plant blooms from summer to autumn and it is a host plant for many native butterflies. It occurs naturally in a variety of coastal habitats in New South Wales, Queensland, and the Northern Territory and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Native Violet

*Viola banksii*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Harder to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

Native Violets such as *Viola banksii* and *Viola hederacea* are evergreen, creeping ground covers that grow up to 15 cm high and thrive in cool, shady areas. They are versatile and suitable for rockeries and as a lawn substitute in shade, as well as in hanging baskets and tall pots as they cascade over the sides. They require constant moist soils and produce white and purple flowers year-round, with more prolific flowering in the warmer months. The two species have green, kidney-shaped leaves with widespread distributions in eastern Australia. General nurseries often sell *Viola banksii* which is grown in the gardens at Griffith University, but the local form of *Viola hederacea* is also available from specialist nurseries.

# Prickly Rasp Fern

*Doodia aspera*



Easier to  
grow



Part to full  
shade



Moderate water  
requirement

## Description

This hardy, native tufted fern growing to 50 cm high by 60 cm wide makes an attractive potted plant but also works well in a fernery, sub-tropical, or tropical garden with well-drained, organic-rich soil. As an easy to grow fern it works best in part to full shade and is drought tolerant. The attractive new fronds emerge as bright red which over time mature into dark green. In the wild this fern, which is also referred to as *Blechnum neohollandicum*, is usually found in rainforests or eucalypt forests in eastern Australia including the forests and gardens at Griffith University.

# Shaggy-leaved Plectranthus

*Coleus habrophyllus*



KUEPER RALPH

Moderate  
to grow



Part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This fast-growing, spreading, woody herb grows up to 50 cm high. It works well in rockeries, garden beds, and pots. Shaggy-leaved Plectranthus is hardy once established and responds well to pruning. It has fleshy, velvety leaves which have a strong aroma when crushed. The bright purple to blue flowers are held in spikes and attract native bees. This native is listed as endangered and is only found growing in a few small areas near Ipswich and Ormeau in rocky outcrops and open woodlands. It was previously called *Plectranthus habrophyllus* and can be easily propagated from cuttings and does well in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Soft Tree Fern

*Dicksonia antarctica*



Easier to  
grow



Full shade to  
filtered sun



High water  
requirement

## Description

This hardy tree fern can grow up to 15 m tall in the wild but rarely exceeds 3-4 m tall by 3 m wide in the garden. It prefers a cool, moist, sheltered position in filtered sunlight to full shade, and is well suited to pots, courtyards, shady gardens, and can be used as a host for epiphytic plants. It has large graceful green fronds and a brown fibrous trunk, and grows naturally from south-eastern Queensland down to Tasmania in mountain gullies, along creeks, in wet sclerophyll forests, rainforests, and occasionally in cloud forests.

# Swamp Orchid

*Phaius australis*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Part shade  
to full shade



High water  
requirement



Spring

## Description

This stunning terrestrial orchid thrives in part shade in moist, well-drained soil. With its clumps of broad green leaves and spectacular flower spikes that can reach up to 2 m tall, this orchid makes a great addition to shady courtyards, gardens, and even pots. The showy flowers in spring are white on the outside and reddish brown with white/yellow veins on the inside, with a pink and white/yellow central tongue. This orchid is endangered and only found along the coast from north Queensland to north-eastern New South Wales in swamps and sclerophyll forests. It is grown in the gardens at Griffith University as part of our endangered plant walk.



# Velvet Leaf

*Callicarpa pedunculata*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Part shade  
to full sun



High water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

Velvet Leaf is a fast-growing, soft-leaved shrub to 1-3 m high and 1.5 m wide. It is ideal for cottage and low maintenance gardens and when pruned regularly maintains a compact shape. This shrub thrives in full sun to part shade and can be used as a feature plant, screen, or border plant. Its dense, soft hairy green foliage is adorned with cascades of white, pink, and mauve flowers in summer, which are followed by clusters of bright purple fruit. The lustrous fruits attract various wildlife, while the foliage provides a protective habitat for small birds. Velvet Leaf is commonly found in and near subtropical rainforests in Queensland and North-eastern New South Wales and in the gardens at Griffith University.



# Yellow Swamp Orchid

*Phaius bernaysii*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Part shade  
to full shade



High water  
requirement



Spring

## Description

The Yellow Swamp Orchid is an impressive terrestrial orchid that forms clumps up to 1 m wide, with flower spikes reaching heights of up to 2 m. This orchid thrives in part shade, and prefers moist well-draining soil, making it perfect for growing in pots or shady gardens and courtyards. Its stunning flowers, which bloom in spring, are white on the outside and pale yellow on the inside, and it is closely related to the Swamp Orchid, *Phaius australis*. This orchid is endangered and is only found in a few small areas in South East Queensland. It is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

## Garden Type: Cottage

Australian native cottage gardens can be just as charming and beautiful as their traditional European counterparts. To create a stunning native cottage garden, choose a mix of low-growing plants that flower abundantly in a range of colours. Plants such as native daisies, fan flowers, Hibbertia, Pimelea, and Brachyscome are great choices, as they provide bursts of colour and attract native birds, butterflies and bees. For a more natural look, incorporate larger shrubs such as Hairy Bush Pea, and Wedding Bush. With careful selection and placement of a variety of native herbs and shrubs, we can create beautiful and sustainable cottage gardens that are well suited to the climate of South East Queensland, while also promoting biodiversity and creating habitat for native pollinators.



