



Seedlings for Schools

Gardens connecting people and wildlife together

Indigenous Culture Box

Flora of Hume



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

For your information

If you would like help to identify native plants or find out about how you can help protect and enhance native vegetation, contact the Sustainability Engagement team on 9205 2200.

The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Hume City Council and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

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Hume City Council is an
affiliate of the
Gardens for Wildlife
Victoria Network



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Hume City Council donates indigenous seedlings to schools to beautify the school grounds, create outdoor classrooms, provide more shade, and enhance the habitat for local wildlife. Children are provided with opportunities to connect with nature, work as a team on a worthwhile project, and learn about the local environment.

Seedlings for Schools

Since 2014, over 55,000 seedlings have been given to schools in Hume City. More than 80 percent of schools have been involved at least once, with several schools applying each year.

Indigenous Plants

Indigenous species of flora are adapted to the region's soils and climatic conditions. These local plants are well-suited to growing in clay soils and can cope with hot, dry summers.

Historically, Hume City was once covered by native grasslands and open grassy woodlands. Many indigenous plants therefore prefer to be in positions with full sun to part shade, and will not grow as well in full shade conditions.

Australia's unique fauna evolved with local native plants, so rely on them for food and shelter. By planting indigenous species in our gardens, parks, streetscapes, and at schools, we provide much-needed wildlife habitat and ecological connectivity for biodiversity gains.

We can also grow plants important to First Nations peoples, as numerous species are used for food, fibre, medicine and tools, or have other cultural heritage values.

Flora Conservation Status

Much of the native vegetation has been cleared across Hume City, due to farming and urban development. As new suburbs are built, Nature Conservation Reserves are set aside to protect native vegetation, with over 100 sites managed by Council.

Flora surveys conducted in the reserves have recorded some 990 plant species, including exotics (non-native species). More than 210 indigenous species are at risk of regional extinction with only one to five wild populations left in Hume City.

Conserve rare and threatened indigenous plants by including them in our gardens.

It is illegal to take indigenous plants from the wild, without a permit from the state government and permission from the land owner/manager. A limit must be placed on harvesting seed and propagation materials from vulnerable wild populations. Instead we can use seeds or cuttings collected from our gardens to grow more plants, and hopefully share them with other people.

Indigenous Culture Box

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and four other Traditional Owner communities form the Kulin Nation, and have lived around Narm (or Naarm, Greater Melbourne, Central Victoria) for over 40,000 years. Their rich Indigenous ecological knowledge about the plants, animals, landscapes, and seasons, along with the management of the natural environment, forms part of First Nations peoples deep and spiritual Connection to Country.

It is a powerful act of Reconciliation to create gardens with nutritious bush-tucker foods, and medicines, along with the variety of plants used for weaving or string making, as well as those shaped into various tools and implements. These outdoor classrooms provide much insight into the cultural practices of the world's oldest communities.

The species included in this box of seedlings are a tiny sample of the plants that have an important Aboriginal cultural use. See Council's associated resource - Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Flora List - for a more comprehensive species list and some other references that are available.

Flora of Hume

The following plant factsheets are grouped by form or growth habit. Each botanical name is linked to the [Flora of Victoria](#) website for more information. [Learn to identify](#) these plants, consider how big they grow and where to plant them, plus how to collect their seed, and maintain them in your garden.

Planting tips & caring for the seedlings



Follow these tips for a great planting technique, giving the seedlings the best chance to survive and grow.

Water your seedlings well or soak the forestry tubes in a bucket before planting

Watering will help get the seedling out of the tube, and keep the root ball and soil together.

Dig a “Goldilocks” hole

Check the hole is deep enough, and not too deep, by putting the plastic forestry tube in the hole. The top of the potting mix in the tube should be level with the surrounding ground. Avoid having the seedling sit too high up with roots exposed, or too low down with stem smothered.

Breathe on your seedling

Sing or talk to your seedlings. They will absorb the carbon dioxide you breathe out.

All plants photosynthesize. They combine water and carbon dioxide to make simple sugars and release oxygen. The carbon from your body is used by the seedling to grow.

What was part of you is now part of the seedling; you are connected on an atomic level!

Massage your seedling in the forestry tube

Firmly squeeze the opposite corners of the square forestry tube together. Squeeze at the bottom and at top of the tube. Squeeze the other corners and all the sides of the tube too.

Gently remove your seedling from the forestry tube

Make a V with two fingers. Place a finger either side of the seedling. Then tip the forestry tube upside down and give a firm, hard shake. The seedling's roots in the potting soil should slide out of the tube into the palm of your hand. Try to keep this root ball in the soil intact.

