



# Seedlings for Schools

*Gardens connecting people and wildlife together*

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## Lizard Lounge Box

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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.

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### **Contact us**

Attn: Gardens for Wildlife  
Hume City Council  
PO Box 119, Dallas, VIC. 3047

1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows, VIC. 3047

Customer Service 9205 2200  
[gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au)  
[hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)

Hume City Council is an  
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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.

## Lizard Lounge Box

Various plants will support lizards in your garden. Shrubs, native grasses, clumping plants, wildflowers and groundcovers provide shelter from the weather, and cover from predators. Flowering plants and having mulched garden beds attract insects as food for lizards. Some skinks eat fruits that fall from shrubs or off groundcovers, and then disperse the seed as they move around.

A lizard lounge can be a simple pile of rocks, to a drystone wall, or a wire-mesh gabion filled with stones. Piles of roof tiles, bricks, broken terracotta pots or pipes also have crevices to hide in and a thermal mass to help warm the lizards up. A heap of branches or stack of logs make safe homes for lizards too.

Lizards need sunny spots to bask. They will drink from a saucer of water on the ground. Have tussocks or rough trunks for lizards to rub against when shedding their skin. Use wildlife-safe snail bait to avoid poisoning lizards.

Snakes are attracted to areas with prey like frogs, rodents, or other reptiles. Give them room to escape, or contact a licensed snake catcher as it is illegal to harm or kill snakes.

## 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*

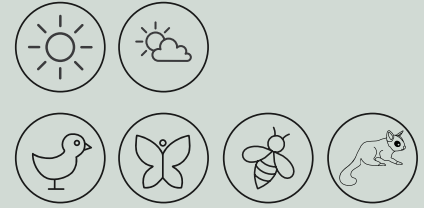
### Identification

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*

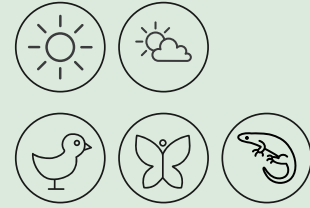
### Identification

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.





## Rosemary Grevillea

*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

### Identification

A dense, rounded, perennial shrub with a variable growth habit, as there are several local forms and has also been widely cultivated, where cultivars may vary slightly to indigenous specimens. Has stiff, prickly, narrow leaves and bears clusters of curved, pink and cream, tubular flowers throughout the bush.

### Status in Hume City

Naturally found on stony knolls and in escarpment shrublands. Is rare, though occurs in the grasslands of Kalkallo and near Moonee Ponds Creek. Planted in several Nature Conservation Reserves.

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



### Size

High: 0.3 metre - 2 metre  
Wide: 0.3 metre - 1.5 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

### Planting Advice

- Great hedging species that provides screening.
- Dense and prickly foliage is excellent habitat for small birds. Flowers attract nectar-feeding birds.
- Attracts butterflies and is a food plant for caterpillars. Provides cover and shelter for other wildlife.
- Long flowering period for most of the year, peaking in winter and spring. Prune back after flowering to promote dense growth.
- Caution: Note that the prickly foliage can irritate some people's skin.
- Propagate from cuttings (hard tips), as purity of species is mixed from seed. Seed scarification required to propagate from seed.
- Drought tolerant and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.





## Fragrant Saltbush, Mealy Saltbush

*Rhagodia parabolica*

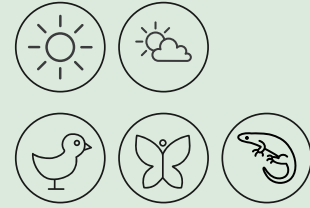
### Identification

A dense, low-growing and spreading shrub with silvery grey-green leaves. The tiny, white flowers that appear in spring are fairly nondescript, but are very fragrant as referred to in its common name. These are followed with bright red clusters of berries to three millimeters wide in late spring and summer.

### Status in Hume City

Is now rare across Melbourne, limited to a few isolated rocky gorges in the north west. Mostly found around Sunbury on rocky slopes and ridges. Extensively used in revegetation projects across Hume City 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

Leaves are edible after boiling to remove the excess salt and taste like spinach, but they may need to be cooked for a while to become tender. The berries are also edible.

### Planting Advice

- Use as a screen or in a windbreak. Makes a great formal or informal hedge, with attractive ornamental silvery foliage. Prune to promote bushy growth. Is a very hardy species.
- Easy to propagate by seed using fresh fruit and by cuttings.
- Great habitat plant, providing shelter and the berries are eaten by lizards, small birds and small mammals. Butterfly attracting and caterpillar host plant.
- Drought and fire tolerant. Moderately frost tolerant.
- Prefers dry, well-drained soils.