CATHERINE PICKERING

# Blue Dampiera

*Dampiera stricta*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

Blue Dampiera is a delightful small shrub that grows 0.6 m tall and up to 1 m wide. It grows best in well drained soils in full sun to part shade, and looks great in a cottage garden, courtyard, low maintenance garden, and as a pot plant. This hardy plant has beautiful, blue to mauve delicate flowers that bloom year-round but most prolifically during spring. It attracts birds, bees and butterflies, and grows naturally in open forest and heath from mid Queensland to Tasmania.

# Cats Whiskers

*Orthosiphon aristatus*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Part shade



High water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

## Description

Cat's Whiskers is a fast-growing perennial shrub that can reach up to 1 m in height and 1 m in width. It thrives in moist, well-drained soil and prefers a partly shaded position, making it ideal for cottage gardens, tropical gardens, shady gardens, and pots. This soft shrub has bushy dark green foliage and large conical spikes of distinctive white to purple flowers with long "whiskers" that bloom mainly in the warmer months. The plant's distinctive flowers attract bees, birds, and butterflies. Although it grows in rainforests in Queensland and New South Wales, in South East Queensland it is a garden plant including at Griffith University.

# Chamomile Sunray

*Rhodanthe anthemoides*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Summer

## Description

Chamomile Sunray is a compact native perennial daisy that grows to 0.5 m high and spreads up to 1 m wide. It does best in a sunny spot in well-drained soil and is an excellent hanging basket and pot plant, or as a feature plant, groundcover, rockery and border plant in a courtyard, cottage, or coastal garden. This delightful plant is covered by masses of white paper-like flowers with yellow centres from winter to summer and should be pruned right back after flowering to promote a compact habit. It is widespread in eastern Australia down to Tasmania.

# Christmas Bells

*Blandfordia grandiflora*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Harder to  
grow



Part sun



High water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Christmas Bells is a slow-growing, clumping grass-like plant that grows 0.5-1 m tall by 0.1-0.3 m wide and prefers moist, sandy, well-drained soil in part sun. It is best grown in pots where it can avoid competition from other plants and can be used in rockeries, cottage gardens, and courtyards. This small native has large drooping red and yellow, bell-shaped flowers on a central stem that occur from late spring to summer and attract nectar-feeding birds and butterflies. They grow naturally in coastal and tableland areas from K'gari in Queensland to the Hawksbury River area in New South Wales, but are increasingly rare in the wild.

# Common Fringe Lily

*Thysanotus tuberosus*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Harder to  
grow



Full sun to  
light shade



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

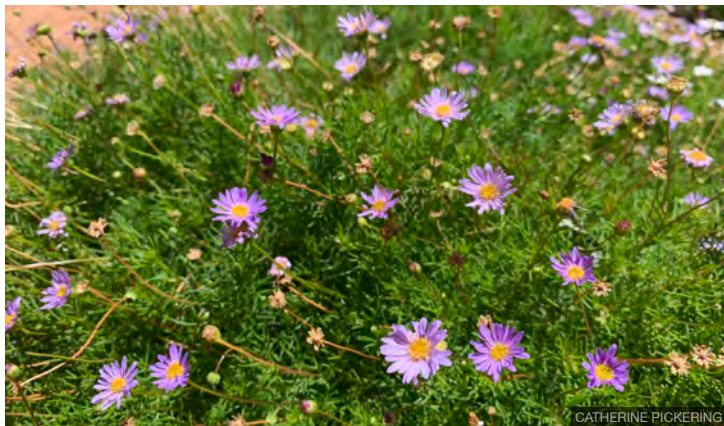
## Description

The Common Fringe Lily is a showy perennial herb that reaches 20-60 cm in height and 20 cm in width, and produces spectacular flowers preferring a sunny spot in well-drained soil. It is an excellent addition to a cottage garden or as a potted plant. The plant has narrow, linear leaves and produces stunning, purple flowers with fringed petals. While each flower only lasts for a day, new flowers are produced throughout a long period, spanning from September to April. The showy flowers attract a variety of butterflies and bees. It can be found growing in dry sclerophyll forests, woodlands, grasslands, and heath in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.



# Cut-leaf Daisy

*Brachyscome multifida*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

This very popular compact, hardy, perennial herb grows to 30 cm high by 50 cm wide. It does best in full sun to part shade, but tolerates a wide range of conditions and soil types, and is low maintenance once established. This plant looks great in pots, containers, hanging baskets, rockeries, cottage gardens, and as an understory groundcover. The long-lasting daisy flowers range in colour from white to deep-purple and bloom all year round. The Cut-leaf Daisy attracts bees, butterflies and other insects to the garden and is often used in mass plantings. This native daisy grows in sclerophyll forest or grassland in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and the gardens at Griffith University.