If the seedling doesn't easily come out, check if there are roots growing out the bottom of the tube. Tear these roots off the bottom if you need to.

Massage the corners of the tube firmly again. Try more hard shakes to get the seedling out.

Or lightly grasp the seedling stem between your two fingers and gently pull on the seedling as your other hand squeezes the corners of the tube. Gently wriggle the seedling out.

Tuck your seedling into the hole

Push loose dirt into any gaps around the seedling and fill up the hole. Make sure all the roots are covered up. Mound up some dirt in a ring around the seedling.

Water your seedling

Water gently so the dirt doesn't get washed away from the roots. The mounded ring of dirt can help dam the water. Let the water soak in slowly to help settle the dirt in around the roots.

Mulch your seedlings

Cover the ground with mulch to help retain soil moisture, reduce weeds and feed the soil. Use a bark chip or leaf litter bush mulch up to 10 centimetres thick around woody plants like trees and shrubs. For more delicate wildflowers and grasses, mulch with sugar cane or straw.

Care for your seedlings

Water your newly planted seedlings a couple of times a week for the first month at least.

Remove any weeds that grow near them. Prune the plants after they finish flowering.

Feed the plants with a liquid fertiliser, slow release fertiliser pellets formulated for natives, or add a ring of compost or weathered manures around the seedling.

Symbols & Gardens for Wildlife recipe



Form or growth habit



Trees



Shrubs



Wildflowers



Grasses



Herbs



Sedges



Groundcover



Climbers

Amount of light required



Full Sun



Part Shade



Full Shade

Wildlife attracted



Birds



Butterflies



Bees



Frogs



Lizards



Mammals



The Gardens for Wildlife program has a simple recipe of ingredients to create a wildlife-friendly garden:

- Layer plants using various forms or growth habits as upper, mid and ground-storey.
- Include a native canopy tree, plus prickly or dense shrubs for small birds to shelter in.
- Blue-flowering plants for native bees; daisies for adult butterflies; grasses for caterpillars.
- Use a diversity of plant species, with long flowering periods or that flower at different times of the year, followed by seeds or fruits as other food sources.
- Have multiples of the same plant species to increase the resources available.
- Provide sources of water like a bird bath, fish pond, frog bog, or saucers on the ground.
- Install habitat features such as bee hotels, lizard lounges, or nest boxes for extra shelter and sites for wildlife to rear their young.
- Mulch garden beds to attract soil-foraging insects, as the basis of a healthy food web.
- Consider having other sustainability features such as compost bins, worm farms, rainwater tanks, productive food gardens, fruit trees, chickens, and/or solar panels.
- Be a responsible pet owner and keep cats contained indoors or in a cat-run.



Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata

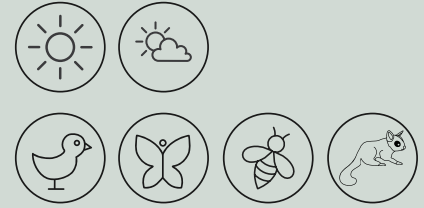
Identification

With an extremely variable growth form, they can grow as a large shrub or a small dense tree. The dark green, stiff leaves are silvery on the underside. Forms distinct cylindrical flower spikes, ten centimetres long by five centimetres wide, that are pale silvery-yellow to bright yellow and honey-scented. Papery seed is shed when mature from the brown, hairy cones. Is a long-lived species.

Status in Hume City

A tree form once found on the basalt plains has disappeared from much of its former distribution across south-western Victoria. This species occurs at more than ten reserves and is commonly used in Council's indigenous revegetation projects.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•



Size

High: 4 metre - 8 metre
Wide: 1 metre - 5 metre

Smaller growth form found on basalt plain escarpments.

Indigenous Cultural Use

Nectar-rich flowers can be used to make a sweet drink. Dried flowers heads also used to strain drinking water.

Planting Advice

- Bushy forms make excellent screening plants. Great tree for small suburban gardens.
- Cut flowers keep well.
- Nectar-rich flowers attract all kinds of pollinators including honeyeaters, parrots, possums, sugar gliders, fruit bats, and various insects. Seed cones are eaten by black cockatoos. Bushy form provides shelter for small birds and other wildlife.
- Propagates easily from cuttings. Only use fresh seed.
- Excess phosphorus will damage or kill this plant. Iron deficiency shows as yellow leaves with green veins. To rectify, feed with iron chelate.
- Drought tolerant, however splotchy yellowing of leaves is a sign of drought stress.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