## Lemon Beauty-heads

*Calocephalus citreus*

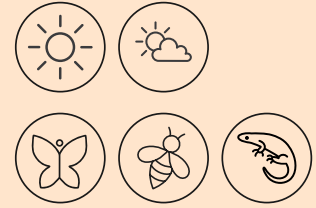
### Identification

An attractive, small, perennial wildflower with silvery-grey branches and narrow, pointed leaves. In contrast to the silver foliage and at the ends of each erect stem, is a mass of bright lemon-yellow, oblong flowers to two centimetres long. At maturity, tiny seeds with feathery plumes are spread by wind and rain.

### Status in Hume City

A distinctive plant found in plains grasslands and grassy woodlands. It survives in roadside vegetation and in paddocks as it tolerates some grazing by livestock. One of the more common wildflowers in Hume City and is recorded in over 25 Nature Conservation Reserves.

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



### Size

High: 10 - 50 centimetre  
Wide: 30 centimetre - 1 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses

### Planting Advice

- Suitable for mass planting, rockeries, in pots or hanging baskets. Makes a great garden edge due to its long-flowering period.
- Provides dried cut flowers.
- Fast-growing, hardy, and easy to maintain. Prune back in late autumn to remove spent flowering stems and keep a compact shape, before new stems form in winter.
- Attracts butterflies and other insects, which in turn become food for frogs, lizards or birds.
- Easy to propagate from seed, cuttings or division.
- Prefers well-drained soils, or low-laying clay and loamy soils.
- Drought tolerant once established. Tolerates temporary inundation and frosts.





## Common Everlasting Daisy

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

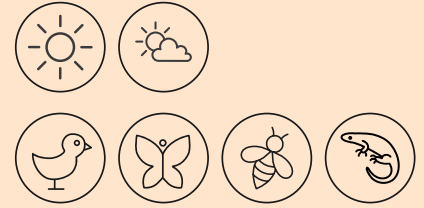
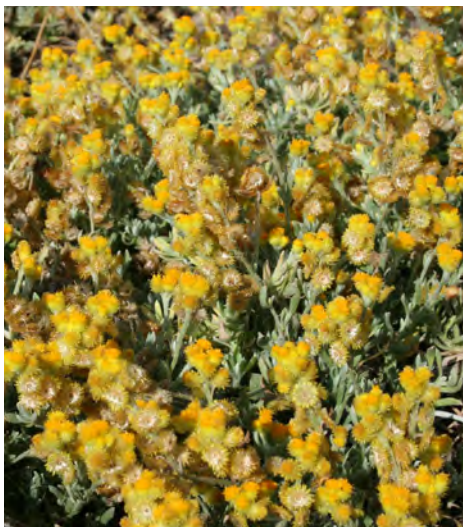
### Identification

A perennial wildflower that is quite variable in form. Can be a dense spreading (prostrate) groundcover to an erect small shrub, with different sized leaves and flowers. It generally has grey-green, hairy leaves and bears bright-yellow clusters of daisy flowers on the ends of short stems. Ripe seed appears like fluff on the old flowerheads and when collecting, it will come away with a light brush of a finger.

### Status in Hume City

Still common and widespread as occurs in various vegetation types, including grasslands, woodlands, and forests. Is located in over 20 Nature Conservation Reserves and can be found in Broadmeadows Valley Park, Sunbury, and Wildwood.

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



### Size

High: 10 - 30 centimetre  
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

### Planting Advice

- Great anywhere in the garden including pots, borders, rockeries and under trees. A popular indigenous plant with landscapers.
- Provides cut flowers for floral arrangements.
- Has a long-flowering period, and removing old flower heads will encourage more flowering and denser growth.
- Attracts butterflies, insects, and insect-eating birds, lizards and frogs. Provides shelter and cover for wildlife.
- Can be propagated by seed or cuttings.
- Drought and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.





## Golden Billy-buttons

*Pycnosorus chrysanthus*

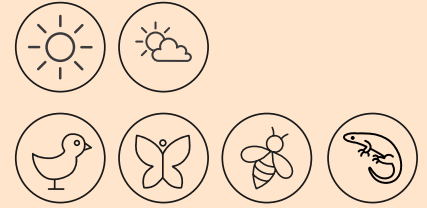
### Identification

An erect to low spreading daisy shrub with numerous white-green woolly stems sprouting from the base and narrow, grey-green leaves. Born on the end of each stem are single, round, golden, compound flowerheads, actually composed of 50-100 tiny flowers. Seed is mature when it comes loosely away and the tiny seeds have feathery bristles to aid in wind dispersal.