# Golden Everlasting

*Xerochrysum bracteatum*



Easier to grow



Full sun



Low water requirement



Year round

## Description

Golden Everlasting is a compact perennial shrub that produces attractive clusters of small flowers surrounded by papery bracts in a variety of colours. It typically grows to a height of 1.2 meters and a width of 0.6 metre, and prefers well-draining soil in full sun but can also tolerate light shade. Once established, it is heat and drought tolerant. This plant looks great in pots, or in cottage gardens, coastal gardens, flower beds, and courtyards. The flowers bloom most of the year and the flower heads can be picked and dried for a long-lasting display. The Golden Everlasting attracts butterflies, moths, and bees, and is widespread in a variety of habitats throughout Australia and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Hairy Bush Pea

*Pultenaea villosa*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Filtered sun  
to full sun



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

The Hairy Bush Pea is a hardy and attractive shrub with a spreading habit and weeping branches. It can reach a height and width of 2 m and does best in filtered to full sun in well-drained soil. This plant is perfect as a feature plant, an informal hedge, or mass planted in rockeries, coastal, and cottage gardens. From spring to summer, it produces a dense covering of bright yellow/orange pea-shaped flowers which attract birds. It responds well to light pruning and attracts butterflies, bees, and small birds to the garden. The Hairy Bush Pea can be found in dry sclerophyll forest, heath, or grassland in Queensland and New South Wales including forests at Griffith University.

# Hairy Guinea Flower

*Hibbertia vestita*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

This is a marvellous, small, compact, shrub that grows to 30 cm high by 50 cm wide. It prefers well drained soil in full sun but can tolerate part sun. This is an excellent groundcover, rockery, or pot plant, and perfect for a cottage style garden. It has small dark green leaves and masses of cheery, bright-yellow flowers for most of the year. This hardy shrub is fairly long-lived, drought tolerant, and grows naturally in coastal heath and dry sclerophyll forest from Rockhampton in Queensland to central-eastern New South Wales including forests at Griffith University.

# Ipswich Daisy

*Olearia nernstii*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
dappled shade



Low water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

The Ipswich Daisy is an attractive short-lived perennial shrub up to 2 m tall that does well in full sun to dappled shade in well-drained soil. It suits cottage gardens, low maintenance gardens and pots. Masses of white and yellow daisy-like flowers bloom in winter to spring and attract bees and butterflies. It grows naturally in the wild in coastal districts from Brisbane to Sydney in open woodland and eucalypt forests, but so far is uncommon in cultivation.

# Keys Boronia

*Boronia keysii*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Dappled sun  
to part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

The rare Keys Boronia is an open sprawling shrub that grows about 2 m tall by 2 m wide. It can be lightly pruned to create a denser growth habit. As a small shrub it grows naturally as an understory plant in eucalypt woodland and open forest so it will do best in dappled sun to part shade in moist well-drained soil and grows well in a pot. It has thin stemmed, perfumed foliage with small, star-shaped, deep rose pink to white flowers that occur in clusters throughout the year but mostly from March to November. This attractive boronia is listed as vulnerable in the wild and is only found in the Cooloola region, making it difficult to source in cultivation.



# Native Coleus

*Coleus graveolens*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



High water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

Native Coleus is an aromatic, herbaceous shrub that grows up to 1.5 m high by 1 m wide. This plant is low maintenance once established in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. It looks great in both pots and cottage gardens and in rockeries. The attractive, but slightly smelly foliage is complemented by slender clusters of purple/blue flowers throughout the year. This plant provides shelter for smaller animals in the garden while its flowers attract native bees and other insects, and it can be easily propagated from cuttings. It occurs in Queensland and New South Wales, including in the gardens at Griffith University, and was previously called *Plectranthus graveolens*.



# Native Leek

*Bulbine bulbosa*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

## Description

This is a perennial tufted herb that grows 30-75 cm tall by 30 cm wide and prefers full sun to part shade in moist well-drained soil. Native Leek looks great in cottage gardens, rockeries, pots, courtyards and window boxes, and it is often mass planted in landscaping. It has succulent green-grey cylindrical leaves and bright yellow star-like flowers on long flower spikes from September to March. In the wild it is found in damp areas of woodlands, sclerophyll forests and grasslands throughout south eastern Australia including the forests at Griffith University.

# Rough Guinea Flower

*Hibbertia aspera*



GRAHAM McDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Rough Guinea Flower is a small bushy shrub or spreading climber that grows up to 0.6 m high by 1 m wide. It is great for coastal gardens and cottage gardens as a groundcover, climber, understory plant, along borders, or in pots in full sun to part shade in well drained sandy soil. This pretty shrub has small green rough leaves and showy displays of bright yellow flowers in spring to summer. It is found in coastal areas of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria in heaths and open forests including the forests at Griffith University.

# Sago Bush

*Ozothamnus diosmifolius*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

Sago Bush, also known as Rice Flower, is a small, evergreen shrub which grows 2 m tall by 1 m wide. This hardy plant prefers full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. It is a great addition to cottage or coastal gardens, and can be grown in pots or used as an informal hedge. Sago Bush produces long-lasting clusters of small, white flowers which bloom from winter to spring. The flower buds are attractive for several weeks before they open, and the shrub can be pruned after flowering. It also attracts native birds, butterflies, and other insects, and is widespread throughout Queensland and New South Wales and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Silky Purple Flag

*Patersonia sericea*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Summer

## Description

The Silky Purple Flag plant is a tufted grass-like herb that grows to 0.5 m high by 0.5 m wide that does best in well-drained full sun to part shade. This pretty iris looks great mass planted or used as a border plant in cottage and coastal gardens, rockeries or in a pot. It has tough narrow strappy leaves and showy three-petaled flowers that are deep blue to purple in colour and occur from winter to summer but each flower only lasts for one day. It is widespread in grassland, open forest, and woodland from south-eastern Queensland to north-eastern Victoria including the forests at Griffith University.