Gold-dust Wattle

Acacia acinacea

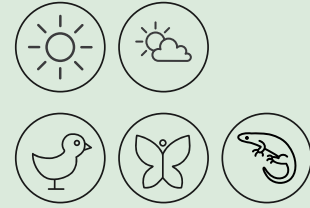
Identification

A dense to open, spreading shrub with slender, arching stems bearing small, round, dark olive-green leaves (phyllodes). Is abundantly covered in bright golden-yellow flowers, shaped as a ball, from late winter to mid spring. Seed pods are two to four centimetres long and are spirally coiled or twisted. Lifespan estimated to be 10 to 15 years.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in the woodlands of Sunbury and Wildwood on dry, shallow soils. Is found growing at over 50 sites in Hume City, and is a species regularly used in revegetation sites and public gardens.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering								
Seed Collection	



Size

High: 1 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 2 metre - 3 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Produces a gum and is used as a cement in tool making. The seeds of many Wattle species are high in protein and carbohydrates, and can be eaten when green and dry. Caution: Note that some Acacia species are also toxic, so should not be consumed unless you are sure the species is safe to use as food or medicine.

Planting Advice

- Is fast-growing and goes well in large pots or under trees. This highly ornamental shrub looks good as a hedge, screen, or in a rock garden. Useful in stabilising soil on steep embankments or slopes due to its spreading and suckering habit.
- Attracts insect-eating and seed-eating birds, and provides nectar and pollen for many native beetles, moths and butterflies. Provides cover for wildlife.
- Is low maintenance but a light annual pruning after flowering will promote and help retain dense growth.
- Extremely drought and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.



River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi

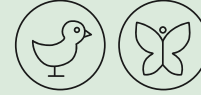
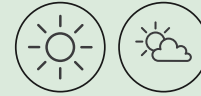
Identification

Grows either as a large, open shrub or a small tree with branches that hang down. The stiff, leathery, narrow, green leaves can have silvery or bronze-coloured new growth. Classic bottlebrush flowers range from a cream to light pink colour, growing to eight centimetres long, and form on the end of branches. Sheds fine seed from clusters of woody fruits that have three to four valves.

Status in Hume City

As the common name suggests, typically grows along waterways, usually close to the water and in areas prone to flooding. Often used in riparian plantings and has been recorded living in 40 reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•								•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•



Size

High: 2 metre - 5 metre
Wide: 2 metre - 3 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Nectar rich flowers can be used to make a sweet drink.

Planting Advice

- Makes excellent screening and hedging plants, or grows in containers. Good in windbreaks, boggy areas or around ponds.
- Is quick growing.
- Prolific, long-lasting, nectar-rich flowers attract birds like honeyeaters, as well as insect-feeding birds. Bushy growth provides shelter for small birds.
- Propagates easily from semi-hard cuttings or from seed.
- Requires regular pruning. Can tolerate severe pruning to retain bushy growth, while tip pruning finished flowers encourages more flowering.
- Readily grows in a variety of soils and positions, particularly heavy clay soils. Tolerates wet, poorly-drained soils. Can also cope with extended dry periods.
- Is frost tolerant.



Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata

Identification

This attractive medium shrub can be round, bushy or open in form, with sticky scrambling branches. Has broad, roundish, shiny leaves with notched margins. Carries a profusion of bright yellow flowers to one centimetre wide with five distinct lobes.

Status in Hume City

Widespread on escarpments and plains, along streamsides, and near wetlands. A small remnant remains at the Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve, while it would have been found all along Jackson's Creek in Sunbury. Common in revegetation sites and occurs in over 20 Nature Conservation Reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•						•	•	•	•	•	•



Size

High: 1 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 1 metre - 2 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

A medicinal tea made from the leaves and twigs is thought to have anti-diabetic properties.

Planting Advice

- Use in rock gardens, frog bogs, and under trees.
- Provides cut flowers and is long-flowering with a flush in spring.
- Food for caterpillars, other insects, and attracts birds who feed on these insects.
- Successful coloniser after disturbance like fire and is fast growing.
- Prune the tips periodically to encourage dense growth as may become straggly. Can be pruned hard and suckers easily.
- Tolerant of both drought and water-logging, but prefers moist, well-drained soils in a sheltered position.
- Is sensitive to frost and may be short-lived in gardens.



