

Choosing the right plants for your garden



This guide has been prepared by the City of Burnside to help residents and developers in maintaining the area's soft, leafy landscape.

It provides a step-by-step guide for choosing the best plants for your situation. The landscaping tips will help you create a sustainable landscape which is kind to the natural environment.

For more council information on indigenous plants, or if you intend to plant on council verges, parks and reserves, first contact us on 8366 4200.



1 Where are you?

Your planting site will either be in the foothills, on the plains or near a creekline.

Foothills areas are gently to steeply sloping and have shallow soil over some kind of bedrock, which is often quite limey. This type of soil can be found in the suburbs of Auldana, Skye, Wattle Park (above Penfold Road), Stonyfell, Burnside, Beaumont, Mount Osmond, Waterfall Gully, Leawood Gardens, and Glen Osmond (east of Pridmore Road).

These areas are close to the open space and bushland areas of the hills face and care is needed to avoid introducing plants which will become weeds.

Plains areas are the flatter, lower parts of the city. Soils are deep and have a high clay content.

Creekline areas are usually narrow strips of land adjacent to drainage lines which are moist and subject to flooding. The more natural the plantings along creeks, the better will be the health of the creek. Creekline plants that occur naturally in the area are always recommended for planting along creeks and in other wet areas.

Check the lists for particular references to your area.

For sites in the hills face, always avoid the plants in the weed list.

2 What's there already?

Think before you clear your site.

Are there valuable trees or other plants already on your site? Significant plants may be valuable horticultural specimens or they may be remnants of the original woodland flora of your area. The City of Burnside Significant Tree and Other Vegetation Study may indicate this. You can ask Council's Environment Officer to check your site.

To protect trees when you are building and landscaping, exclude vehicles, storage of materials and trenching from under tree canopies.



3 Which plants do you require?

Choose the right plant for the right place.

Choose the size and form of plant required.

Choose from the lists contained in this guide or consult a gardening expert for more information.

When selecting trees - avoid trees that will ultimately outgrow the site; be mindful of the effect on neighbours through such things as:

- ✦ overhang
- ✦ leaf and fruit drop
- ✦ blockage of sunlight
- ✦ trees to the north can cause unwelcome winter shade
- ✦ sewer and structural damage
- ✦ discuss tree planting with neighbours

Check the location of services.

For any plant, check that it suits the local environment and will not be dependent on large amounts of water and fertiliser.

The lists in this guide indicate which plants to avoid because they can become weeds or cause damage or nuisance.

Consider using the plants that once grew naturally in the area. Once established they won't require much water.

Putting these indigenous plants together to create a small patch of local habitat is called "wirra gardening". There is a separate list of indigenous plants. These plants should be obtained from growers who propagate using locally collected seed.

There is also a list of commonly available garden plants which are suitable for Burnside.



4 Developing your landscape

Try to make plants the basis of your garden, not structures. Choose landscape structures wisely.

Many materials used in landscaping cause environmental damage -

- ✦ Paved areas increase runoff and prevent the soil from functioning properly.
- ✦ Moss rocks are taken from the hills and this causes habitat loss and land degradation.
- ✦ Brush for fences is often cut from the wild. Check that any brush you use is plantation grown.

✦ Soils brought in to gardens are usually mined from natural areas or watercourses and also cause habitat loss and land degradation.

✦ Some garden plants like Yaccas, Cycads and tree ferns have been lifted from the wild. Check that plants have been propagated in a nursery.

✦ Design your garden to maximise soil and plants and minimise hard features.

✦ Keep in mind that not all plants are appropriate and not every spot needs a tree or shrub.

✦ Rainwater tanks are useful for watering gardens.

Poor planting methods will reduce the life of trees and shrubs -

- ✦ make the hole wide enough
- ✦ don't plant curled roots - tease out the roots thoroughly
- ✦ plant firmly and water in

5 Make your garden sustainable

Think about managing your garden in the future - How much pruning and clipping will it need? What will you do with the prunings and clippings?