# Slender Riceflower

*Pimelea linifolia*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
dappled shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring

## Description

This lovely small plant grows either as a prostrate shrub or erect to 1.5 m high. It prefers well drained soil in full sun to dappled shade and does well in cottage gardens, rockeries, or pots. Globular clusters of pretty white or pale pink flowers occur on the ends of branches mainly in spring but they can appear year-round. Prune after flowering to maintain a compact bushy habit and to enhance flowering. This attractive shrub is widespread and common in eastern Australia including the forests at Griffith University.

# Small-fruit Fan-flower

*Scaevola albida*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

This hardy groundcover grows up to 50 cm high and spreads to 1.5 m wide. It grows best in full sun with well-draining soil, and looks great in pots, hanging baskets, as a ground cover, in a cottage garden, or in rockeries. It has small green leaves and lovely, fan-shaped, white to purple flowers which occur prolifically year-round. This pretty *Scaevola* attracts nectar-feeding birds and pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies and is common in nurseries and local gardens including at Griffith University. Small-fruit Fan-flower naturally occurs in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia.



# Smooth Darling Pea

*Swainsona galegifolia*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
light shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Smooth Darling Pea is a beautiful long-living perennial shrub that grows to 1 m tall by 1 m wide and prefers a sunny spot in the garden. It produces showy bright pink pea flowers on spikes making it perfect for native cottage gardens and pots. Flowers are followed by pink-tinted swollen pods, while the old branches should be cut off at the end of winter otherwise they can become weak and sparse. This pretty shrub is widespread in a variety of habitats in Queensland and New South Wales.



# Star Goodenia

*Goodenia rotundifolia*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

## Description

Star Goodenia is a hardy prostrate perennial herb that grows 0.5 m high by 1 m wide and likes well-drained soils in part shade. This sprawling groundcover works well in cottage gardens, coastal gardens, growing between pavers, in pots, and hanging baskets. It has soft green foliage with rounded toothed leaves and pretty yellow flowers from spring through to autumn. This attractive plant attracts bees and butterflies and grows naturally in sclerophyll woodland and forest in southern Queensland and New South Wales including the forests at Griffith University.

# Tall Bluebell

*Wahlenbergia stricta*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Tall Bluebell is a clumping perennial herb that grows 40-90 cm tall by 40 cm wide and likes well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. This wildflower can be used as a groundcover, feature plant, border plant, or mass planted in cottage gardens, coastal gardens, courtyards, rockeries, low-maintenance gardens, pots, and hanging baskets. It has stunning light to deep blue flowers from spring to autumn which attract birds and butterflies. This hardy native is widespread in a variety of plant communities and can be found in all Australian states.

# Thyme Honey Myrtle

*Melaleuca thymifolia*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Moderate water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

Thyme Honey Myrtle is a small, dense shrub reaching about 1 m in height by 1.5 m in width. This hardy shrub tolerates most soil types and grows best in full sun. It looks great as a feature shrub in a pot or garden setting, but also works well as a hedge, in cottage gardens, and shrubberies. This native has small grey-green foliage with clusters of intricate, feathery, purple flowers produced year-round. The colourful flowers attract nectar-eating birds, bees and butterflies to the garden and have made it a popular native for gardens for many years including at Griffith University. Thyme Honey Myrtle is found in Southern Queensland and New South Wales.

# Trailing Guinea Flower

*Hibbertia dentata*



MARK RUNKOVSKI

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
full shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

Trailing Guinea Flower is a twining vine with stems growing 2-3 m in length. It prefers well-drained soil, but needs to be kept moist, and does well in full sun to full shade. This attractive vine can also grow as a groundcover and looks great in a pot or hanging baskets. It has interesting dark green leaves with bronze to purple highlights which contrast with the bright yellow flowers that bloom in late winter through to late spring. This plant occurs naturally in open forest and rainforest margins in south-eastern Queensland down to eastern Victoria including the forests at Griffith University. It is an easy to grow plant, but is not often found in cultivation.

# Wallum Tea-tree

*Leptospermum semibaccatum*



Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
dappled shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

Wallum Tea-tree is a low spreading shrub with a weeping habit that grows to a height of 0.5-2 m. It prefers full sun to dappled shade in moist sandy soils. This small shrub suits cottage and coastal gardens, as well as rockeries. Small narrow leaves grow alongside the five-petaled pink to white flowers which occur profusely from August to October. These scented flowers attract birds, bees and other insects. This hardy native grows in poorly-drained sandy soil in coastal heath from Bundaberg in Queensland down to Forester in New South Wales.

# Wedding Bush

*Ricinocarpus pinifolius*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun



Low water  
requirement



Winter to  
Summer

## Description

The Wedding Bush is a delightful evergreen shrub that grows to 2 m tall by 2 m wide and prefers sandy well-drained soil in full sun. It is a lovely feature plant in courtyards, coastal gardens, cottage or low-maintenance gardens and pots. Masses of glossy white flowers adorn the soft pine needle like foliage from late winter to early summer. This hardy shrub attracts birds, bees and butterflies, and occurs naturally along the coast from Queensland to Tasmania in heaths and woodlands.

# White Paper Daisy

*Coronidium elatum*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

The White Paper Daisy is a hardy, perennial herb that can reach up to 2 m tall with a spread of 1 m wide. It grows easily in any well-drained soil with full sun to part shade in cottage gardens, low maintenance gardens, rockeries, and in a pot. Masses of large, papery clusters of small golden flowers with white paper brackets are produced in spring to summer and attract birds, bees, and butterflies to the garden. In the wild they are found growing in eucalypt forests from south-eastern Queensland down to Eastern Victoria.