Austral Indigo

Indigofera australis

Identification

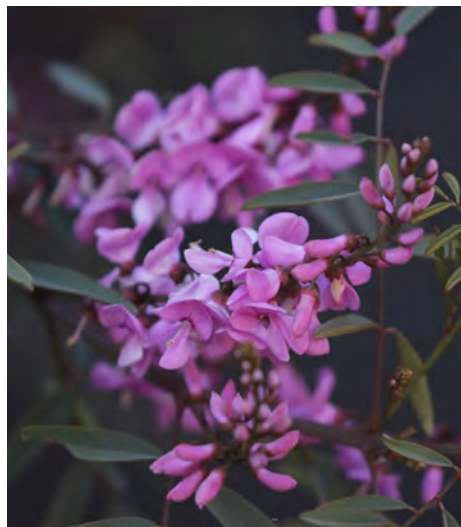
This member of the pea family is a medium-sized shrub, with an open, sparse, spreading to erect form. The long slender branches have soft, bluish-green leaflets. Sprays of pink to mauve pea-flowers form on the tips of the branches and are lightly perfumed. Brown seed pods are slender and cylindrical, up to 4 centimetres long, that contain several black, hard-coated seeds.

Status in Hume City

Widespread across Melbourne and throughout Victoria. Found in moist areas of open forest, like valleys near streams. Also grows in escarpment shrublands and woodlands. Occurs in several Nature Conservation Reserves, and is used in Hume's revegetation projects.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Flowering							•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•						•	•	•



Size

High: 1 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 1 metre - 2 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

A medicinal tea made from the leaves and twigs is thought to have anti-diabetic properties.

Planting Advice

- Use in rock gardens, frog bogs, and under trees.
- Provides cut flowers and is long-flowering with a flush in spring.
- Food for caterpillars, other insects, and attracts birds who feed on these insects, and seed-eaters.
- Successful coloniser after disturbance like fire and is fast growing.
- Prune the tips periodically to encourage denser growth as may become straggly. Can be pruned hard, regenerates at base after coppicing, and suckers easily.
- Tolerant of both drought and water-logging, but prefers moist, well-drained soils in a sheltered position.
- Is sensitive to frost and may be short-lived in gardens.



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

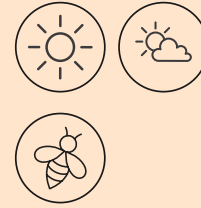
Identification

An erect perennial wildflower that regrows from underground tubers with narrow, grass-like leaves forming a rosette. Purple-pink flowers mature up the long flowering stalks in spring, and the flowers smell like chocolate. Green seed capsules then ripen up the stalks, with the black, hard-coated seeds ready to be collected over summer when the seed capsules turn brown and start to split open.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in native grasslands and grassy woodlands in open areas and usually grows in small colonies. Widespread and growing in over 30 Nature Conservations Reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering									•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•							•	•	•	



Size

High: 20 centimetre - 1 metre
Wide: 20 - 50 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The carrot-shaped tuber can be eaten raw or roasted. However, it is tastier when roasted and is best harvested after the foliage has died back in summer.

Planting Advice

- Pretty, small plant for small places, planted outside the drip-line of trees, or in pots.
- Visually striking when mass planted but can be crowded out by larger plants, so use in a more open position or garden-bed edges.
- Best propagated by seed.
- Susceptible to damage by snails and slugs.
- Prefers well-drained soils. Extend the flowering period by maintaining moist soils over summer.
- Drought tolerant but leaves may die back to tuber. Will reshoot with autumn rains.
- Frost tolerant.



Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

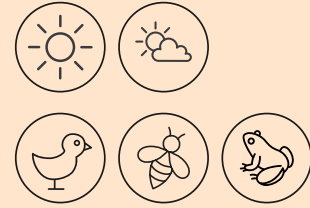
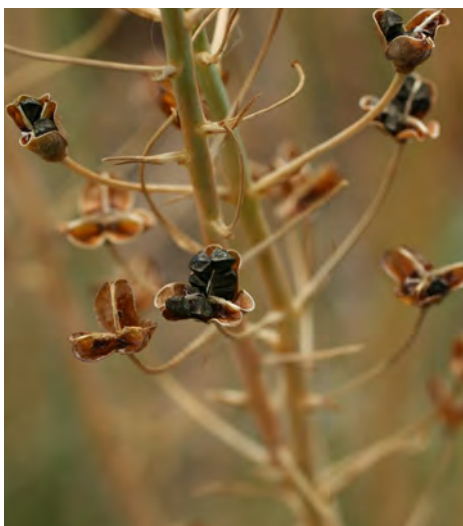
Identification

A robust, perennial, lily-like herb with a dense tufted tussock of bright green, onion-like, fleshy leaves up to 30 centimetres long and bulb-like tubers. Bright yellow star-like flowers with six petals, to 3.5 centimetres across, are clustered on flowering spikes to 70 centimetres tall. Flowers mature up the stem, then the round green seed pods turn brown and split open to reveal ripe black seeds.