### Status in Hume City

Occurs in plains grasslands and plains grassy wetlands. Recorded in Sunbury and Campbellfield, but is now restricted to a few reserves. Only a small number of populations are left around Melbourne, but it does grow very well in suburban gardens.

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



### Size

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

### Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

### Planting Advice

- A fabulous plant for any garden or container.
- Looks great planted on mass as a sprawling groundcover with flushes of blooms extended over winter to summer.
- Excellent long-lasting cut flowers that also keep their colour when dried.
- Acts as annual or perennial depending on conditions, and responds well to pruning the old stems.
- Propagate easily by seed, cuttings or division.
- All-round fabulous wildlife habitat plant as attracts butterflies and bees, is good around frog bogs or lizard lounges to attract insects, and brings in insect-eating birds too.
- Tolerates water logging for long periods of time. Prefers heavy moist soils.





## Chamomile Sunray

*Rhodanthe anthemoides*

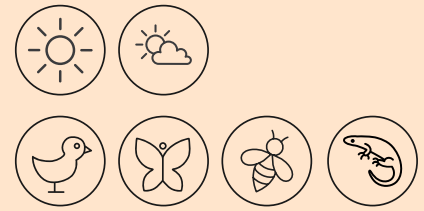
### Identification

A perennial herb with a compact bushy form, woody rootstock, and it has numerous slender stems. The leaves are narrow, blunt, and a grey-blue-green colour. Papery, white daisy flowers with yellow centres, to three centimetres wide, form at the end of each stem, while the buds are pink to white. Fluffy, greyish, hairy seed-heads form, that easily come away with a brush of a thumb when mature.

### Status in Hume City

There are no remnant populations left in Hume City, but it was not historically widespread on the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. Naturally grows in sheltered escarpment shrublands.

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



### Size

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

### Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

### Planting Advice

- Attractive container or rockery plant. Mass plant as low garden edges. Gorgeous winter and spring flowering (long) display.
- Suitable for cut or dried flowers.
- Butterfly attracting flowers.
- Propagates easily from cuttings or use fresh seed.
- Summer watering will extend flowering. Prune back after first flush of flowers die to promote second flowering period. Pruning will also help keep a compact growth habit.
- Is frost tolerant.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Prefers full sun position, and a sheltered aspect.





## Tufted Bluebell

*Wahlenbergia capillaris* (Syn. *W. communis*)

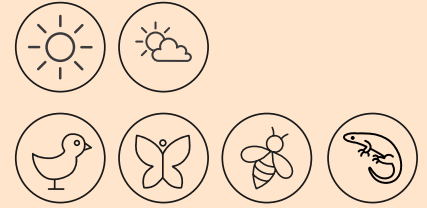
### Identification

A vigorous, perennial wildflower with a mass of thin stems covered in narrow, green leaves. Bright purple-blue bell-shaped flowers occur on the ends of stems. Fine powder-like seed can be collected once the seed capsule and the top part of the stalk turns brown.

### Status in Hume City

Occurs in a wide range of vegetation types, including grasslands, woodlands, escarpments, and riparian areas (along waterways). Recorded in over 15 Nature Conservations Reserves, while several other species of *Wahlenbergia* can be found in Cragieburn, Mickleham, Bulla, and Sunbury.

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



### Size

High: 15 - 50 centimetre  
Wide: 15 - 60 centimetre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

The flowers are edible, closing quickly after picking.

### Planting Advice

- Great anywhere in the garden including pots, borders, rock gardens, and under trees.
- Long-flowering and spreads readily by seed and suckers, with the potential to take over garden beds.
- Looks spectacular when co-planted with yellow and white daisies.
- Removing old flower heads will encourage more flowering. Prune back old growth hard in winter to encourage fresh shoots.
- Attracts butterflies, insects and insect-eating birds.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Drought tolerant.





## Spreading or Black-anther Flax-lily

*Dianella revoluta* (Syn. *D. admixta*)

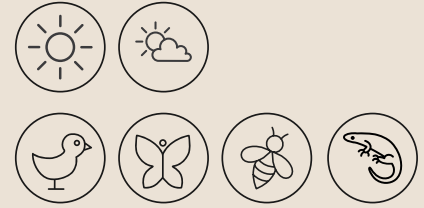
### Identification

This perennial tufting plant spreads by rhizomes to form dense clumps of upright blue-green, strap-like leaves to 70 centimetres long. Each leaf has a central mid-rib to its pointed tip. Clusters of bright blue to violet flowers with six petals, 15 millimetres across, have yellow stamens and black anthers. The sprays of flower are carried on branching, wiry stems to one metre tall. Shiny, rounded, fleshy, dark-blue berries contain numerous small black seeds.