## Yellow Buttons

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

### Description

Yellow Buttons is a fast-growing, native, groundcover that grows between 7 and 60 cm tall by 1 m wide. This low growing herb prefers full sun in well-drained soil and looks great in a cottage garden where it can be used as a groundcover, in rockeries, as a border plant, or in a pot. Numerous bright yellow to deep gold flowers are produced at the end of tall stems from spring to autumn. The leaves and stems are covered in small, silky hairs which gives them a silvery-green appearance. This plant is a food source for butterflies, and is widespread throughout Australia and popular in gardens including at Griffith University.

## Garden Type: Hot and Sunny

When dealing with a hot and sunny balcony, courtyard, or garden that faces north and receives bright sunlight throughout the day, consider growing local dune species. These plants are well-suited to such conditions as they are salt-tolerant, water-wise, wind-tolerant, and thrive in full sun. Additionally, dune species and other sun-tolerant plants attract bees and butterflies, making them an excellent addition to any garden. *Hovea*, *Goodenia*, *Scaevola*, *Banksia*, and *Leptospermum* are other plants that can do well on hot balcony/courtyard when creating a beautiful and vibrant garden that is lower maintenance and environmentally friendly. Remember to water plants regularly during dry and windy periods, and you can transform your hot and sunny balcony, courtyard, or even roof garden into an oasis of beauty.



CATHERINE PICKERING

# Angular Pigface

*Carpobrotus glaucescens*



JOEL IRWIN

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Summer to  
Autumn

## Description

This attractive native coastal plant is a prostrate, creeping succulent which works well as a groundcover, in rockeries, or in a hanging basket. It is one of Australia's hardiest native plants growing well in full sun and tolerates drought, strong winds, humidity, and salt. It prefers free draining soils and is suited to a coastal environment. It has thick, fleshy leaves and stunning deep-pink daisy-like flowers. This plant grows up to 20 cm high and requires little to no maintenance. There are many non-native pigfaces but *Carpobrotus glaucescens* is native to eastern Australia and is grown in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Australian Finger Lime

*Citrus australasica*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Summer to  
Autumn

## Description

The Australian Finger Lime is a very thorny shrub to small tree that grows to 2-7 m tall by 2-3 m wide but may be kept small with regular pruning. It likes part shade to full sun in well-drained soils and makes an excellent pot specimen but keep it away from paths. Small white or pale pink scented flowers appear in summer and autumn followed by cylindrical finger lime fruit which can be a variety of colours from green, yellow, red, orange, purple, brown, and black. This plant attracts bees and butterflies, and the thorny dense foliage makes this a good nesting plant for small birds. It naturally occurs from south-east Queensland to north-east New South Wales and is grown for food including in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Australian Indigo

*Indigofera australis*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

The Australian Indigo is a beautiful spreading shrub that grows to 2 m tall by 2 m wide. It thrives in full sun to part shade and well-draining soil, making it a great addition to low maintenance, cottage, coastal, or courtyard gardens. With smooth bluish-green foliage and spires of fragrant, vibrant pink to purple flowers that bloom from late winter through spring, this plant is a beautiful feature or pot plant. It is a great habitat plant for wildlife, attracting an array of birds, bees, and butterflies. Regular pruning in spring will create a denser appearance. The Australian Indigo is common and widespread throughout Australia in a variety of habitats including forests at Griffith University.

# Beach Flax Lily

*Dianella congesta*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

This hardy perennial herb is a clumping coastal plant that grows to 1 m high by 0.6 m wide. It prefers well drained sandy soil in full sun to part shade, and works well in rockeries, cottage gardens, and coastal gardens. The Beach Flax Lily has drooping strap-like leaves and blue to violet flowers with yellow centres throughout the year. The pretty flowers are followed by bright blue-purple berries that attract fruit-eating birds. This plant grows naturally in coastal sand-dunes in southern Queensland and New South Wales. It is popular in gardens including at Griffith University.

# Boobialla

*Myoporum boninense* subsp. *australe*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Autumn

## Description

The Boobialla is a hardy and sprawling prostrate shrub that is a perfect groundcover choice for your garden. It grows up to 0.6 m high and spreads 1-2 m wide. This plant prefers well-draining soils and thrives in full sun to part shade. Since it grows naturally in coastal areas, it is salt tolerant, frost-resistant and drought-tolerant once established. The plant produces clusters of small white flowers from spring to early autumn that are followed by smooth, glossy, light to dark purple fruits. Boobialla is found in salt marshes, coastal heath, sand dunes, and coastal woodland along the coasts of Queensland and New South Wales. It does well in gardens including at Griffith University, including our roof garden.



# Climbing Guinea Flower

*Hibbertia scandens*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This vigorous climber is a versatile plant that can be trained to grow up to 5 metres tall when supported by a trellis, or spread out to form a low groundcover that reaches 0.5 m in height and 2-5 m in width. To promote optimal flowering, it prefers full sun, and works well as a screening plant when grown along a trellis or open wire fence. It is also used as a groundcover or in hanging baskets. The large yellow flowers contrast brilliantly against the plant's dark green foliage, with blooms occurring year-round, but particularly abundant in spring and summer. This climber is a magnet for local bees, butterflies, birds, and lizards, and occurs in Queensland and New South Wales including at Griffith University.