Status in Hume City

Lives in a wide range of vegetation types across Victoria, including grasslands and woodlands. In Hume City, it occurs in ten Nature Conservation Reserves in Sunbury, Wildwood, and Konagaderra.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•						•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•



Size

High: 20 - 50 centimetre
Wide: 20 - 30 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Tubers can be steamed and eaten.

Planting Advice

- A striking plant for your garden, as grows in containers, areas with shallow soil over rock, or in seasonally wetter areas. Plant en masse for good impact.
- Can die back to rootstock during very dry weather.
- Has a long flowering period that peaks over spring and summer, even though a single flower only lasts one day. Watering over summer will extend the flowering period into autumn.
- Propagate easily by seed or cuttings. Will regenerate readily and spread naturally in garden situations to create informal drifts.
- Attracts seed-eating birds and native bees. Plant near frog bogs.
- Snails and slugs also like grazing on the new growth.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Also try growing Rock Lily (*Bulbine glauca*) or Leek Lily (*B. semibarbata*) with similar looking forms.



Native Flax

Linum marginale

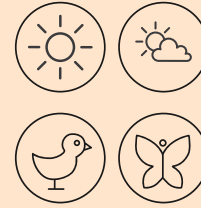
Identification

A short-lived, slender, upright perennial herb with thick tuberous roots. Narrow, linear leaves to two centimetres long are attached directly to unbranched stems. Dainty blue flowers, with five petals that have darker blue veins and white anthers, are clustered together on the end of stems. Greenish-brown sesame-like seeds can be collected from the round papery capsules once they begin to open, and the capsules will mature up the flowering stems.

Status in Hume City

Found in a range of vegetation types including grasslands, grassy woodlands and riparian areas along waterways. Has been recorded in over ten Nature Conservation Reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•						•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•



Size

High: 30 - 80 centimetre
Wide: 30 - 50 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The abundant seed can be eaten raw or made into a dough to be cooked. The fibres from the flax stems make cord and fishing nets.

Planting Advice

- This hardy plant grows well in rock gardens and in pots, or looks great mass planted. It has a long flowering period over spring and summer.
- Is propagated easily and will spread readily by seed.
- Prune old growth back hard in autumn to encourage new growth from the base rootstock over winter.
- Suitable for wet sites like frog bogs. Attracts seed-eating birds and a variety of native pollinating insects.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



Murnong, Yam Daisy

Microseris scapigera (Syn. *M. lanceolata*)

Identification

A perennial wildflower with a rosette of long, narrow, leaves that can have toothed margins. Bright yellow flowers develop into striking seed heads, where each seed forms a parachute of bristles to disperse in the wind. The nodding flower-bud distinguishes it from the weedy Dandelion, whose flowers look very similar. Becomes a dormant tuber in summer and reshoots in autumn after rain.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in plains grasslands and woodlands in wet depressions. Was once very common, but now very rare due to overgrazing. Recorded in several Nature Conservations Reserves across Hume City.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•						•	•	•



Size

High: 20 - 50 centimetre
Wide: 20 - 30 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The fleshy, branched or turnip-like tuber of this plant is an important staple food for First Nations Peoples across Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales. The tuber can be eaten raw or roasted, with a very sweet juice produced when roasted.

Planting Advice

- Great plant for rockeries or wet area in the garden. Suitable for planting in containers
- As new tubers are produced in winter, a small amount of liquid native plant fertiliser may encourage growth.
- Repeat flushes of flowering, mostly in spring.
- Propagate from seed.
- Collect seed to ensure can propagate new seedlings, as may struggle to persist in some situations.
- Attracts butterflies, bees, and birds that eat insects. Good to plant around frog bogs and ponds.
- Prefers moist to well-drained soils.



Austral Stork's-bill

Pelargonium australe

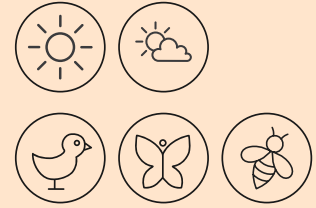
Identification

A dense, spreading, perennial herb with large, rounded, velvety, hairy leaves and wavy leaf margins. Develops clusters of white to pink flowers, with distinctive purplish veins in the centre. A hairy corkscrew awn helps disperse the seed in the wind.

Status in Hume City

Found in rocky outcrops in grasslands and riparian areas along waterways and in moist depressions. From recent botanical surveys, it is recorded in over ten Nature Conservation Reserves and is often included in revegetation projects across Hume City.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•



Size

High: 30 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 30 - 60 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Fleshy red taproot is an Aboriginal food.