How much water will you have to put on it? How much fertiliser will it need?

Chip and compost the prunings and clippings from your garden. Design the garden to provide sufficient soil area to handle this material. Do this and you will not need any fertiliser.

Illegal dumping spreads weeds, increases fire hazard and is a cost to the whole community.

Before you make a garden, consider: Will the trees grow too big for the garden? Will any of the plants cause problems for neighbours? Will the plants affect water mains, sewers, power-lines, and so on? Are there existing trees which need to be looked after? Is there a risk of introducing new weeds? Where will garden wastes be recycled? Do I really need to use a lot of fertiliser? Can I avoid using materials from natural habitat areas?



A sustainable garden provides joy to the gardener over a long period of time without damaging the local or broader environment.

AVOID THESE PLANTS**Plants which are WEEDS or are hard to control**

This is not a complete list of weeds - only weeds that are likely to be sold in nurseries. These species are mostly a problem in the hills face areas and should be avoided there. They can be a nuisance in the plains area.

trees

- Cootamundra Wattle
- Acacia baileyana*
- Sydney Golden Wattle
- Acacia longifolia*
- Cape Leeuwin Wattle
- Albizia lophantha*
- River Oak
- Casuarina cunninghamiana*
- Swamp Oak
- Casuarina glauca*
- Tree Lucerne
- Chamaecytisus proliferus*
- Hawthorn
- Cretaeus (all species)*
- Desert Ash
- Fraxinus oxycarpa*
- Olive
- Olea europea*
- Pines
- Pinus species*
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Pittosporum undulatum*
- Poplar
- Populus species*
- Willow
- Salix species*
- Athel Pine
- Tamarix aphylla*
- English Elm
- Ulmus procera*

shrubs

- Flinders Ranges Wattle
- Acacia iteaphylla*
- Erica
- Erica lusitanica*
- Broom
- Genista all species*
- Rosemary Grevillea
- Grevillea rosmarinifolia*
- Lavender
- Lavandula species*
- Milkwort
- Polygala myrtifolia*
- Fire thorn
- Pyracantha species*
- Buckthorn
- Rhamnus alaternus*
- Bluebell Creeper
- Sollya heterophylla*
- vines and climbers**
- Ivy
- Hedera helix*
- Morning Glory
- Ipomoea species*
- German Ivy
- Senecio angulatus*
- Cape Ivy
- Senecio mikanioides*
- Periwinkle
- Vinca*
- Ornamental Onions
- Allium (all species)*
- Bamboo
- Bambusa species*
- Pampas Grass
- Cortaderia selloana*
- Fountain Grass,
- Feather Grass
- Pennisetum (all species)*

INDIGENOUS PLANTS**INDIGENOUS PLANTS for hills and plains areas**

- medium to large trees**
- SA Blue Gum
- Eucalyptus leucocylon*
- River Red Gum
- Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
- Grey Box
- Eucalyptus microcarpa*
- small to medium trees**
- Golden Wattle
- Acacia pycnantha*
- Swamp Wattle
- Acacia retinodes*
- Drooping Sheoak
- Allocasuarina verticillata*
- Slender Cypress Pine
- Callitris preissii*
- Native Apricot
- Pittosporum phylliraeoides*

large shrubs

- Round-leaved Wattle
- Acacia acinacea*
- Kangaroo Thorn
- Acacia paradoxa*
- Christmas Bush
- Bursaria spinosa*
- Sticky Hop Bush
- Dodonaea viscosa*
- Hakea
- Hakea carinata*
- Twiggy Daisy Bush
- Olearia ramulosa*
- small shrubs**
- Ruby Salt Bush
- Enchylaena tomentosa*
- Small-leaved Eutaxia
- Eutaxia microphylla*
- Clasping Goodenia
- Goodenia amplexans*

**OTHER GARDEN PLANTS****INDIGENOUS PLANTS for creeklines and wet areas**

For locations prone to waterlogging.