# Common Fringe Myrtle

*Calytrix tetragona*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
light shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring

## Description

The Common Fringe Myrtle is a beautiful evergreen shrub that reaches 1-2 m tall by 0.5-1.5 m wide and grows best in full sun to light shade in well-drained soils. It is well suited to courtyards, pots and low-maintenance gardens and can be used as an ornamental feature plant, an informal hedge, or a screening plant. This hardy shrub produces masses of white to pink star-shaped bee-attracting flowers in spring and can be pruned after flowering to encourage a denser habit. It has small narrow leaves with a spicy fragrance when crushed and is found throughout temperate Australia.

# Crinkle Bush

*Lomatia silaifolia*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

The Crinkle Bush is a beautiful small shrub that has an upright growth habit, reaching a height of 1-2 m and a width of 1.5 m. This hardy and long-lived plant can be grown in any location, whether in sun or shade, as long as the soil is well-drained. Its exquisite appearance, including finely divided leaves and white scented flowers that bloom on long spikes throughout the summer, make it an excellent choice as a pot plant or a garden feature. To encourage bushier growth, it can be pruned as necessary. The Crinkle Bush can be found growing as an understory shrub in open forests and heaths in South East Queensland and New South Wales including forests at Griffith University.

# Dune Fan-flower

*Scaevola calendulacea*



Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

The Dune Fan-flower is a hardy spreading groundcover to 0.4m high and 2 m wide. It is adaptable to most well-drained soils in full sun and looks great trailing over the sides of retaining walls, pots and hanging baskets. This tough plant is used to stabilise sand dunes as it tolerates drought, heat, and salt-spray. It has thick fleshy green leaves and fragrant purple-blue fan-shaped flowers year-round followed by purple bird-attracting berries. This attractive fan-flower is widespread on coastal sand dunes from Queensland to South Australia and does well in gardens including at Griffith University.

# Emu Foot

*Cullen tenax*



GRAHAM McDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Year round

## Description

A slender, creeping, herb with "emu foot" shaped leaves that grows 0.4 m high by 1 m wide. This nitrogen fixing native pea grows in full sun to part shade and tolerates a wide range of soils. Emu Foot is an attractive groundcover that looks great in pots and hanging baskets. It has fan-shaped leaves on long stalks and spikes of small bluish or mauve-purple flowers throughout most of the year. The flowers attract native bees and the herb is a host plant for the chequered swallowtail butterfly, the long-tailed pea-blue butterfly, and the common grass-blue butterfly. Emu Foot is widespread across Queensland and New South Wales.

# Fairy Fan-flower

*Scaevola aemula*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
light shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

Fairy Fan-flower is a fast-growing spreading shrub or groundcover which reaches 0.5 m high by 1 m wide and grows best in well-drained soil in full sun to light shade. This plant looks great in overflowing pots or hanging baskets and works well in cottage gardens, coastal gardens, rockeries, and along garden borders. It produces small green foliage and masses of white, purple, or blue fan-shaped flowers during spring and summer that attract birds, butterflies, and bees. This hardy groundcover is widespread in dry sclerophyll forests generally in sandy soils from south east Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria to South Australia and in gardens such as those at Griffith University.

# False Sarsaparilla

*Hardenbergia violacea*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

This spectacular native grows as a shrub or a climber, and can reach up to 4 m tall by 3 m wide but can be kept smaller with pruning. This low-maintenance, drought tolerant plant that does best in full sun to part shade can be trained to grow over fences and trellises or can be used as a beautiful feature plant in a garden or pot. It produces stunning blooms of purple pea flowers from winter through spring that attract native butterflies and bees. The False Sarsaparilla is widespread in a variety of habitats occurring in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia including the forests at Griffith University.



# Fern-leaved Banksia

*Banksia oblongifolia*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Autumn to  
Winter

## Description

This slow-growing Banksia is a small native shrub that grows 0.5 - 3 m high by 1.5 m wide in full sun to part shade in well-drained soils. It is frost and salt-spray tolerant and can grow in sandy soils which makes it ideal for coastal gardens. Once established, it is very hardy, and can be pruned to keep it compact including if planted in a pot. It has large, spectacular, cylindrical, pale-yellow flowers that bloom during autumn and winter that attract nectar-feeding birds and insects and naturally occurs along the east coast of Australia, often in coastal heaths

# Hairpin Banksia

*Banksia spinulosa*



Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



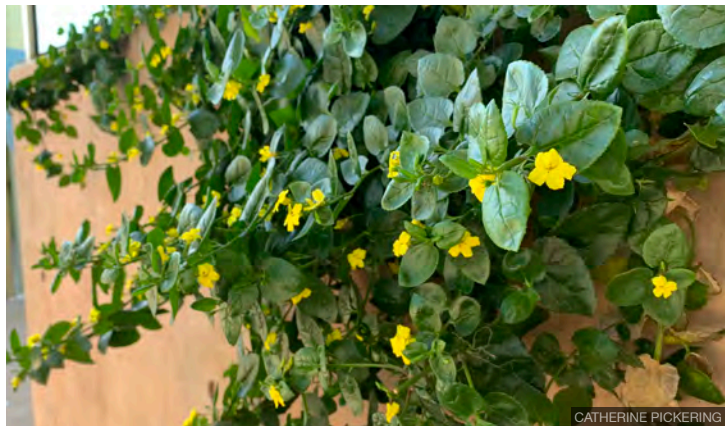
Autumn to  
Spring

## Description

A long-lived, medium-sized, woody shrub that grows up to 3 m high by 3 m wide but can be kept smaller with pruning and there are dwarf varieties available in nurseries. This hardy banksia is tolerant of drought, frost, and salt spray and occurs in heaths and forests along the east coast of Australia including at Griffith University. It will do well potted or in a garden and it grows best in a sunny position in well-drained soil. It has a long flowering time from autumn through to spring, the masses of small flowers are arranged in orange to golden yellow cylindrical spikes up to 20 cm long. This easy to grow shrub has a range of biodiversity benefits supporting nectar-feeding birds and bees.