Planting Advice

- Grows very well in rock gardens, as a groundcover and in pots. Very hardy.
- Attractive aromatic leaves, is fast-growing, long-flowering and spreads readily by seed. Can also propagate with cuttings.
- Attracts butterflies, bees and insect-eating birds.
- May die back to rootstock in dry weather but will reshoot after autumn rains.
- Prune back all dead flower stalks and leaves in autumn and apply a small amount of native plant fertiliser to encourage new growth.
- Drought tolerant once established. Frost tolerant.
- Adapted to grow in range of soils, from heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Tolerant of dry-shady conditions.



Basalt Podolepis
Podolepis linearifolia

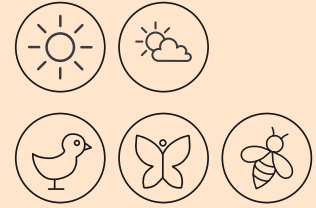
Identification

A perennial wildflower with unbranched stems and slender dark green leaves, that rise from a basal rosette. Nodding flower buds form on bent coppery stems, which straighten as they mature. Has large, bright yellow composite flowerheads surrounded by two outer rows of yellow bracts. The outer seeds of the fluffy white seedhead mature before the centre seeds and are wind dispersed.

Status in Hume City

Once occurred in wetter areas of grasslands and grassy woodlands, but is now Endangered in Victoria. Considered to be regionally extinct in Hume City, as no remnant wild populations exist.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering		•	•						•	•	•	•
Seed Collection		•	•	•	•						•	•



Size

High: 30 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 20 - 30 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The tuber of this plant can be eaten when cooked, with a similar appearance to parsnip.

Planting Advice

- A spectacular ornamental wildflower that can be grown in rockeries and containers. Looks best as an edging border or when planted **en masse**.
- Attracts native bees, butterflies and other insects, as well as insect-eating birds.
- Will reshoot from its base and flower again if watered in late summer. Prune back the stems of the finished flower heads in autumn.
- Easy to propagate from seed. May be short-lived in cultivation, so it is a good idea to collect some seed each summer and store in a paper bag or envelope.
- Prefers moist, well-drained basalt (clay) soils.



Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

Identification

A perennial grass forming erect or sprawling tussocks with broad, bright green leaves, that have a reddish to purplish tinge at the base. Attractive flowerheads on wiry stems tower up to one metre above the tussock, turning an rusty-orange-red colour as the flowers mature in summer.

Status in Hume City

The iconic grass species of the Victorian Volcanic Plains bioregion, and once dominated native grasslands and grassy woodlands. Occurs in over 70 Nature Conservation Reserves, but its distribution across the wider landscape has been greatly reduced.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•						•	•	•



Size

High: 30 centimetre - 1 metre
Wide: 20 - 60 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

A food plant with the seed used to make a nutritious dough. Stems and leaves used to make a twine, that is then used to make nets.

Planting Advice

- Fast-growing tussock to mass plant in rockeries, or use in pots. Flowerheads used for floral art.
- Rejuvenate old tussocks every couple of years with a hard prune, or burn leaves off in spring or autumn, as is summer growing.
- Attracts insect-eating and seed-eating birds, while the leaves provide nesting material. Good for frogs and lizards as gives shelter and cover from predators. Important caterpillar host food plant.
- Seed has an after-ripening dormancy period, sow in spring or early summer when soil temperatures are at least 20 degrees.
- Prefers moist well-drained soils. Tolerates temporary inundation. Extra moisture in warm seasons will promote and extend flowering.
- Drought tolerant once established. Frost tolerant.



Berry or Creeping Saltbush

Atriplex semibaccata

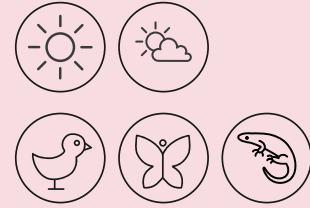
Identification

A perennial and prostrate groundcover with grey-green diamond-shaped foliage on long brittle stems. Has insignificant small male and female flowers that turn into fleshy orange to red berries. Forms dense mats and is typically found growing under trees, as the fruits are eaten and seeds dispersed by birds in their droppings.

Status in Hume City

Grows widely in woodlands and grasslands across Hume City, detected in flora surveys at over 65 sites. It is particularly common in Sunbury and readily colonises disturbed ground.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•						•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•							•



Size

High: 10 - 30 centimetre
Wide: 1 metre - 2 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Berries can be eaten. The leaves can also be eaten after boiling to remove excess salt.