trees

- Blackwood
- Acacia melanoxydon*
- Swamp Wattle
- Acacia retinodes*
- River Red Gum
- Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
- shrubs**
- River Bottle Brush
- Callistemon sieberi*
- Silky Tea-tree
- Leptospermum lanigerum*

rushes and sedges

- Carex tereticaulis
- Isolepis nodosa
- Juncus species
- Phragmites australis
- Triglochin procerum

herbaceous plants

- Lobelia alata
- Samolus repens

GARDEN TREES and SHRUBS

Provided that their size is taken into account, the following trees and shrubs will generally perform well with average attention in Burnside.

trees over 15m

- Norfolk Island Pine,
- Bunya Pine
- Araucaria species*
- Cedars
- Cedrus species*
- Lemon Scented Gum
- Eucalyptus citriodora*
- Spotted Gum
- Eucalyptus maculata*
- Ironbark
- Eucalyptus sideroxydon*
- Morton Bay Fig
- Ficus macrophylla*

London Plane

- Platanus hybrid*

English Oak

- Quercus robur*

Cork Oak

- Quercus suber*

trees between 8 and 15m

- Box-elder Maple
- Acer negundo*
- Willow Myrtle
- Agonis flexuosa*
- Kurrajong,
- Illawarra Flame Tree
- Brachychiton species*
- Hack Berry
- Celtis australis*
- Carob
- Ceratonia siliqua*
- Coral Tree
- Erythrina indica*
- Argyle Apple
- Eucalyptus cineria*
- Ginkgo
- Ginkgo biloba*
- Honey Locust
- Gleditsia triacanthos cultivars*
- Silky Oak
- Grevillea robusta*
- Jacaranda
- Jacaranda mimosifolia*

trees under 8m

- Japanese Maple
- Acer palmatum*
- Orchid Tree
- Bauhinia candida*
- Weeping Bottle-brush
- Callistemon viminalis*
- Gungurru
- Eucalyptus caesia*
- Native Frangipani
- Hymenosporum flavum*
- Crepe Myrtle
- Lagerstroemia cultivars*
- Tallow-berry
- Sapium sebiferum*
- Umbrella Tree
- Schleffera actinophylla*
- shrubs over 1m**
- Abelia grandiflora
- Bauhinia galpinii*
- Gawler Hybrid Bottle-brush
- Callistemon "Harkness"*
- Ceanothus dentatus
- Emu Bush
- Eremophila maculata*
- Wax Flower
- Eriostemon myoporoides*
- Hybiscus species
- Dryland Tea-tree
- Melaleuca lanceolata*
- Photinia robusta
- Protea species
- Indian Hawthorn
- Raphiolepis indica*
- Viburnum tinus

Golden Rain Tree

- Koelreuteria paniculata*

Liquidamber

- Liquidamber styraciflua*

Queensland Box

- Lophostemon confertus*

Ornamental Apple

- Malus species*

White Cedar

- Melia azederach*

Ornamental Pear

- Pyrus species*

Chinese Elm

- Ulmus parvifolia*

shrubs under 1m

- Rock Rose
- Cistus "Brilliance"*
- Diosma
- Coleonema pulchrum*
- Native Fuchsia
- Correa alba, Correa reflexa, Correa pulchella*
- Crowea
- Crowea exaltata*
- Veronica
- Hebe species*
- Cassia
- Senna artemisioides*
- Templetonia retusa
- Thryptomene saxicola

small palms

- European Fan Palm
- Chamaerops humilis*
- Kentia Palm
- Howea fosteriana*
- Windmill Palm
- Trachycarpus fortunei*

HAPPY GARDENING!**large palms**

- Jelly Palm
- Buñia capitata*
- Canary Island Date Palm
- Phoenix canariensis*
- Date Palm
- Phoenix dactylifera*
- Washingtonia robusta
- Cotton Palm
- Washingtonia filifera*



9m

8m

7m

6m

5m

4m

3m

2m

1m