# Hop Goodenia

*Goodenia ovata*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun



Moderate water  
requirement



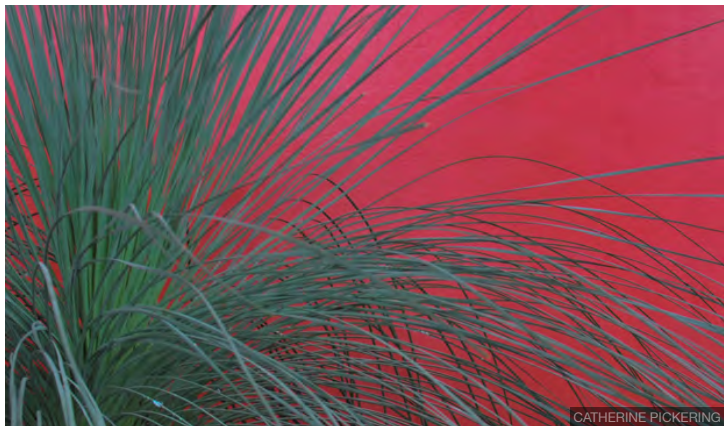
Year round

## Description

A fast-growing, low-sprawling shrub growing 1 m high by 1-3 m wide, this tough, salt-tolerant, low maintenance native is very adaptable and responds well to pruning. It likes full sun in garden borders, informal hedges, understory plantings, rockeries, in pots, and hanging baskets. It produces attractive bright yellow flowers throughout the year that attract butterflies, bees and native birds to the garden, and provides habitat for native lizards. The Hop Goodenia grows in forest and woodland in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia with two distinct forms, with the southern lower growing form more common in cultivation as a ground cover including in the gardens at Griffith University.

# Johnson's Grass Tree

*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Harder to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Autumn to  
Spring

## Description

This is an extremely slow growing and long-lived grass tree that can eventually grow to 5 m tall by 2 m wide. It prefers full sun to part shade in well-drained soil and makes a fantastic feature plant in low-maintenance and coastal gardens, and in a pot. This iconic plant has a thick blackened trunk with fine grass-like leaves arching from its top and is generally single-trunked but can be multi-trunked. It occasionally produces tall spears of small white nectar-filled flowers which attract birds and bees, and occurs naturally in Queensland and New South Wales including at Griffith University. With grass trees its best to source seed grown plants rather than transplanted samples and it should not be collected from the wild.

# Lemon Myrtle

*Backhousia citriodora*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Summer to  
Autumn

## Description

Lemon Myrtle is a beautiful small tree that grows to 3-8 m tall by 2-5 m wide but may be kept smaller in large pots when pruned regularly. This hardy plant should be positioned in full sun to part shade in moist, organic-rich, well-drained soils and it works well in low-maintenance gardens, courtyards, large pots, and even in a sunny indoor spot. It has attractive glossy green lemon-scented foliage with clusters of small fluffy white flowers from summer to autumn which attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Lemon Myrtle is endemic to subtropical rainforests of central and south-eastern Queensland and is grown in the bush tucker gardens at Griffith University.

# Mat Rush

*Lomandra confertifolia*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Summer

## Description

This densely tufted grass-like herb grows 0.5 m high by up to 1 m wide and does best in well-drained soil in a full sun to part shade position. It looks great mass-planted and as a border plant in gardens, and also works well in pots and containers. This hardy Mat Rush has wonderful weeping foliage of bright green slender leaves and small, hidden creamy white to yellow flower spikes from spring to summer. In the wild it grows in sclerophyll forests in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria including at Griffith University.



# Midyim

*Austromyrtus dulcis*



JOEL IRWIN

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Summer to  
Autumn

## Description

This compact shrub grows to 1 m. It can be grown as a potted plant or used to create an attractive garden border or low, compact hedge that can be pruned to shape as needed. Midyim/midgenberry prefers full sun to part shade and grows well in sandy soils, but it can adapt to a range of soils with good drainage and is relatively hardy. The attractive copper-coloured new growth matures to a dark green, and star-shaped white flowers bloom in spring to summer followed by white berries with small dark spots. Midyim attracts bees, other pollinating insects and birds to the garden including at Griffith University and has been used as bush tucker. It is found in south east Queensland and north east New South Wales.