Planting Advice

- Fast-growing and very hardy groundcover, that will cascade over rocks and walls. Grow as a ground layer plant under trees, or as a living green mulch to help suppress weeds.
- Useful to control soil erosion. Include in species-rich and layered windbreaks.
- Requires very little maintenance or watering. Occasionally prune off any dead branches.
- Attracts butterflies. Berries provide food for birds and lizards. Is spread readily around the garden.
- Drought tolerant and salt tolerant. Good for dry shady conditions.



Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

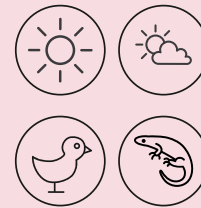
Identification

A sprawling groundcover to small shrub with downy branches and small, blue-green, succulent foliage. Has insignificant greenish flowers that develop into green, fleshy berries all year round, and their ripening to a yellow, orange or red colour peaks over summer.

Status in Hume City

Widespread in the grasslands and woodlands of Hume City, and is recorded in over 60 Nature Conservation Reserves. A typical example of a “bird halo” species that establishes beneath trees as birds pass ingested seeds while sitting on the branches.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering									•	•	•	
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•



Size

High: 10 - 50 centimetre
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Berries are edible, sweet and slightly salty. Leaves can be cooked as a vegetable substitute.

Planting Advice

- Great groundcover plant for growing under trees, in rock gardens, and in tubs.
- Fast growing and works well as a living green mulch to suppress weeds.
- A very hardy plant requiring little maintenance. Apply small amounts of native plant fertiliser or compost to encourage growth. Responds well to pruning.
- Habitat plant for fruit-eating lizards and birds, and fruits also collected by ants.
- Drought tolerant. Very adaptable as grows in range of soils, and tolerates poor soils and some salinity.



Running Postman, Scarlet Runner

Kennedia prostrata

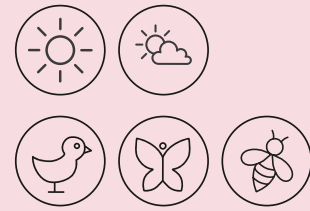
Identification

A trailing groundcover with long, slender, wiry stems, forming an open or dense mat. The trifoliate leaves are grey-green, hairy, and roundish in shape with wavy margins. Bright red to scarlet pea-shaped flowers, with a yellowish central spot, form along the stems. Dark brown, leathery seed pods up to seven centimetres long, will split open to explosively shed hard-coated, black seeds.

Status in Hume City

Typically found in native grasslands and grassy woodlands. This species has been located in several Nature Conservation Reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•							•	•	•	•



Size

High: 5 - 10 centimetre
Wide: 1 - 2.5 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Thick taproots are a starchy food source and nectar is sucked from flowers as a sweet treat. Stems used as twine.

Planting Advice

- A plant well-adapted to grow in gardens, rockeries, and pots. Looks very attractive in hanging baskets, or drapping down sunny retaining walls.
- Has a long flowering period. Attractive fiery-red flowers provide important winter nectar resouces.
- Caterpillar host plant. Attracts adult butterflies, nectar feeding birds, and range of pollinators.
- Recoloniser of disturbed soils and germinates readily after fire.
- Propagate by cuttings, or need to scarify or boil the seed before sowing.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



River Mint

Mentha australia

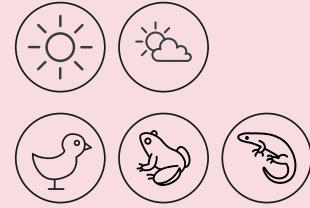
Identification

This small, slender, vigorous herb can be sprawling or erect, spreading out as a groundcover as new suckers form. It has aromatic minty leaves with tiny teeth along the leaf margins. Stems usually have a purplish tinge. Bears dense clusters of 3 - 12 small, tubular, white flowers around the stem near the leaf stalks. Can flower all year round, but mainly in spring and summer.

Status in Hume City

As the common name suggests, it is typically found along the margins of watercourses, wetlands and swamps. It is recorded growing in only a few Nature Conservations Reserves in Hume City.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•



Size

High: 20 - 80 centimetre
Wide: 30 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Leaves used as a herb to flavour foods, and medicinally, as a cough remedy. Crushed leaves can also be used as an insect repellent.

Planting Advice

- Hardy and will spread readily around bogs and pond edges. As it can be rampant in moist situations, consider growing containers.
- Good in rockeries and cottage gardens. Plant near paths in sensory gardens as releases a delightful scent when brushed past.
- Responds well to regular pruning.
- Very easy to propagate new plants using cuttings.
- Attracts insect-eating birds. Shelters frogs and lizards.
- Prefers moist to wet soils. Tolerates temporary inundation.
- Frost tolerant.