### Status in Hume City

Common in Hume City and found in over 50 reserves, mostly in grassy woodlands and plains grasslands. Several other *Dianella* species are also present, including the threatened *D. amoena*.

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



### Size

High: 40 centimetre - 1 metre  
Wide: 20 centimetre - 1 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

Leaves split and twisted together to make a strong string and used in basket-making. The blue berries produce dyes. Conflicting references exist about whether the fruit is edible, with some authors cautioning that the fruit is poisonous. The roots can be cooked and eaten.

### Planting Advice

- Very hardy, long-lived, attractive plant growing well in rockeries, containers, and under trees.
- Long flowering and fruiting period.
- Indigenous species to plant instead of *Agapanthus*.
- Propagates most easily by lifting and dividing the clumps of rhizomes.
- Attracts pollinating insects, while some birds eat the fruit and seeds. Blue Banded Bees love *Dianella!*
- Tolerates heavy clay soils.
- Drought tolerant once established. Frost and limestone tolerant.





## Spiny-headed Mat-rush, Basket Grass

*Lomandra longifolia*

### Identification

This spreading, perennial, tufting plant forms dense clumps of bright-green, strap-like leaves to one metre long. Each leaf is flattened with two to three teeth at the apex of the tip. There are male and female flowering plants with honey-scented cream-coloured spikes. Shiny brown capsules are held for most of year.

### Status in Hume City

Naturally found growing along waterways and escarpments. Still widespread and populations occur in over 40 Nature Conservation Reserves. Is one of the most commonly-used landscape plants in parks and gardens.

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



### Size

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

### Indigenous Cultural Use

Leaves beaten and soaked to separate fibres, or softened by drawing through hot ashes, to make a strong string for net-bags. Leaves also twisted and woven together into mats, baskets, eel-traps and many other useful items. Nectar-rich flowers and white leaf bases are edible. Some Aboriginal groups grind the seeds into flour.

### Planting Advice

- Incredibly versatile and hardy plant, that is suitable in rockeries, containers, and under trees. Perfumed flowers and floral art.
- Spreads with robust rhizomes. Propagate from fresh seed.
- Excellent habitat plant for caterpillars, seed-eating birds and insect-eating birds. Also provides cover and shelter for lizards and frogs.
- Tolerates heavy clay to sandy soils. Frost and smog tolerant.
- Drought tolerant and can tolerate temporary inundation.





## Common Tussock Grass

*Poa labillardierei*

### Identification

A large tussock grass that forms a clump with long, coarse, green to blue-green leaves, that dry to a straw colour. In spring and summer, carries open plume-like flowers, with a green or purplish tinge on the spreading branches. Mature seed is easy to collect as comes loose by lightly running pinched fingers up stems towards the tips.

### Status in Hume City

Widespread in grasslands, grassy woodlands, grassy wetlands and riparian zones. One of Hume's most common indigenous species being recorded in over 75 Nature Conservations Reserves and is frequently used in landscaping.

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



### Size

High: 50 centimetre - 1.2 metre  
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1.5 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

Seed collected as food plant to make flour and dough. Leaves make a strong twine, then turned into nets and traps..

### Planting Advice

- Fast growing and visually appealing tussock. Mass plant with other tufting and strappy leaf plants, like **Dianella** and **Lomandra** to fill in spaces in rockeries, around ponds, or in pots.
- Propagate from seed.
- Rejuvenate old tussocks every couple of years in autumn, with a hard prune or burn the leaves off, then water deeply and regularly.
- 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 plant.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Tolerates temporary inundation.
- Frost tolerant.





## 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*

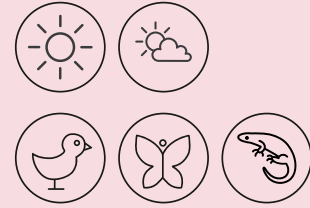
### Identification

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.





## Inland Pigface, Noonflower

*Carpobrotus modestus*

### Identification

This prostrate, succulent groundcover has three-sided, slightly-flattened and fleshy leaves, that end in a point and are a bluish green colour. Spreads out on running branches with a profusion of purple-petalled flowers to two centimetres wide, with cream yellow centres, only opening on sunny days over spring and summer. The flowers of *C. rossi* or Karkalla are larger, at five centimetres wide.

### Status in Hume City

Both *C. modestus* and *C. rossi* are located in a few Nature Conservation Reserves. Various cultivated forms can now be found growing in gardens and landscapes.