# Olive Tea Tree

*Leptospermum liversidgei*



GRAHAM McDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



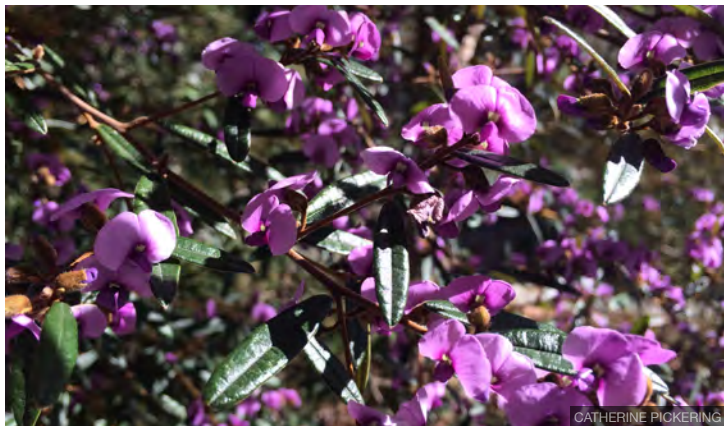
Spring to  
Summer

## Description

A hardy evergreen shrub up to 2 m high by 1.5 m wide it needs full sun to part shade and will tolerate a range of soil types. It does well in pots and works as a screen or hedge in courtyards, low-maintenance, cottage, and coastal gardens. During spring and summer, it produces showy small white or pink flowers along fine stems followed by woody fruits. Its foliage is strongly lemon-scented and the 'Mozzie Blocker' cultivar is reputed to repel mosquitos. Olive Tea Tree naturally occurs in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales in sandy coastal heaths.

# Purple Bush-pea

*Hovea acutifolia*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Low water  
requirement



Winter to  
Spring

## Description

An attractive, small, upright shrub which grows to 2 m high by 1.5 m wide. This hardy, drought resistant plant likes full sun to part shade and is adaptable to a range of well-draining soils. It has dark-green, narrow, oval-shaped leaves and masses of purple flowers from winter to spring which will add a real 'wow' factor to any garden. This pretty shrub attracts native bees and provides protection for small native birds, and is easy to propagate from seed after heat treatment. A native to the understory of forests and rainforest margins in Queensland and New South Wales, it is a great addition to gardens including at Griffith University.

# Tantoon

*Leptospermum polygalifolium*



CATHERINE PICKERING

Easier to  
grow



Full sun to  
part shade



Moderate water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This is a wonderful slightly aromatic shrub that grows 1-4 m tall by 3 m wide but it can be pruned to any size. This hardy shrub grows best in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil and is a great feature plant or can be used as a screening or hedging plant or grown in pots. Masses of small creamy white flowers are produced in spring and summer which attract birds as well as bees and other insects. It responds well to pruning and is drought tolerant. Tantoon is usually found in sandy soils or sandstone from far north Queensland to the south coast of New South Wales including forests at Griffith University.

# Winter Apple

*Eremophila debilis*



GRAHAM MCDONALD

Moderate  
to grow



Full sun



Low water  
requirement



Spring to  
Summer

## Description

This hardy low-growing plant has a 1-2 m spread and a height of 0.5 m. It grows best in full sun in well drained soil. This attractive groundcover works well in rockeries and low maintenance gardens, or in pots and hanging baskets where it will hang down the sides. It has dense foliage of long narrow leaves with small pretty mauve to purple flowers in spring to summer and round fleshy white to reddish purple fruits in autumn/winter. The drought-hardy Winter Apple occurs naturally in dry woodland areas of New South Wales and Queensland and was previously called *Myoporum debile*.

# Index

<i>Acmena smithii</i>	29
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> and <i>Adiantum atroviride</i>	14
<i>Adiantum formosum</i>	15
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	21
<i>Artanema fimbriatum</i>	31
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	11
<i>Austromyrtus dulcis</i>	87
<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>	85
<i>Banksia oblongifolia</i>	81
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	82
<i>Blandfordia grandiflora</i>	44
<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	16
<i>Boronia keysii</i>	51
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>	46
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	53
<i>Callicarpa pedunculata</i>	38
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	75
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	69

<i>Christella dentata</i>	10
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	67
<i>Citrus australasica</i>	70
<i>Coleus graveolens</i>	52
<i>Coleus habrophyllus</i>	35
<i>Coronidium elatum</i>	66
<i>Cullen tenax</i>	78
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	41
<i>Davidsonia johnsonii</i>	22
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	12
<i>Dianella congesta</i>	72
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	30
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	36
<i>Doodia aspera</i>	34
<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	27
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	91
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	83
<i>Goodenia rotundifolia</i>	60
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	80
<i>Hibbertia aspera</i>	54

<i>Hibbertia dentata</i>	63
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	74
<i>Hibbertia vestita</i>	49
<i>Hovea acutifolia</i>	89
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	71
<i>Leptospermum liversidgei</i>	88
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	90
<i>Leptospermum semibaccatum</i>	64
<i>Linospadix monostachya</i>	23
<i>Lomandra confertifolia</i>	86
<i>Lomatia silaifolia</i>	76
<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i>	62
<i>Microsorium diversifolium</i>	18
<i>Myoporum boninense subsp. australe</i>	73
<i>Olearia nernstii</i>	50
<i>Orthosiphon aristatus</i>	42
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	55
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	56
<i>Peperomia leptostachya</i>	20
<i>Phaius australis</i>	37



<i>Phaius bernaysii</i>	39
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	57
<i>Proiphys cunninghamii</i>	13
<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	32
<i>Pteris umbrosa</i>	17
<i>Pultenaea villosa</i>	48
<i>Rhodanthe anthemoides</i>	43
<i>Ricinocarpus pinifolius</i>	65
<i>Scaevola aemula</i>	79
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	58
<i>Scaevola calendulacea</i>	77
<i>Sphaeropteris cooperi</i>	26
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	59
<i>Telmatoblechnum indicum</i>	28
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	45
<i>Tripladenia cunninghamii</i>	19
<i>Viola banksii</i>	33
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	25
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	61
<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>	84
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i> 95	47