Small-leaved Clematis, Old Man's Beard

Clematis microphylla

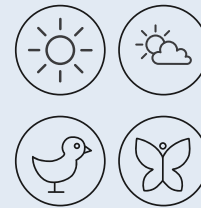
Identification

A bushy climber growing up other plants, or rambling across the ground, with slender, tangled stems. Leaves have an opposite arrangement on the stem and leaflets are divided in groups of three. Plants are either male or female, and the masses of star-shaped male flowers or tubular-shaped female flowers are both cream in colour. Female plants produce feathery, white seed-heads, and the mature plump, brown seeds will come loosely away.

Status in Hume City

Found in open forests, woodlands, grasslands and streamside vegetation. Is present in much remnant native vegetation around Hume City, being recorded at 50 Nature Conservation Reserves.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering						•	•	•	•	•		
Seed Collection									•	•	•	•



Size

High: 0.5 metre - 5 metre
Wide: Is variable in growth.

Indigenous Cultural Use

A widely used plant for food, medicine, fibre, and tools. Young roots eaten raw. The thick taproot can be roasted or knead into a dough to be cooked. Leaf poultices used to treat skin irritations but can blister the skin if left on too long. Leaves crushed and inhaled to relieve headaches. Root fibres woven into string, while the base of the stem used as axe hafts.

Planting Advice

- A great plant for screens or low fences, as it flowers on mass for a long period, followed by attractive fluffy seedheads.
- The tangled growth provides nesting sites for birds and fluffy seeds nesting material. The perfumed winter flowers attract a variety of insects, which become food for small insect-eating birds.
- Propagate easily by seed or stem cuttings.
- Tolerates very dry conditions and frosts.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



Purple Coral Pea, False Sarsparilla

Hardenbergia violacea

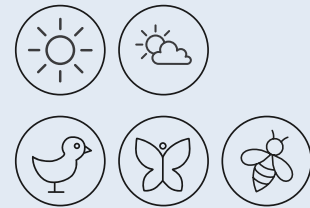
Identification

A vigorous creeper or wiry scrambler with long twining stems and broad, leathery, dark green, and heavily-veined leaves. Long sprays of 10 to 30 purple pea-shaped flowers, with bright green and white centres, provide an attractive mass flowering over winter. Hard-coated seeds are produced in flat, leathery, dark brown to blackish pods.

Status in Hume City

Found in grasslands, woodlands, and forests. Now occurs naturally only in two Nature Conservation Reserves in Craigieburn and Sunbury. Is widely used in revegetation and landscaping projects.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering						•	•	•	•	•	•	
Seed Collection	•							•	•	•	•	•



Size

High: Variable, up to 3 metre
Wide: Variable

Indigenous Cultural Use

The flowers used as a source of dye, while a pleasant sweet tea can be made from infusing the leaves in boiling water.

Planting Advice

- Note that non-indigenous cultivars like “Happy Wanderer” or other coloured flowering forms can hybridise with local wild remnant plants.
- Adaptable, attractive plant can be used as a groundcover, screen, or to cover an embankment.
- Prune back after flowering. Becomes woody with age and lives up to ten years.
- Propagate by cuttings or scarified seeds.
- Attracts butterflies, native bees, and insect-eating birds. Birds may nest in it when a dense climber.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



Small-leaf Bramble, Native Raspberry

Rubus parvifolius

Identification

A small rambling shrub with thorny arching or trailing stems to one metre long, and has hairy young canes. Bright-green and wrinkly leaves, with a silvery velvety underside, come in groups of three to five leaflets. Peaking over summer, sprays of deep pink flowers form on the ends of branches, each flower to 1.5 centimetres wide, then produce clusters of red raspberry-like fruits mostly in autumn.

Status in Hume City

Found in a wide variety of plant communities, including forests, woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, and along waterways. Occurs in over ten Nature Conservation Reserves in Hume City.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Flowering	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Seed Collection	•	•	•	•								•



Size

High: 0.5 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 0.5 metre - 2 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Berries are edible, but with little flavour. Leaves made into an astringent tea to treat diarrhoea.

Planting Advice

- Train to grow on a trellis as a climber, or plant as a creeping Rambler. Grows well under established trees.
- Is hardy, and will readily sucker. Pruning results in more flowering, fruiting, and a denser form.
- Is drought tolerant, but watering over summer will improve growth and fruiting.
- Grow from fresh seed, after removing the flesh from the fruit. Can also propagate from semi-hardwood and root cuttings.
- Birds eat the fruit and help disperse the seeds.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Can grow in heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Grows best in full sun, but also good for shady situations.
- Frost tolerant.
- Photos sourced from Google

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