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



### Size

High: 10 - 30 centimetre  
Wide: 1 metre - 3 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

The red fruit is ripe, and can be eaten raw, with a sweet taste. The fleshy, salty leaves also eaten, raw or cooked, as has high moisture content. Sap is used as an eyewash, and to treat insect bites and stings.

### Planting Advice

- Use in rock gardens, under trees, and on steep slopes. Useful as a soil binder, fire retardant, and living green mulch to help suppress weeds.
- Long flowering period and attracts a range of pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds. Other birds and lizards feed on the fruit.
- Propagate using fresh fruit, cuttings, or layering stems.
- Is salt, drought, and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.





## Nodding or Climbing Saltbush

*Einadia nutans*

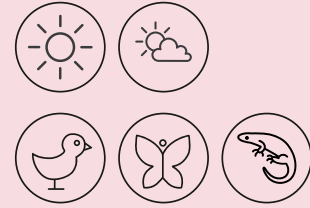
### Identification

A sprawling, perennial and prostrate groundcover with fine, long and wiry branches that can form a sprawling, dense mat. Has triangular grey-green leaves and insignificant green flowers. Small, bright orange to red fleshy berries form in summer and autumn.

### Status in Hume City

Widespread and very common across Hume City in grasslands and woodlands. It is located in over 80 Nature Conservation Reserves and its range is increasing as often used in landscaping. Mostly found growing under trees as a bird halo effect, where birds have eaten the fruit and then passed the seeds while perched above.

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



### Size

High: 10 - 30 centimetre  
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1.2 metre

### Indigenous Cultural Use

Fruit is sweet and edible. Leaves are also edible, after boiling to remove the excess salt.

### Planting Advice

- A good ground cover for dry banks and rockeries. Drought resistant once established and a valuable fire retardant.
- Grow as a ground layer plant under trees, or as a living green mulch to help suppress weeds.
- Easy to propagate from fresh fruits or from cuttings.
- Great for attracting butterflies to the garden. Birds, lizards, and many insects eat the fruit.
- Prefers well-drained soils.
- Drought tolerant.





## Ruby Saltbush

*Enchylaena tomentosa*

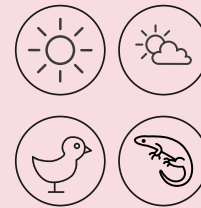
### Identification

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.





## Creeping Boobialla

*Myoporum parvifolium*

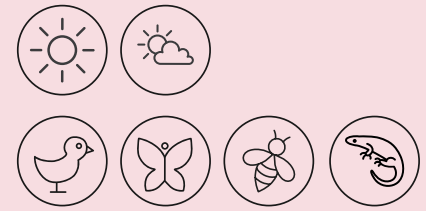
### Identification

This low-growing, prostrate groundcover forms a dense mat with thick, narrow, green leaves all along the stems. White to pink star-like flowers, with purple spots dotting its throat, will cover the plant over spring and summer, followed by green to purplish fruit (drupes) in autumn.

### Status in Hume City

The indigenous form is considered to be locally extinct around Melbourne and is not recorded in any Nature Conservation Reserves. However, the horticultural industry has produced many forms with different leaf shapes and colours that are widely used.

	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

The fruits are edible.

### Planting Advice

- Adaptable, vigorous, and hardy groundcover good for containers, rockeries, embankments, retaining walls, and under trees.
- Use to reduce soil erosion as binds the soil.
- Use as a living green mulch to help suppress weeds. Is also fire retarding.
- Long flowering period attracts butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Birds like rosellas eat the fruit.
- Propagates easily by cutting or layering, while seed treatments are required to enable germination.
- Frost tolerant. Good in coastal, saline, and lime soils. Suitable for most well-drained soils and tolerates dry soils once established. Good in shady dry conditions.





### Getting involved with the Gardens for Wildlife program:

- Apply to have a one-hour garden visit with Garden Guides, to chat about how to make your garden more wildlife-friendly.
- Visit [hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife) for more information.
- Application rounds are kept open until there is a waiting list of 30 interested people who have applied.
- This is a free service offered to residents, businesses, organisations, and schools located in Hume City.
- Garden visits can be conducted during the week or on the weekends.
- Garden Guides are members of the community with an interest in gardening and helping to conserve nature. These volunteers have been screened, inducted and trained by Council so it is safe to have them come to your place.
- Receive a detailed report with suggested plants and habitat features to install.
- Participants are given a small gift and become eligible to collect some free indigenous seedlings in winter.



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## Contact us

Attn: Gardens for Wildlife  
Hume City Council  
PO Box 119, Dallas, VIC. 3047

1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows, VIC. 3047

Customer Service 9205 2200  
[gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:gardensforwildlife@hume.vic.gov.au)  
[hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)

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